

Remarks by H.E. Mr. HAYASHI Hajime,
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,
at the 2023 Parliamentary Reception by Hitachi Europe Ltd.
on 13th September 2023

Distinguished Guests,

I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation to Hitachi Europe for organizing this reception, as we gather here today to celebrate the remarkable journey of digital transformation in infrastructure and industry.

In recent years, the world has witnessed an extraordinary shift towards digitalisation, and both Japan and the UK face similar challenges. We both share the pressing need for decarbonization and the growing issue of labor shortages. However, it is through the adoption of digital technologies that we can find solutions to these complex problems.

Digital technology possesses the remarkable power to revolutionize our society and industry. It allows us to reimagine traditional practices, optimize resource utilization, and create sustainable business models. By fully embracing digital transformation, we can overcome labor shortages through automation, improve energy efficiency, and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Recognizing the immense potential of technology, the Government of Japan has launched Digital Agency, which acts as a driving force behind the country's digitalisation efforts across the fields of various ministries. This agency is tasked with fostering innovation, enhancing cybersecurity, and creating an environment conducive to digital advancements.

Moreover, I am delighted to highlight the Japan-UK digital partnership, which was launched last December. Through this partnership, we can unlock even greater possibilities for digital transformation by sharing knowledge, expertise, and collaborating closely. Together, we can address shared challenges, drive innovation, and shape a future where technology

empowers us to overcome obstacles, achieve our sustainable goals, and cultivate a society that thrives on innovation.

While government initiatives are crucial, the efforts of the private sector are equally indispensable in realising digitalisation. Hitachi's achievements showcased here today serve as a wonderful example of what is possible when we embrace digitalisation. Through their innovative solutions, Hitachi has not only transformed industries but also improved operational efficiency and enhanced the quality of life for many individuals.

In conclusion, let us celebrate Hitachi's progress and the broader digital transformation supported by Parliament and local communities in the UK. Hitachi tries to show its ability to "inspire the next", and its drive to accelerate growth and innovation in this field. Both Japan and the UK certainly hold the capability to shape a future, where technology empowers us to overcome challenges, realise our sustainable goals, and build a society that thrives on innovation.

Thank you very much indeed.