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Remarks by H.E. Mr Hiroshi Suzuki,
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,
at the Celebratory Event for Expo 2025
on 27th May 2025

Lord Mayor of Westminster,
My Lord,
Distinguished Guests,
Dear Friends of Japan,

Thank you all for coming to the Japanese Embassy this morning, and joining me to celebrate the Expo 2025, Osaka, Kansai.

Today, we are joined by the Expo's mascot, 'MyakuMyaku'. There are only two life-size MyakuMyaku in the world; one always stays in the Expo; another tours around the world to promote more visitors to come to the Expo!

Since its opening on 13th April, over four million visitors have already enjoyed the Expo. This includes my wife, who visited the UK Pavilion on the opening day– with Paddington!

On 22nd May, we celebrated UK National Day. It was a huge success. Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport Lisa Nandy travelled all the way to Osaka as the guest of honour. Princess Akiko and former Prime Minister Kishida welcomed Minister Nandy to celebrate the occasion.

The festivities on UK National Day included performances from England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, with wide-ranging shows from the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo to indie rock.

On UK National Day, Minister Nandy launched the "Musubi" initiative to create long-lasting legacy of the Expo for years to come. This brand-new initiative promotes people to people connections in wide-ranging areas, such as youth scholarships, sport and cultural exchanges, science and innovation, and opportunities for women in business in both countries.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome representatives from Wales, Scotland, and Greater Manchester. They kindly made the journey to join us and provide updates on their strategies and activities at the Expo. Thank you very much for coming today, Mr Keith Dunn, Honorary Consul of Japan in Wales, and Ms Jo Ahmed, Honorary Consul of Japan in Manchester.

I hope that you will all take something away from this event. Expo 2025 provides golden opportunities for new trade and investment, as well as cultural and people to people exchanges.

It is my hope that you will all utilise the opportunities the Expo presents to bring about concrete results, including new trade and investment, in the months and years ahead.

Today, we have two very exciting performers lined up: first, Japanese taiko drummer Takuya Taniguchi, followed by UK National Day performer Shao Dow, who will perform an anime-fusion rap song.

After their performances, please enjoy the networking opportunity to expand your connections and build bridges between Japan and the UK.

Thank you very much.

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