

Remarks by H.E. Mr SUZUKI Hiroshi,
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,
at the Tokyo-London Financial Seminar 2025
on 4th February 2025

Lord Mayor,

Distinguished Guests,

It is my great pleasure to be here today. Let me express my heartfelt appreciation to Governor Koike and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, as well as to My Lord Mayor, and the City of London Corporation for organizing this event.

Today, Japan and the UK are increasingly important global strategic partners, and the financial services sector plays a major part. For example, for the first half of 2024, financial services accounted for more than a quarter of total trade in services between Japan and the UK.

(注) 2024 年上半期の対英サービス貿易額に占める金融サービスの割合は 26.0% (対英輸出: 28.9%、対英輸入: 22.8%) (出典: 日本銀行「国際収支統計」)

The UK government is focusing on growth and international competitiveness in the financial and professional services sector, as Chancellor Rachel Reeves stated in her Mansion House Speech last November.

Japan is also focusing on growth. Prime Minister Kishida started a major promotion to make Japan a Leading Asset Management Centre. And we have seen some positive developments, including the highest level of wage growth in 33 years and nominal GDP surpassing 600 trillion yen, or around 3 trillion pounds.

Prime Minister Ishiba is determined to continue this momentum. He has made it a major pillar of his economic policy to attract investment from both domestic and overseas investors, including investment going to the local regions.

A particularly notable event this year is “World Expo 2025, Osaka Kansai,” which will be inaugurated in April. My Lord Mayor is planning to lead a high-level delegation to visit Tokyo and Osaka, and visit the Expo. I have high hopes that British companies take advantage of the valuable opportunities Osaka Kansai Expo presents to facilitate new investments, and expand their presence and activities in Japan.

The UK has many leading asset managers working in the city as well as in world's major international financial markets. As they build their businesses worldwide, I sincerely hope that more and more asset managers will focus their attention on the opportunities that Tokyo and Japan can provide.

Thank you very much.