

Remarks by Ambassador Hayashi  
at Japan House London's Private Viewing of "Symbiosis: Living Island"  
on Thursday, 19 May 2022

Thank you, Mike, for your kind introduction.

Before asking everyone to join me in a toast, I would like to say just a few words.

It is certainly a great pleasure to be with you all this evening to attend the Private Viewing of "Symbiosis: Living Island," welcoming from Japan Ms Hasegawa and Ms Sejima in person.

As you know, Inujima is a small island with a population of less than 50, located in Okayama Prefecture in the Seto Inland Sea. It used to be a well-known site for copper mining and smelting. In recent years, it has attracted attention as an island showcasing modern art. In fact, the village of Inujima has been revitalised by "The Art House Project" launched by Hasegawa-san and Sejima-san, which focuses on interaction between architecture and art in a way that reflects the island's climate and history.

Through the exhibition "Symbiosis: Living Island," I am very much looking forward to deepening my understanding of how nature and architecture live in coexistence, how the lives of Inujima's residents have been changed by art, and how the residents themselves contributed to this living art project.

Perhaps after viewing the exhibition, everyone will have a strong desire to actually visit Inujima. Two weeks ago, Prime Minister Kishida, who visited JHL during his recent visit to London, expressed his intention to further relax Japan's border measures in June. In the future, I hope many people from the UK will actually be able to visit Inujima and experience its unique charm in their tour in Japan.

Distinguished guests,

Now, let me ask you to join me in a toast. To the success of the exhibition and to the health and happiness of everyone taking part in this private viewing today!  
Cheers! And kampai!

Thank you very much. I hope you enjoy the rest of the evening.