

Remarks at the Reception for  
the Participants of the 2025 JET Programme,  
on 23rd June 2025

New JET Participants,  
Distinguished Guests,

Welcome to the Embassy of Japan.  
I am truly excited to be with you all this evening to celebrate the upcoming departure of the 2025 JET Programme participants.

We have 171 new JETs from the UK this year. I would like to pay tribute to all of you for your can-do spirit in joining this programme and embracing the opportunity to go to Japan.

I know many of you are feeling both excited and nervous. Excited, of course, as you are about to travel to Japan to begin a new chapter in your life.

Nervous, naturally, as starting a new life in a foreign country is a big challenge.

But tonight, many former JETs are here with us. Please take this opportunity to talk to them. Their advice will be especially useful during your first weeks in Japan.

As JET participants, you will act as a kind of “Ambassador”, representing the UK in your Japanese community – from Hokkaido in the north to Okinawa in the

south. I assure you that you will get a warm welcome in Japan.

I encourage you to talk about your family, your friends, your hometown, your favourite British culture. Let people in Japan get a real sense of the UK through you.

At the same time, embrace life and culture in Japan – explore local traditions, learn the language, and make many Japanese friends.

When you return to the UK, you will be able to share these experiences with your friends and family back home. In that way, you will become another “Ambassador of Japan” in the UK.

Over the years, more than 10,000 people from the UK have joined the JET Programme. The JET Alumni Association will help you stay connected with Japan and support you on your path even after your return.

Let me extend my sincere gratitude to everybody from JET Alumni Association and all the distinguished guests for joining us this evening.

A bright future is waiting for you. Enjoy your stay, and cherish every moment while you are in Japan. Good luck, and safe travels! Thank you very much.

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