

Remarks by H.E. Mr SUZUKI Hiroshi,
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,
at a reception in celebration of the launch of
Japan Airlines' new aircraft on the London - Haneda route-
on 27th November 2024

Today, I would like to congratulate JAL on the launch of flights between Tokyo and London using the Airbus A350-1000 (Airbus A three fifty, one thousand).

May I also express my appreciation of the efforts of those present here, including Mr Jun OTAKE, Senior Vice President for Europe, Middle East & Africa, and Regional General Manager, UK and Ireland of Japan Airlines, and Mr Paul Meijers, Vice President of Airbus, as well as of those who are not here today but who have worked hard to prepare for the introduction of the aircraft on this important route.

This aircraft, which directly links Japan and the UK, will serve as a bridge to further strengthen people-to-people ties. Its use will provide passengers for the long journey with greater comfort and a more enhanced in-flight experience.

I understand that the first and business class seats are made in Wales. So passengers on this aircraft will be able to feel for themselves the contribution of British craftsmanship to making their long journeys more comfortable.

Moreover, the in-flight service will treat passengers to a genuine taste of Japan, from delicious meals introducing traditional Japanese cuisine, to professionally selected beverages. Indeed, I can testify from my own experience to the positive impact on travelers of such excellent service.

Furthermore, the newly introduced Airbus fleet features engines manufactured by Rolls-Royce in the UK which reduce CO2 emissions by approximately 25% compared to those used on the other aircraft in JAL's fleet. This commendable improvement reflects the shared commitment of Japan and its global partners to persevere in efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and achieve a more sustainable future.

Of course, nothing is more important than aviation safety. In this regard I trust everyone involved in flight operations will continue to observe the highest standards in maintaining the new aircraft are preparing them for use.

Once again, I would like to celebrate with you the introduction of this new aircraft and to wish Japan Airlines every success in its important role of promoting cultural, economic and people-to-people links between the UK and Japan. Congratulations!