

**Speech by Mr Scott Hopkins, Co-Chair,
British Japanese Law Association**

Thank you Ambassador and Madam Tsuruoka.

Thank you very much for having us here today and welcoming us in your home. It is very much appreciated. I can only echo what was said earlier, in terms of firstly, the BJLA's ongoing support from the Embassy for work, in particular, and I will echo Tsuruoka san's earlier comment about the rule of law and its importance we see around us in the world today.

I would like to say that Nakajima san and I have been co-chair of BJLA for a very long time and we willingly and happily give our time to this organisation and endeavour to represent without expected recognition. We feel that it is important, but nonetheless it is very much appreciated that we are recognised. I do mean that sincerely, it is very important for us. It is very important and gratifying today to be able to recognise and thank those who have given themselves to me in terms of my own support and development in many different ways.

I am proud to have my wife and my two daughters here today, who have always supported me in everything I have done. Working the very long hours I do, and on top of that, additional work with the BJLA but they have always understood and supported me.

I am also particularly honoured today to have two people who have come from Japan to be here with me who have supported me and my wife in so many ways, it would take me hours to explain everything they have done for us. They too have given themselves freely, and without any expectation of anything in return, and that is Yamazaki san, who is here from Toyo University, who was my sempai on University Ice Hockey team, which was my introduction to Japan many years ago. And in addition I am very proud to have here today Sato-san. Sato san was a boss at sports dormitory in Tokyo, who was

introduced to me immediately upon my arrival in Japan to make sure that I was safe in the environment surrounded by judo, karate, ice hockey and sumo teams, being the only foreigner in this environment. He was the boss of the dormitory; he was the Captain of karate team and a National Champion. He has continued to be a supporter of traditionally approach to Japanese life and today is a 6th degree of black belt national team coach. I am very proud that he is here.