

Remarks by H.E. Mr HAYASHI Hajime,
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,
at the 7th STS Forum European Workshop,
at the Royal Society
on 8th April 2024

Chairman Komiyama,
Members of the Royal Society,
Members of the Council of the STS Forum,
Distinguished Guests,

It is my great pleasure to attend and say a few words at the Opening Session of the 7th STS Forum European Workshop this afternoon. It is most gratifying to be joined by so many leading figures in science and technology from not only Japan and the UK, but also from Europe and around the world. I believe that this is testament to the great value that we place on the STS Forum.

I would like to express my appreciation for the huge contribution made by everyone involved in organising this event, and a special thanks to our co-hosts, the Royal Society and JETRO, for all of their hard work.

It is now 20 years since the STS Forum was founded by its late Chairman Mr Koji Omi. Although he, very unfortunately, passed away exactly two years ago, the basic concept of the STS Forum remains the same as he established, which is to bring together scientists and global leaders in the fields of politics, business, and academia to an annual meeting in Kyoto, Japan, a city that is both a 1,200-year-old ancient capital and a centre of cutting-edge science and technology today.

There, a wide range of esteemed participants discuss strengthening the lights and controlling the shadows of science and technology from the long-term perspective of 100 years, or even 500 years, for the benefit of the future of humanity, not as representatives of their organisations or nations but as concerned and independent individuals. As a matter of fact, the STS Forum's greatest asset is its human network, which definitely goes beyond academic disciplines and national boundaries. To further build on this asset, I am sure that the organisers of the STS

Forum will do their best to continue improving on the age and gender balance of the participants.

The theme for today's Workshop is "Science and Technology for Future Global Resilience." This gathering aims to open a constructive exchange of views among leading personalities to strengthen global resilience in the years ahead. It is an important part of the preparations towards the 21st Annual STS Forum in Japan in October this year. I sincerely hope that many of you here today will be able to make it there later this year and suggest ways in which you can boost scientific and technological cooperation with Japan.

I would like to finish by thanking you all for your continued commitment towards the STS Forum. I am confident that everyone here will continue to work together towards more milestone achievements in science, technology and society.

Thank you very much.