

Remarks by H.E. Mr. HAYASHI Hajime,
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,
For Opening Event for the Quantum Technology Centre
of Toshiba Europe Ltd
Friday 22nd September 2023

Lord Johnson, Mr Shimada, Distinguished guests,

I am so pleased to be together with you here and to say a few words at today's opening event for Toshiba's Quantum Technology Centre in Cambridge.

Today we are joined by many representatives from the UK government, industry and academia, and I certainly believe that this is clear testament to the high level of interest in the activities Toshiba conducts here in the UK.

Quantum cryptography, the area in which the new centre will be engaged, is becoming increasingly important as we approach a future where quantum computers replace current ones as we know them. Quantum computers, once introduced, will dramatically increase processing performance for the benefit of humankind, but at the same time, however, they may also pose a serious threat to the safety and security of our data, if not used properly. Therefore, I would not be exaggerating if I said that without quantum cryptography, there can be no safe and secure quantum transformation.

Today's opening of the centre is another good example of the growing Japan-UK cooperation in the field of digitalisation. The UK-Japan Digital Partnership was launched last year to enhance bilateral cooperation in the digital field including telecommunications and cybersecurity. This partnership was further strengthened in May this year by the signing of the Hiroshima Accord by the two Prime Ministers, Fumio Kishida and Rishi Sunak.

The digitalisation that Japan and the UK are promoting must obviously be one that is safe and secure, and that benefits all the communications that people will make not only in our two countries but also on this planet as a whole. I am confident that this new centre will strongly support the digitalisation of that kind and further strengthen the digital partnership between Japan and the UK.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to all those involved in the creation of this outstanding centre for their hard work and dedication. I wish everyone here continued success in this important field and in further promoting our partnership.

Thank you very much indeed.