

Remarks by H. E. Mr. HAYASHI Hajime,
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,
for the ceremony for the 50th anniversary
of Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Company (Europe) Limited
On 6th July, 2022

Distinguished Guests,

I am sincerely grateful for this opportunity to say a few words at today's ceremony for the 50th anniversary of Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Company (Europe). I understand that we are joined by many representatives from Japanese companies operating in the UK as well as British insurance brokers. This proves that Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Company has helped many Japanese companies to expand their business in the UK, and that the company has built deep trust in this country.

Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Company has been playing a significant role in the advance into overseas markets by Japanese firms since the early days. As a matter of fact, it has been helping them to conduct their business activities safely all over the world, sometimes in difficult circumstances.

In particular, the company opened a representative office in London in 1924, only six years after Taisho Insurance Company, its distant predecessor, had been founded in Japan. Indeed, I understand that its business in London has the longest history of all its overseas operations. The company has also made a significant contribution to the British economy by making major investments and it is now one of the leading insurance companies in the UK, with approximately 1,000 employees.

As all of you are aware, the world is in an era of uncertainty and upheaval. Natural disasters are becoming severer probably due to climate change, and international challenges such as cyber attacks and geopolitical risks are increasing. In addition, turbulence in environment will be reflected by growing risks surrounding the social economy. I trust that Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Company is actively engaged in research on technology and development of new services in order to deal with such difficulties and to continue to support sustainable business activities of Japanese companies operating in the UK and other countries abroad.

Last but not least, I am confident that Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Company will continue to encourage Japanese companies in making further expansion in their business activities in the UK, thereby contributing to the growth of the economy in the UK. The 50th anniversary of the company is an important milestone on the road to future prosperity here and a stronger relationship between Japan and the UK.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.