

Remarks by H.E. Mr Hiroshi Suzuki,  
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,  
on the occasion of the bestowal of The  
Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with  
Rosette  
to Mr Stephen John Pitts  
on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Mr Stephen John Pitts,  
Ms Atsuko Sato,  
Distinguished guests,

It is my great privilege as Ambassador of  
Japan to the UK to present The Order of  
the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette,  
to Mr Stephen John Pitts.

As we all know, Mr Pitts has been a leading figure in the field of probation. Through his dedicated service at probation offices in the UK, Ministry of Justice and the Confederation of European Probation, Mr Pitts significantly promoted the development of international probation practices.

Mr Pitts, you have made remarkable contributions to promoting exchanges between Japan and the United Kingdom in the field of probation. You have also enhanced Japan's international presence and voice in the fields of criminal justice and offender treatment. Of all your

contributions to Japan, I would like to mention just three that stand out the most.

First of all, you have continuously participated as an expert in the training programs at the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, or UNAFEI which is managed by the Japanese Ministry of Justice. Both the Ministry and UNAFEI have deep appreciation for your great contributions as an expert.

Secondly, as one of the principal initiators of the World Congress on Probation, you rendered indispensable assistance to the successful convening of its 3<sup>rd</sup> session held in Japan in 2017, notably presiding over the plenary meetings with distinction.

Lastly, but not in the least, in 2019, when Japan hosted the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, or the Kyoto Congress, you devoted considerable expertise and effort toward both the organisation and subsequent follow-up from the standpoint of a specialist in recidivism prevention.

Behind every great man stands a great lady. Ms Sato, without your dedicated support as his wife, Mr Pitts could not have made such outstanding achievements.

In closing, on behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to thank you, Mr Stephen John Pitts, for your invaluable contributions to strengthening Japan-UK partnership in the field of probation and criminal justice.

Thank you very much.