

Remarks by H.E. Mr Hiroshi Suzuki,
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,
at the unveiling of a monument to the
late Professor John White,
June 28th 2025

Venerable Keimei Takehara,
Venerable Master Chimyo Takehara,
Reverend Kemmyo Sato,
Reverend Kenshin Ishii,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour to be invited to the
unveiling ceremony of the monument
commemorating the late Professor John
White. I would like to express my
gratitude and respect to all the people
who were involved in organising this
special event.

As you well know, the late Professor White, who was a British veteran, played an important role in the activities organised by Three Wheels to promote reconciliation and foster friendship between Japan and the UK.

I am aware that he was also known as an art historian who contributed to academic and cultural exchanges between our two countries. He founded Three Wheels together with its first director, Mr. Kemmyo Sato and served as a pillar of our spiritual exchanges.

In 2013, here at Brookwood Cemetery, a monument was erected to commemorate the late Professor Williamson and his wife on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Choshu Five's visit to England.

This is one of the most important legacies left behind by the late Professor White, for which Japanese Prime Minister Abe sent him a letter of appreciation in recognition of his contribution.

It is highly significant to unveil the monument honouring the late Professor White in the year that marks the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

The late Professor White frequently participated in the annual receptions hosted by the Japanese Embassy to promote reconciliation between Japan and the UK.

This unveiling ceremony reminds me once again of the importance of carrying forward the commitment and endeavours of the late Professor White, who devoted his life to healing the wounds of war, seeking reconciliation, and fostering friendship.

I would like to conclude by reiterating my appreciation to the late Professor White for his great achievements and extend my heartfelt gratitude to Three Wheels and all the people who dedicated their efforts to erect this monument.

Thank you very much.

END