

Remarks by H.E. Mr. HAYASHI Hajime,
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,
for Bestowal of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon
upon Sir Jeremy Farrar
on 27th October, 2021

Good evening, everyone and welcome to my residence.

Today, we have the most delightful task of honouring the invaluable contribution of Sir Jeremy Farrar to enhancing cooperation with Japan in the area of global health and to advancing Japan's global health policy.

Throughout his distinguished career, Sir Jeremy has enjoyed remarkable achievements in the field of global health, not least as one of the UK's leading figures in the fight against COVID-19 for the past year and half, but he has also played a significant role in the UK's relationship with Japan for many years.

Although everyone here must know very well, I would like to take up just two examples of Sir Jeremy's quite many and truly outstanding achievements.

First, Sir Jeremy has played a significant role in the development of Japan's Global Health Innovative Technology Fund, known as GHIT. GHIT is an international public and private partnership fund, established by the Government of Japan in 2013. It supports R&D for drugs and pharmaceuticals in developing countries, and remains to be an important tool for Japan to contribute to global health. Under Sir Jeremy's vigorous leadership, the Wellcome Trust has provided solid support to GHIT since 2015. As a matter of fact, Sir Jeremy himself became a member of the GHIT Fund Council in 2018. His contribution, not only through the fund but also thanks to his deep knowledge and wide experiences in global health, has enormously helped operations by GHIT and boosted Japan's presence in this field.

Secondly, Sir Jeremy has also been an integral figure for the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, known as CEPI. As all nations in the world now fully recognize, CEPI has certainly played a key role in the fight against this unprecedented infectious disease, COVID-19. In order to strengthen international cooperation in controlling infectious diseases, Japan joined forces with CEPI when it was first launched in 2017, along with the Wellcome Trust, and, since then, Japan has contributed funding it. Also under Sir Jeremy's untiring leadership, the Wellcome Trust has been committed to the actual operations of CEPI as one of its co-founders. And CEPI's roles and activities have significantly helped Japan to expand its international contribution in this field.

These two examples are only a tiny tip of huge iceberg. Honestly, it is difficult to fully cover all of Sir Jeremy's contributions and achievements towards Japan's global health policy in my short remarks this evening. However, in view of his sterling works in this important field, I am very confident that Sir Jeremy is clearly a most worthy recipient of The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, which was bestowed upon him in April, 2020. Unfortunately, the pandemic has made us wait until today but I would like to ask everyone here to join me in congratulating Sir Jeremy on his magnificent achievement. Congratulations!

Thank you very much for your kind attention.