

GREETINGS FOR THE WORLD MARMALADE AWARDS
PRESENTATION CEREMONY
BY H.E. MR. HAYASHI HAJIME,
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO THE U.K.
(Dalemain, June 20.2021)

Thank you. Dan, for your introduction.

It is indeed great pleasure for my wife and me to come to visit a historic mansion and beautiful gardens of Dalemain, where the World's Original Marmalade Awards & Festival have been held since 2005. I would like to pay my tribute of praise to the Hasell family, who have been developing and maintaining such an outstanding site for as long as 350 years.

Speaking of beautiful gardens, I have recognized some new cherry trees up on the hill, which are further contributing to the charm of Dalemain. Obviously, cherry trees are widely cherished and regarded as a part of culture in Japan. These trees were presented and planted here by the Sakura Cherry Tree Project, which is a genuine volunteer project to realize 7,000 cherry trees planted all over the UK in order to commemorate the 150 years of friendship and cooperation between the UK and Japan. If you come back in early April next year, you will be able to enjoy wonderful cherry blossoms, which, I believe, can make Dalemain another point of cultural exchanges between the UK and Japan.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Now, I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the award winners this year. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 restrictions, most of the participants from overseas, including from Japan, are unable to attend this ceremony today. But, as we all know, Jane's passion is once again bringing people together around the world through marmalade.

Thanks to the success and influences of this event, 2019 saw the first ever marmalade festival in Japan. It was held under the umbrella of the Dalemain World Marmalade Awards & Festival.

Yawatahama City, located in the south western part of Japan and in a famous region within Japan for citrus fruits production, hosted the event. It drew hundreds of entries from marmalade makers in Japan, as well as in the UK and other nations, and celebrated both British and Japanese style marmalade together.

In this manner, Jane's efforts have helped to reinvigorate not only the areas surrounding Dalemain, but also a region in Japan so far away from here. And, also, through these events, cultural exchanges and promotion of friendship have been developed between the UK and Japan. It was with these reasons that Jane received the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation in 2019. I believe Jane will continue to drive people who love marmalade all over the world to connect with each other even when the world faces serious challenges such as the pandemic today.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a wonderful opportunity to join the World Marmalade Awards presentation ceremony in person here in Dalemain, a part of the UK's iconic Lake District. I would like to thank Jane, her family and all others involved for their efforts to organize today's event. Finally, congratulations once again to all the award winners.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.