

Short Remarks by Ambassador HAYASHI Hajime  
for the Kyoto Prize at Oxford 2023  
at the Weston Library of the University of Oxford on 9 May, 2023

Vice-Chancellor Professor Tracy, Dean Professor Woods, and truly Distinguished Guests,

It is with great pleasure for me to attend the laureates' and celebratory dinner of the Kyoto Prize at Oxford in this magnificent setting of the Blackwell Hall this evening.

I would like to convey my deep admiration for the great achievements of the three 2022 Kyoto Prize laureates; Professor Mead, Professor Grenfell and Mr. Hussain. Although they have quite different areas of interest and expertise, they share a common character of outstanding ability for innovation.

It is indeed such virtue of the three laureates that stimulates and encourages many people of the world.

And also, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the continued engagement by the Inamori Foundation and the outstanding contribution made by those who were involved in organising this prestigious event.

The Kyoto Prize is certainly one of the most significant international awards of Japanese origin, which was founded in 1985 and born out of the firm intention of the late Dr. INAMORI Kazuo to “contribute to the progress of the future of humanity”.

After then, the Kyoto Prize at Oxford was launched in 2017 as the Blavatnik School of Government and the Inamori Foundation found a shared value in inspiring people who strive for the good society.

As some of the attendants of this dinner are well aware, Japan and the UK have collaborated and created innovative researches and technologies aimed at tackling some of the major challenges facing the today's world.

I believe that the University of Oxford will continue to be not only a great partner with Japanese academics but also a world leading hub in the pursuit of knowledge for the benefit of humanity. I am confident that the Kyoto Prize at Oxford will help to further promote Japan-UK collaborations as well as the roles the University of Oxford plays in many key scientific fields.

I would like to close my short remarks by paying tribute once again to the three 2022 Kyoto Prize Laureates and all those who have been involved to realise today's celebrations.

Thank you indeed.