

Remarks by H.E. Mr HAYASHI Hajime,  
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,  
Celebration of Professor Emeritus Sir Brian Hoskins 2024 Japan Prize  
at the University of Reading  
on 9th May 2024

Professor Emeritus Sir Brian Hoskins,  
Professor Parveen Yaqoob,  
Distinguished Guests,

It is a great pleasure to attend this occasion at the University of Reading to celebrate Professor Sir Brian Hoskins, who is richly deserved award of the 2024 Japan Prize.

I would like to start by conveying my sincerest congratulations to Sir Brian on this significant achievement, which recognises his pioneering work both here in Reading, and around the world, towards understanding and predicting extreme weather events.

The Japan Prize is one of the most significant and prestigious international awards of Japanese origin, founded in 1983 in the hope of contributing to the development of science and technology worldwide. The award honours scientists and researchers whose original and outstanding achievements have greatly advanced the progress of science and technology. I understand that Sir Brian is only the 10th UK scientist to have received this prize, and the first British winner since 2012. This is testament to the talent, hard work and dedication of Sir Brian and his co-laureate Professor John Michael Wallace, and also no doubt thanks to the continued support of Lady Hoskins as well.

While I am not an expert in the field of meteorology, I am acutely aware of the damage and destruction that extreme weather can bring to a country and its people. Indeed, Japan is no stranger to extreme weather events, with

regular typhoons, floods and severe heatwaves, while at the same time we face devastating earthquakes, tsunamis and other natural disasters.

In order to better prepare ourselves for these extreme weather events, the importance of international collaboration in research cannot be overstated. With this in mind, it is hugely pleasing to have heard just now the announcement that Sir Brian will be using his prize money to establish a new fund to enable young researchers from Japan to visit the Department of Meteorology at the University of Reading. This will provide an invaluable opportunity for our best young scientists to develop their knowledge, creativity and talents to address the huge challenges that we face around extreme weather.

Looking more widely, the Hiroshima Accord signed last year by Prime Ministers Fumio Kishida and Rishi Sunak, and the subsequent agreement at the UK-Japan Joint Committee on Science and Technology in November last year affirmed close science and technology cooperation between Japan and the UK. Moreover, our two countries continue to collaborate on innovative research and technologies aimed at tackling some of the major challenges facing the world today. I believe that the University of Reading will continue to be a great partner for Japan, working hand in hand in the pursuit of knowledge for the benefit of humanity. Furthermore, I am confident that the awarding of the Japan Prize will further strengthen Japan-UK collaboration.

I would like to close my short remarks by paying tribute once again to Sir Brian and to thank all those who have been involved in arranging today's celebration.

Thank you very much.