

Remarks by H.E. Mr Hiroshi Suzuki,
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,
at the opening ceremony for Fujifilm's new manufacturing
facility,
11th February 2026

President Goto,
Minister Ahmed,
Minister McDonald,
Consul General Takeda,
Mr Haigh,
Chair Grady,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to attend the opening ceremony of Fujifilm's new biopharmaceutical manufacturing facility in Billingham this morning.

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh for honouring us with his presence later today. It is a great privilege for us all.

I had the pleasure of knowing Mr Komori, the former CEO of Fujifilm, personally. He led the company's bold transformation, expanding Fujifilm's business into diverse fields such as pharmaceuticals, medical system and healthcare. President Goto carries the torch from Mr Komori, and spearheads Fujifilm's global strategy to become a world's leading company in pharmaceuticals.

Today, we witness the establishment of the largest biopharmaceutical manufacturing facility in Europe. This truly remarkable achievement could

not have been possible without President Goto's strong and passionate leadership.

Here in Billingham, Fujifilm has been firmly rooted in the local community for 15 years since 2011, contributing to local employment and the regional economy. When we consider related businesses, the broader economic impact on the region is truly significant.

Also Fujifilm has been working closely with Teesside University, Newcastle College, Durham University, and Cranfield University through apprenticeships. These programmes make an important contribution to developing local talent

and strengthening the future workforce.

Louis Pasteur once said, “Science knows no country, because knowledge belongs to humanity.” This facility embodies that very spirit.

The cutting-edge medicines produced here, including treatments for cancer and rare diseases, will be supplied not only across the UK, Europe and North America, but to patients all over the world, helping to save lives and improve health conditions globally.

The facility will help create a powerful ecosystem for innovative drug development — one that will position this region as a global hub for life sciences. And Fujifilm will be at the heart of this exciting future.

While Fujifilm is a company that originated in Japan, the day-to-day operations and management are largely carried out by British colleagues here. This is, in every sense, a genuine success story of Japan–UK cooperation.

Recently, Prime Minister Starmer visited Japan and had a bilateral summit with Prime Minister Takaichi. I flew back to Tokyo to take part in the

meeting. As one of the concrete outcomes, the two leaders announced a comprehensive Japan–UK partnership in science and technology, including the life sciences. The establishment of this facility is a major event which underpins this critically important partnership for the world.

In closing, I would like to express my deepest respect to all those who have worked so hard to bring this new facility to fruition. I ask for the continued cooperation and support of everyone present today as this project moves forward. I and the Embassy of Japan stand ready to support your journey into the future in every possible way.

Once again, let me extend my warmest congratulations to everyone on this historic achievement.

Thank you very much.