

Remarks by H.E. Mr Hiroshi Suzuki,  
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,  
Japan Society Annual General Meeting

Dear Greg,  
Members of the Japan Society,

Good evening.

Thank you very much for coming to the  
Embassy of Japan for this year's Japan  
Society Annual General Meeting. It gives  
me great pleasure to speak to you as  
President of the Japan Society.

Last week, I had the honour of paying a  
visit to His Royal Highness The Duke of  
Gloucester, Patron of the Japan Society.  
The Duke has served as our Patron for  
thirty years and has been a dedicated  
supporter of Japan-UK relations.

I was deeply impressed by his genuine interest in the Society, particularly his questions about membership growth and our key focus. I personally thanked His Royal Highness for his keen interest in the Society's development over the years.

Today, the Japan Society is in the good hands of our Chair, Mr Greg Clark. Since becoming Chair, Greg has brought great energy to the Society. As we all know, he has had extensive experience as a Member of Parliament and in various Ministerial roles.

He has actively strengthened the Japan-UK partnership as Chair of the UK-Japan Parliamentary Group and as the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Japan.

As Chair, Greg's contributions to the Society have been truly remarkable. I am certain that he will share with you his achievements in more detail when he reviews the society's activities over the past year.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to Mike, the Chief Executive.

Since his appointment in 2023, he has worked with great commitment to expand the activities of the Society and has maintained close cooperation with the Embassy.

I am delighted to hear that in 2024 the Society welcomed nearly twice as many new members as in the previous year, and that in 2025 the number is expected to grow even further. This is truly encouraging.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the departing members of the Board of Trustees for their long years of dedication to promoting and strengthening the friendship between Japan and the UK.

With the new members of the Board of Trustees we elect today, I have every confidence that the Japan Society will continue to flourish.

In closing, let me express my high hopes for the Japan Society to achieve even greater success in the months and years ahead.

Last but not least, I would like to thank each and every member of the Society here this evening. It is your enthusiasm, your commitment and your love for Japan that keep the Society moving forward.

Thank you very much.