

Remarks by H.E. Mr Hiroshi Suzuki,
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,
at the Hanami Gathering in Regent's Park
on 30th March 2026

Chairman Sano,

Distinguished Guests,

My friends,

Thank you so much for joining today's
Ohanami in Regent's Park. I am very happy to
see so many people here to celebrate cherry
blossoms.

I am delighted to share with you that more than 9,500 sakura cherry trees have been planted across the UK. The project is on track to reaching its new target of planting 10,000 trees in the not too distant future.

Since my arrival in the UK, I have been promoting this initiative not only here in London, but across the UK whenever I have a chance to travel to different parts of the country.

When these sakura cherry trees bloom, the local people come out and enjoy their beauty. This is the embodiment of ever-lasting friendship between Japan and the UK.

None of this could have been possible without the leadership of Chairman Sano, the enthusiastic endeavours of all the volunteers, and the generous contributions from dedicated supporters to promote this project. I would therefore like to express my deepest appreciation to everyone involved in the project.

I hope all of us here will continue to gather under cherry blossoms year after year with local residents, both Japanese and British, thereby further strengthening the warm friendship between the UK and Japan.

Thank you very much.