

Remarks by Ambassador HAYASHI Hajime  
for the JET Pre-departure Orientation  
on 14 October 2021

Good afternoon. I am really delighted to be able to say a few words to you today. For all of us, and indeed for people all around the world, it has been a hugely challenging time. I am certain that the delay to your departure has caused you some anxiety. But now you are here, raring to go. Finally, the big moment has arrived.

In recent years, various aspects of Japanese culture have taken root in the UK. Perhaps, you are acquainted with manga, anime, sushi and other Japanese cuisine. Some of you may have already been to Japan. But I reckon that, for most of you, it will be a journey into the unknown. You will have the chance to find out about the things that fascinate you, learn the language and grow as you experience living and working in Japan.

By taking part in the JET Programme, you will be adding your own contribution to a scheme that has stood the test of time for more than thirty years. You will also find that the experience you gain will build great potential for your future careers. So far, there are more than 10,000 former JET participants just within the UK, and this JET network has never stopped growing. When you come back to the UK, you can join this huge alumni community, which we call the “JET family”. JETAA, the JET Alumni Association, helps members to maintain their links with Japan and organises a number of events every year.

Now, a long journey awaits you. Once you step onto the plane, you will be on the other side of the world in just half a day. You will immediately plunge into a new and exciting venture for which many of your friends will envy you. I wish you every success and hope I will have the opportunity to hear of your exploits in the future. Good luck!