

Remarks by H.E. Mr Hiroshi Suzuki,  
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,  
at the Japan-UK Financial Networking Reception  
on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Deputy Governor Breeden of the Bank of  
England,  
CEO Pulay of the Debt Management  
Office,  
Eminent Aldermen,  
Distinguished Guests,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to  
the Japanese Embassy this evening for the  
Japan-UK Financial Networking  
Reception.

As we attend the fourth edition of this event, I am truly delighted to see how the financial communities from both the UK and Japan have enjoyed fruitful collaboration in recent years.

In these uncertain times globally, Japan and the UK have never been more important to each other as strategic partners. Both of our countries are focusing on boosting economic growth.

Japan has been actively implementing policies to promote “Japan as a Leading Asset Management Centre”, which continues to be a key priority under Prime Minister Takaichi.

The aim of this vision is to drive economic growth by channelling household savings into productive investments - enhancing corporate value, and, in turn, returning those gains to households to support further investment and consumption.

To achieve this positive cycle of growth and investment, the Japanese government is pushing forward comprehensive reforms across the investment chain, from households and corporates to financial institutions, asset managers and asset owners.

The central pillar of these reforms is enhancing corporate governance. Japan's Financial Services Agency, the FSA, is advancing revisions to the Corporate Governance Code, encouraging companies to look at various investment opportunities and examine whether their allocation of resources is appropriate. Above all, human capital is the key driver of sustainable corporate growth.

In February, the FSA enhanced its disclosure requirements to strengthen transparency on how companies align human resource strategies with their overall corporate strategies, which will be effective from this month.

And just this Monday, a revised Human Capital Visualization Guideline was published by a study group of “Headquarters for Japan's Growth Strategy”, which is Prime Minister Takaichi's flagship government body that brings together key ministers and experts to design strategies to boost Japan’s economic growth.

Building on our shared priorities for economic growth, the financial partnership between Japan and the UK is getting stronger across multiple layers.

Recently, we have had a series of important meetings. In January, we had the Tokyo-London Financial Seminar, held at Ironmongers' Hall, and in February, we had the Securities Summit, which took place at Mansion House.

Last week, the fourth meeting of the Japan-UK Financial Regulatory Forum was held in Tokyo.

I am delighted to know that we share common priorities in areas such as digital finance, sustainable finance, and asset management reform.

Before I finish, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Sake Samurai for

supporting us by serving an excellent selection of Japanese sake.

Finally, a little warning: after a few glasses of wonderful sake and delicious sushi, you might find yourself making some very ambitious investment decisions tomorrow morning!

Thank you very much.