

Remarks by H.E. Mr Hiroshi Suzuki,  
Ambassador of Japan to the UK, at the  
Conferment Ceremony of the Order of the  
Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays  
upon Mr Hamish Todd

Mr Todd,  
Distinguished Guests,

Thank you very much for coming to the  
Japanese Embassy today for the  
conferment ceremony of the Order of the  
Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, upon  
Mr Hamish Todd.

For nearly 40 years, Mr Todd dedicated  
himself to the British Library, first as a  
curator of Japanese collections, then, as  
head of the Japanese section, and finally, as  
head of the East Asian collections.

Throughout his career, he has made enormous contributions to the development of Japanese Studies in the UK and Europe.

In particular, he has worked tirelessly to preserve and expand the Japanese language collections, creating an invaluable foundation for researchers.

Looking for precious materials can be likened to a treasure hunt. For decades, Mr Todd has carefully drawn up a map of those treasures. Fortunately, his map contains no note of caution saying “There might be a dragon here!”, so researchers can explore whatever they are trying to discover with peace of mind.

Mr Todd has also introduced Japanese culture widely to British people.

He has organised exhibitions such as “Exquisite Patterns: Japanese Textile Design” at the British Library, just to give you one example, and has personally contributed to the Library’s official blog, helping many people deepen their understanding of Japanese culture.

In addition to all these, Mr Todd has strengthened cooperation among Japanese Studies institutions across the UK as the Chair of the Japan Library Group.

Moreover, he has played a key role in the European Association of Japanese Resource Specialists since its foundation, building networks among researchers and libraries throughout Europe.

Furthermore, he has contributed hugely in facilitating institutions in Japan to allow access to their materials from overseas, as well as creating catalogues of Japanese materials held in the UK.

Thanks to his efforts, researchers around the world today have much easier access to Japanese resources, profoundly advancing Japanese Studies globally.

Mr Todd's long years of dedication have not only enriched academia but also greatly promoted cultural exchange and mutual understanding between Japan and the UK.

There is an English proverb: "Great oaks from little acorns grow." Indeed, Mr Todd's dedicated efforts and passionate work have nurtured a mighty oak—a mature and deep cultural partnership between our two countries.

Today's decoration is a sincere expression of the Japanese Government's deep gratitude and respect for his many years of invaluable contributions.

I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks to his husband, Mr Alan Ip. Without his support, Mr Todd could not have made these remarkable achievements.

Finally, I would like to once again congratulate Mr Todd for receiving this high honour for his outstanding achievements in promoting deeper understanding of Japan and enhancing warm friendship between Japan and the UK.

Thank you very much.