

**Speech by Professor Chizu Nakajima, Co-Chair,
British Japanese Law Association**

I am greatly honoured to receive the Ambassador's commendation this evening, rather overwhelming. I would like to thank Ambassador and Madam Tsuruoka for allowing me to share this special moment, owing to my family. Last March, Ambassador Tsuruoka generously hosted a reception at the Japanese Embassy to celebrate 20 years of Japanese British Law Association, as Ambassador already kindly mentioned.

The BJLA has enjoyed and continuously enjoyed strong support from successive ambassadors and their colleagues. Now I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all again. At the 20th Anniversary reception, I spoke about the Anglo-Japanese relationship which is going from strength to strength, and I mentioned that this relationship is funded on trust with each other and shared values.

This evening I am surrounded by my family and extended family, whose love has nurtured in me, the shared values which transcend national borders and cultures. My parents have brought me to this world and given all their love and excellent education in both Japan and UK. Sadly my father is no longer with us, but my mother is here with me this evening. My godparents took me under their wings when I was a teenager at a Girls School in Cambridge while my parents had to return to Japan. My daughter has always persevered with me whilst I was a working mother struggling in the wilderness of academia. She now has not only an excellent career, but also a perfect husband. I have enjoyed engaging with students as a working mother, and also had great support from a partner, with whom I continue to share wonderful moments. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all across generations. Without them, I am acutely aware that I would not be standing here today. I am very happy that I feel that I have been able to contribute in however small a way.