

**Remarks by Ambassador HAYASHI Hajime
for the JET Alumni Careers Fair 2022
on 28 September 2022**

Good morning, my dear Friends from the JET Programme,

I think many of you have already returned to the UK, but some are abroad, including perhaps those still stationed in Japan. So, “Good morning” may not necessarily be the right words, but anyway I would like to first offer my greetings to all of you.

First and foremost, my message is that I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to you all for your outstanding efforts as teachers and also international coordinators in Japan. I am certain that you have provided wonderful expertise in your lessons to your students or in your advice to your colleagues and the friends you made during your stay in Japan while on the JET Programme.

And now, my thanks to the Japan Local Government Centre for coordinating today’s programme, together with the Director General, Mr Suzuki. This is a quite unique opportunity to be connected with each other and to compare notes on your memorable experiences in Japan as well as to reflect perhaps on quite wider perspectives, aided by the views and opinions of your friends and colleagues. So, I very much hope that you will take advantage of this unique online gathering of the JETAA.

And, of course, this event has been organized by the JETAA, which is the alumni association for former JET participants which will surely provide lots of unique future events, including those offering employment opportunities, some of which will involve more interaction between the UK and Japan. Indeed, I am convinced you will continue to work to build more bridges and to further strengthen the friendship between our two societies and cultures. I trust there will be occasions when I can meet many of you in person in the months and even years ahead.

Anyway, for today’s purposes I very much hope you will stay connected and share with others your wonderful experiences from your time spent in Japan.

Thank you very much.