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Remarks by H.E. Mr Hiroshi Suzuki,
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,
at Japan-UK Fusion Symposium Reception
on 4th March 2025

Minister McCarthy,
Mr James Naish MP,
Professor Konishi,
Distinguished guests,

Good evening and welcome to the Embassy of Japan.

Today's Japan-UK Fusion Reception is co-hosted by the Embassy of Japan and J-Fusion, and I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Professor Konishi, Chair of J-Fusion, and all the people involved for their hard work in organising such a wonderful event.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome such a wide range of guests from industry, academia and government this evening.

I understand that the symposium had many exciting speakers from public and private sectors. I hope you enjoyed lively panel discussions on the prospects for fusion energy, as well as how Japan and the UK can lead this new global sector.

Science and technology cooperation plays an important part in the partnership between Japan and the UK. Last year, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Japan-UK Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement.

Fusion is a very promising technology, and it must be put to practical use as soon as possible. There is a famous animated character from Japan, called "Doraemon". This is about a robotic cat in the far future, that is equipped with fusion energy as its power source.

So, for the Japanese scientists and engineers, the realisation of fusion energy has been a childhood dream. And we wish to embrace this dream together.

At present, both Japan and the UK are placing great emphasis on developing fusion from laboratory level to industrialisation. Japan introduced its first 'Fusion Energy Innovation Strategy' in April last year to accelerate its efforts to build fusion industries and develop fusion technology.

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The industrialisation of fusion technology has the potential to revolutionise net-zero initiatives. As a low carbon, safe and continuous source of energy, fusion technology promises to bring significant economic and social benefits.

In order to make all of this achievable, international partnership between Japan and the UK is essential, as two countries possessing the world's leading edge in science and technology.

We are now witnessing how private sector and industrial initiatives are accelerating efforts towards practical applications.

Let me give two examples: firstly, the research and development of high-temperature superconductors by UKAEA, Fujikura and Kyoto Fusioneering in Japan. Another is Tokamak Energy in the UK, attracting investment by Japan's Furukawa Electric, and developing collaboration with Sumitomo Corporation.

I whole heartedly welcome these private initiatives, and it is all the more important that we accelerate coordination among industry, government, and academia, as well as international collaboration between Japan, the UK and other like-minded countries in the months and years ahead.

In closing, please enjoy the delicious Japanese - ***not fusion*** - cuisine kindly provided by J-FUSION. I hope all the guests will take advantage of this evening's reception to engage in networking with a wide range of stakeholders in this important sector.

Thank you very much.