

【Check against Delivery 実際の発言と多少内容が異なることがあります】

Remarks by H.E. Mr. SUZUKI Hiroshi,
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,
at the evening reception to mark the launch of
Scotland in Osaka ahead of EXPO 2025
on 12th February 2025

Minister Lochhead,
Distinguished Guests,

It is my great pleasure to join you here today at the launch of Scotland at EXPO Osaka 2025 at Scotland House London.

I'd especially like to thank Minister for Business, Richard Lochhead, for his gracious invitation to this event and for his initiative to lead the first business delegation to Osaka later this year.

This year's Expo in Osaka, starting in two months' time on April 13, will showcase innovation in AI robotics, green transformation, healthcare, and digital technologies, among others.

It will also provide Scotland with a chance to explore business opportunities in Japan. Scotland is a key trading partner for Japan, with exports such as Scotch whiskey and salmon totalling £543 million in 2023.

Japan is also investing in Scotland's thriving renewable energy sector. Sumitomo Electric invested £350 million in Port of Nigg to build a cable facility, supporting green electricity transmission. The Ossian floating wind farm, led by Marubeni and its partners, could generate 3.6 GW of power once completed, making it one of the world's largest renewable projects.

I have every hope that Scotland's presence at Expo will deepen the well-established bonds between Japan and Scotland. I myself hope to soon visit and learn more about Scotland and the Scottish people.

Thank you.