

Remarks by H.E. Mr. HAYASHI Hajime,
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,
at the Fortieth International Symposium On Economic Crime
on 7th September 2023

Distinguished guests,

It is my great pleasure to have been given the opportunity to attend this dinner. May I first express my sincere appreciation to the Founding Director and Co-Chair, Professor Barry Rider, the Co-Chair, Professor Chizu Nakajima, and everyone else whose efforts have made it possible to hold this prestigious and long-established symposium. In fact, this year is the 40th anniversary of this wonderful initiative. Congratulations on this notable milestone!

Following the pandemic, the movement of people, money and merchandise is recovering rapidly. Unfortunately, however, this means that criminal activity is increasingly crossing borders both physically and virtually. At the same time, due to the development of technology, cybercrime is becoming more international, more complex and more vicious. To tackle these difficulties, cooperation between countries is crucial.

In this collaborative spirit, Japan hosted both the G7 Justice Ministers' meeting and the ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers in Tokyo in July under the Japanese "Justice Affairs Diplomacy" initiative. During these meetings, we reaffirmed that we will promote core values such as the rule of law and respect for human rights, and that we will develop our cooperative relationships further. The Ministers issued the "Justice Ministers' Communiqué", which emphasized the importance of international cooperation, assisting Ukraine with legal capacity building and connecting the G7 and the Indo-Pacific in the field of law and justice.

I wish to convey my sincere gratitude to all the ministers and delegations that participated and to those who extended great support towards these meetings. From the United Kingdom, we had the honour of accepting the attendance

of the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice the Rt Hon. Alex Chalk.

At the bilateral meeting, Justice Minister Ken Saito and Lord Chancellor Alex Chalk signed the “Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Justice of Japan and the Ministry of Justice of the United Kingdom in the fields of legal and justice affairs”. This was the first time for Japan to sign a Memorandum of Cooperation with a European country in regard to legal matters. I believe this is a key milestone in the long history of cooperation between the UK and Japan, and look forward to yet deeper collaboration between both Justice Ministries.

Continuing this great momentum, in the same month the Supreme Court Justices of both the UK and Japan took part in a virtual meeting. As President of the UK Supreme Court, Lord Reed declared this important meeting “demonstrated the value of exchanging ideas and information” between our two courts.

The opportunity afforded by this symposium for legal professionals serving on the front line of justice and for those engaged in academic research to exchange views and learn from each other is hugely valuable. I trust that this excellent gathering will not only enable people from different countries to share information and the fruits of their experience but also play a role in continuing to drive the momentum of the legal collaboration I have just referred to. Let me close by paying tribute once again to Professor Rider, Professor Nakajima and all the other people without whose tireless endeavours we would not be gathered here today.

Thank you very much indeed.