

Remarks by H.E. Mr HAYASHI Hajime,
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,
on the Occasion of the Bestowal of
The Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays
upon Ms Elizabeth Jane Hasell-McCosh
on 1st October 2024

Jane,
Robert and members of the Hasell-McCosh Family,
Distinguished Guests,

Good afternoon. First and foremost, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to you all for making the journey from one of my most cherished places in the United Kingdom, Dalemain, Cambria, to my residence here in Kensington Palace Gardens, London.

Today, I have the distinct privilege of bestowing The Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays, upon Mrs Elizabeth Jane Hasell-McCosh, in recognition of her efforts to strengthen relations between Japan and the United Kingdom through the Dalemain World Marmalade Awards and Festivals. The presence of Jane's family members and friends gathered here today in support and celebration is a testament to the significance of her contributions. While I am certain that everyone here is well aware of her outstanding accomplishments, I would like to take a moment to just highlight them.

It seems like only yesterday—and indeed, it was less than six months ago—that my wife and I had the great pleasure of attending the 2024 Dalemain World Marmalade Awards Ceremony. Since my arrival in London as the Ambassador of Japan to the United Kingdom, I have been privileged to attend this wonderful event with my life three times, beginning in 2021. Each visit has been a memorable experience, and we hold the memories of these gatherings dearly. As always, it was delightful to see competitors and visitors alike, from the United Kingdom, Japan and other countries of the world, engage in meaningful cultural exchange, mediated through a mutual love for an artisan product. At the same

time, I would like to emphasise that Jane's project also has the power to revitalise local communities and regional economies. Since Jane launched the festival at Dalemain in 2005, it has not only become an occasion to celebrate the art of creating fine marmalade, but also an asset to the wider community and region, attracting attendees, competitors and even business representatives from across the United Kingdom and beyond.

The event has also gone on to inspire 'sister festivals' outside of the UK such as in Australia and Japan. First held in 2019 and supported by Jane, the marmalade festival and competition in Yawatahama, Ehime Prefecture, is especially representative of the cultural exchange that the fruits of her efforts have inspired - it is an event with British roots held on Japanese soil.

The regional revitalisation seen at Dalemain has thus been profoundly strengthened and expanded through international collaboration, with organisers and attendees sharing common passion and drive. It is not only marmalade and citrus fruits that have become internationally mobile but representatives of producing communities in Japan and the United Kingdom.

In addition, I would like to draw the participants' attention to the fact that Jane has made great efforts to develop and nurture a truly outstanding English garden at Dalemain. Her long-standing endeavours and the underlying philosophy, which was believed to be keeping harmony with nature, were widely reported in Japan as a series of TV programme title "Dalemain, the most beautiful garden in the UK". As a result she also has attracted many visitors from various places, including those from Japan. Through gardening as well, she has established a bridge between Dalemain and the rest of the world.

These were simple overviews of how Jane's contributions have blossomed from a budding idea into something far greater. Through thrilling innovation and the ability to bring people together in celebration of the cultural traditions that are near and dear to us, Jane has created something truly special.

Against this backdrop, she certainly deserves to be the recipient of The Order of

the Rising Sun, Silver Rays.

My dear participants this afternoon, now please join me in warmly congratulating Jane on this wholly deserved award.

Congratulations!