

Remarks by H.E. Mr. HAYASHI Hajime,

Ambassador of Japan to the UK,

For Completion Ceremony of 8 Bishopsgate

Thursday 13 July 2023

Distinguished Guests.

It is my great pleasure to attend today's ceremony here at 8 Bishopsgate. I would like to start by paying tribute to the tireless efforts of Stanhope, Lendlease, and all the other British stakeholders represented here, as well as Mitsubishi Estate, which have brought this project to be completed.

During my guided tour, I was fascinated to find a wide range of innovations here; the installation of a roof garden, rainwater recycling, and smart sensor-based air conditioning systems. These impressive innovations have helped this project to receive the highest rating of environmental assessment for buildings in the UK. I am sure that 8 Bishopsgate will attract many talented people, making it a centre for technical innovation, and bringing greater prosperity for all.

8 Bishopsgate will also be another landmark asset for Mitsubishi Estate in the City of London, and is a visible sign of Japan's continued endorsement of, and confidence in, the position of the City as the great centre of global financial services.

Furthermore, I understand that so many planners, engineers and workers from our two countries contributed towards this common objective over a sustained period. This shows us the exact shape of Japan-UK cooperation, embodied in the Hiroshima Accord, signed by Prime Ministers Fumio Kishida and Rishi Sunak on

the eve of the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May this year. This accord is designed to further strengthen the global strategic partnership between Japan and the UK, and has a particular focus on trade, investment, and measures to fight against climate change. I would like to underline that these efforts taken by Mitsubishi Estate are perfectly in line with the spirit of the Hiroshima Accord.

Let me conclude by expressing my best wishes for all your future success, and my hope that the new 8 Bishopsgate will serve to exemplify the strengthened ties between Japan and the United Kingdom.

Thank you.