

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, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon  
Upon Dr Richard Jones Hatchett  
on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Richard,  
Susan and members of the Hatchett Family,  
Distinguished guests,

Good afternoon.

Today, I have the distinct privilege of bestowing The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, upon Dr Richard Jones Hatchett, in recognition of his contribution, as CEO of CEPI, to cooperation with Japan in the field of global health and the development of Japan's global health policy.

Though those present here today are well aware of Dr Hatchett's many achievements, I would like to touch upon briefly just a few of them.

Firstly, Richard has been at the forefront of vaccine development, playing a pivotal role in providing crucial early funding for the efforts of leading pharmaceutical companies such as Moderna, Novavax and AstraZeneca in the fight against COVID-19. Thanks to the development of these vaccines many lives were saved, and we were able to gradually reclaim the rhythms of daily life we had so dearly missed. Richard visited Tokyo on several occasions, offering valuable advice directly to the senior policymakers in Japan. Richard's leadership and CEPI's unwavering commitment were not limited to Japan, but encompassed many countries around the world.

Secondly, beyond the immediate response to the pandemic, Richard has driven CEPI's long-term vision for global health security, continually strengthening future preparedness. This vision was well aligned with the efforts the Government of Japan had been making. In June of last year, under

Richard's leadership, CEPI entered into a Memorandum of Cooperation with Japan's SCARDA, a Japanese government funded organisation. I was pleased to attend the signing ceremony for this important agreement, which represents a significant step in enhancing Japan's vaccine development capacity, and I am glad to note that it has already borne fruit. Dr Kitano, who is with us today, has been dispatched from SCARDA to CEPI and is actively contributing to efforts to combat the next generation of infectious diseases.

In addition, the global fight against infectious diseases continues as we stand here today. The spread of Mpox, for example, in parts of Africa reminds us of the persistent risks we face. The ever-evolving nature of these threats underscores the importance of relentless progress in vaccine development. I have every confidence that Richard and CEPI will remain at the forefront of this crucial work, playing a leading role in safeguarding global health, advancing the innovations necessary to meet these ongoing challenges and developing international cooperation in these fields.

In view of his magnificent work, Richard is clearly a most worthy recipient of The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, bestowed upon him by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan. This decoration is the ultimate proof of his dedication and commitment, and is testament to CEPI's resounding achievements.

Please join me in congratulating Dr Richard Jones Hatchett on his outstanding achievement.

Congratulations!