

Remarks by H.E. Mr. HAYASHI Hajime,
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,
for Bestowal of the The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star
upon Dr. Venkatraman Ramakrishnan
(28th September, 2022)

Dr. Ramakrishnan and truly distinguished guests,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all here today, and to have the most delightful task of honouring Dr. Ramakrishnan.

It is obviously needless to say that he has enjoyed many significant achievements in the field of molecular cell biology. Besides, he has a number of prominent scientific positions in the UK.

On top of this, as one of the leading representatives of UK science and academia, he has also made valuable contributions towards strengthening scientific and academic cooperation between Japan and the United Kingdom over the years.

Though those present here are well aware of his numerous achievements, I would like to touch upon just a few of his valuable endeavours.

First, during his time as President of the Royal Society, Dr. Ramakrishnan made tireless efforts to strengthen the relationship with Japanese scientific organisations.

Every year from 2016 to 2020, he cooperated with the Science Council of Japan and other countries' science councils to coordinate science and technology-related proposals to the G7 leaders for their summit meetings.

He also contributed to the promotion of research exchange between Japanese and the UK's academic organisations, recommending young enthusiastic British researchers to apply for the postdoctoral fellowships by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

Secondly, Dr. Ramakrishnan was appointed in 2017 as a Board Member and Council Member of the Science and Technology in Society Forum of Japan and played a significant role setting the Forum's agenda, and inviting prominent British scientists as speakers.

In 2020, he co-chaired the Academy Presidents' Meeting with President Kajita of the Science Council of Japan, which was held in conjunction with the Forum, and facilitated active dialogue on sustainable and resilient recovery from COVID-19.

Furthermore, during his renowned career as a molecular cell biologist, he proactively collaborated with Japanese researchers, increasing opportunities for them to study and work in the UK.

He has also invited Japanese researchers to hold lectures in the UK, including Dr. Shinya Yamanaka, one of the Laureates of the 2012 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

Undoubtedly, his activities collaborating with Japanese researchers have helped to promote Japan-UK research exchange over many years.

It is certainly difficult to fully cover all of Dr. Ramakrishnan's contributions and achievements towards the scientific and academic cooperation between Japan and the UK.

However, in view of his sterling work in this field, Dr. Ramakrishnan is clearly a most worthy recipient of The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star, which has been bestowed upon him by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Ramakrishnan on this magnificent achievement.

Congratulations!