

Sir Mark Hendrick,
Minister Michael Shanks,
My Lords, My Ladies,
Members of Parliament,
Distinguished Guests,

I would like to express my deep appreciation to Sir Mark Hendrick and all the British-Japanese Parliamentary Group members for organising today's working lunch on clean energy.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Minister Shanks for his endeavours to promote energy cooperation between Japan and the UK, as well as to today's sponsors, Tokamak Energy and JERA Nex bp.

The UK has taken initiatives such as Clean Power 2030 and the Clean Energy Sector Plan to

advance decarbonisation and strengthen energy security.

In Japan, investments in energy security, Green Transformation (GX), and nuclear power generation are prioritised as key pillars of its economic policy, addressing future energy challenges.

Now is the time for Japan and the UK to build a collaborative relationship, involving both the public and private sector, to tackle these common challenges.

While it would be impossible to be comprehensive, I would like to share with you as many examples as I know of Japan-UK collaboration in the energy sector.

Please bear with me if I get a bit long.

Marubeni and Sumitomo Corporation have each signed a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding with the UK Government that aims to promote clean energy alongside their engagement in ongoing UK energy projects.

In offshore wind power generation, JERA and bp's merger in 2024 led to the creation of JERA Nex bp, a purpose-built offshore wind company.

In the world of power generation, Tokyo Electric Power Company and Marubeni Europower are both engaged in exciting projects, while in transmission and distribution, Hitachi is currently undertaking work to stabilise the UK power grid.

Sumitomo Electric Industries is constructing an HVDC cable factory at Port Nigg in Scotland to support the supply chain.

As for the essential funding required for business operations, Mizuho Bank, JBIC, and DBJ Europe are providing investment and financing.

Announcement of the Contracts for Difference Auction Round 7 outcomes has been welcomed by the Japanese government as positive news for the offshore wind power sector, which had been facing significant headwinds.

The contracts were awarded to Eurus Energy, a subsidiary of Toyota Tsusho, and Simply Blue Energy, a subsidiary of Kansai Electric Power. I now look forward to the scope of the CfD expanding to include floating offshore wind, a key area of interest for Japanese companies.

In CCUS — a key technology to advance decarbonisation in the industrial sector — Mitsubishi Heavy Industries secured an order last December to construct the UK's first CCS plant at a cement factory.

In the journey towards establishing the hydrogen energy supply chain, Kawasaki Heavy Industries is building the world's first liquefied hydrogen carrier ship.

Panasonic has developed Panasonic HX, combining solar power generation, hydrogen and storage batteries to achieve 100% renewable electricity for corporate use, and has introduced it at its Welsh factory.

NTT Data supports the infrastructure needed for energy transition via developments in digital technology.

Tokyo Gas is investing in clean energy adoption through its partnership with the UK's Octopus Energy.

IHI is advancing the utilisation of ammonia and hydrogen towards carbon neutrality, while Toyota, Honda, and Horiba Mira are making significant contributions towards decarbonising the transport sector.

At Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, which concluded in last October, both the UK and Japan Pavilions featured fusion energy.

This new technology, once considered a dream, is being moved forward by the UK's world-leading Tokamak Energy, as well as cutting-edge technologies such as room-temperature superconducting wires by Furukawa Electric and Fujikura.

Japanese start-ups, including Kyoto Fusion Engineering, are also involved in UK-based R&D. I anticipate this collaboration will help breed innovation in both Japan and the UK.

Finally, I expect that Small Modular Reactors – SMRs - will also become indispensable clean energy sources in the future. Building upon the long-standing cooperation between Japan and the UK, I hope that collaboration with Japanese companies such as Hitachi, JAEA, Toshiba, and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries on the development of high-temperature gas-cooled reactors and SMRs will continue to bear fruit.

Thank you for your patience in hearing me out. I just wanted to share with you the depth and breadth of Japan-UK cooperation in this vitally important sector.

I sincerely hope that today's gathering will help connect parliament, policy authorities, and Japanese and British companies as well as investors, leading us to new cooperation and giving us inspiration for future projects.

Thank you very much.