

Remarks by H.E. Mr SUZUKI Hiroshi,  
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,  
at the Japan-UK Financial Networking Reception  
on 12th March 2025

My Lord Mayor,  
Ms Pulay, CEO of the Debt Management  
Office,  
Distinguished Guests,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to  
the Japanese Embassy this evening.

I am particularly grateful to you, my Lord  
Mayor, for attending this reception as the  
guest of honour.

As you may know, Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai will be inaugurated on 13th April, one month later.

I am truly delighted that my Lord Mayor is going to lead a high-level delegation of the City of London to visit the Expo.

I hope your visit to Japan will be a great success, sowing seeds for further trade and investment to and from Japan in the near future.

My Lord Mayor, when we met last month, you kindly shared with me your vision of cherishing the community of Japanese workers active in the City of London.

Let me express my gratitude for your strong leadership and emphasise that today's reception is a great opportunity for networking with each other exactly in line with your vision.

Today, Japan and the UK are increasingly important global strategic partners. I would like to give three examples here.

First, Japan and the UK have a common goal for the economic growth.

The UK government is focusing on growth and international competitiveness in the financial and professional services sector.

In Japan, 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 3 trillion pounds.

Prime Minister Ishiba is determined to build on 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 regions.

Second, the financial regulators from Japan and the UK are closely working with each other.

On 30th January, the third meeting of the Japan-UK Financial Regulatory Forum was held in London.

I am glad to know that Japan and the UK share a common agenda, such as asset management reforms, sustainable finance, digital finance, and banking regulation.

Third, bilateral cooperation is also taking root between local governments.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the City of London Corporation signed an MoU on cooperation in financial services in 2017.

Based on the MoU, the two cities co-hosted the Tokyo-London Finance Seminar in London on 4th February.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Sake Samurai and Tazaki Foods for providing many different kinds of delicious Japanese sake.

Especially, you can enjoy Japanese premium sparkling sake, called Mio, with gold flakes.

Please enjoy networking with delicious  
Japanese sake and Japanese food, and  
wine.

Thank you very much.