

Remarks by H.E. Mr Hiroshi Suzuki,
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,
at the ‘Wales and Japan 2025’ Mid-Year
Reception
on 11th June 2025

The Rt Hon Eluned Morgan, First
Minister of Wales,

My Lords,

The Rt Hon Sharon Hodgson, UK
Trade Envoy to Japan,

Distinguished Guests,

Dear Friends of Japan and Wales,

Prynhawn da.

Thank you very much for coming to
the Japanese Embassy to celebrate the
mid-year point of ‘Wales and Japan
2025’.

It feels like a life since the launch event of ‘Wales and Japan 2025’ was held in January at the Peace Palace in Cardiff. So many things have happened since then.

But, First Minister Morgan’s beautiful rendition of KIMIGAYO is still very fresh in my memory.

Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai opened in mid-April, and Ms Rebecca Evans, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning lost no time in visiting the Expo on 29th of April, to host the Wales Day.

It was a huge success, showcasing business opportunities as well as Welsh culture such as traditional dance and cuisines.

Today, I am happy to co-host this reception with First Minister Morgan. It is gratifying to welcome representatives from over 50 Japanese companies based both in Wales and London.

I look forward to a stimulating panel discussion among the representatives from the Welsh Government and Japanese companies to bring us up to date on the prospects for future business opportunities in Wales.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to Mr Keith Dunn, Honorary Consul of Japan in Cardiff. He has been working tirelessly to promote Japan-Wales relations in all fields. Thank you, Keith, for your great contributions.

Looking ahead, a series of exciting events are lined up in the latter half of this year.

Another ‘Wales Day’ at Expo 2025 will take place on 24th June, which will showcase what Wales has to offer in the fields of medical technology, health and arts.

And of course, there will be Rugby. Three exciting test matches will be coming up between Japan and Wales:

- ① on 5th July in Kitakyushu,
- ② on 12th July in Kobe,
- ③ on 15th November in Cardiff.

At the end of Wales and Japan 2025, I look forward to visiting Cardiff again to attend its concluding event. I hope that many of you will be able to join us on that occasion.

Also, here in London, the Japanese embassy will host an exhibition reflecting ‘Wales and Japan 2025’ in our ground floor exhibition hall. I hope many of you based in London can visit the embassy to enjoy this.

I hope that ‘Wales and Japan 2025’ will serve as an important catalyst in further strengthening our relationships in wide-ranging areas including trade, investment, med-tech & health, culture, sports, and people to people exchange in the months and years ahead.

【Check against Delivery 実際の発言と多少内容が異なることがあります】

Diolch!