

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 and Silver Star
to Lord Andrew David Lansley,
on 18th September 2025

Lord and Lady Lansley,
Lord McConnell,
Baroness Barker,
Ambassador Warren,
Ambassador Madden,

Distinguished guests,

Thank you very much for coming to my
residence this evening. It is my great honor
and privilege as Ambassador of Japan to the
UK to present the Order of the Rising Sun,

Gold and Silver Star to Lord Andrew Lansley.

It was in the 1980s when Andrew first encountered with Japan, when he was invited to Japan by winning an essay contest organised by the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Andrew's passion for promoting Japan-UK relations has been long-standing. It blossomed from 2015 to 2024, when he led the Japan-UK 21st Century Group as its UK Co-Chair for 9 years.

As you all know, this Group was established based on the agreement between Prime Minister Thatcher and Prime Minister Nakasone as eminent persons council to discuss important issues facing the world and

submit recommendations to both Prime Ministers.

When Andrew took over as the UK Co-Chair, he has endeavoured to make closer links between the recommendations issued by the Group and the policies adopted by both governments.

Let me highlight just a few examples.

Firstly, in 2016, the UK voted to leave the EU. Andrew emphasised strongly time and again the necessity of creating a new Japan-UK trade agreement following the Brexit. As a result, the Japan-UK Economic Partnership Agreement was concluded 2020. This has underpinned the

development of stable economic relations between Japan and the UK.

Secondly in 2020, the 21st Century Group meeting was held during the COVID-19 pandemic. Andrew exerted strong leadership to include in the Group's recommendations cooperation between Japan and the UK in the field of world public health.

Subsequently, the Prime Ministers of both countries made a commitment to cooperate on ensuring equitable vaccine supply to developing countries. This eventually led to the コヴァックス COVAX Vaccine Summit.

Third, when a Japanese A level exam in the UK was in jeopardy of being discontinued, Andrew

played a significant role in securing its continuation.

Through his work on the 21st Century Group as its UK Co-Chair, over the last 9 years, Andrew has made significant contributions to fostering exchange and cooperation between both countries and elevating Japan-the UK partnership to new heights

Beside every great man stands a great lady. Lady Lansley, without your dedicated support, Lord Lansley could not have made energetic contributions and exerted outstanding leadership.

In closing, let me congratulate you once again, Lord Lansley, for receiving the Order of the

Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star. I look forward to your continued support as a dedicated member of the Japan-UK 21st Century Group.

Thank you very much.