

Remarks by H.E. Mr Hiroshi Suzuki,
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,
Grand Sumo Talk Event at the Japan House London
on 16th October 2025

Mr Thorne of Japan House,
Ms Motokura of JNTO,
Distinguished guests,

It gives me great pleasure to speak to you on this special occasion, that of the first Grand Sumo Tournament in London for 34 years. London has been eagerly awaiting the return of Sumo. I am very excited that Yokozuna (Grand Champion) Ōnosato and Mr Shonosuke Kimura are the main guests for today's event.

Sumo is not merely a sport; it is an ancient tradition deeply rooted in Japanese culture. Through values such as discipline dedication and honour, Sumo possesses a unique charm to bridge cultures.

Through today's event, I hope you will be able to deepen your understanding of Sumo and, you will visit Japan in the not too distant future to experience Japanese culture first hand.

It is the warm hospitality of the Japanese people that will truly make your journey unforgettable. Please do visit the upper floor, where you can find a variety of brochures introducing Japan's various wonderful regions.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all those who made this event possible. I wish the great success of the Grand Sumo Tournament in London and hope that this historic event will serve to broaden and deepen British people's interests in Japan.

Thank you very much.

<乾杯挨拶>

Yokozuna Ōnosato,
The thirty ninth Kimura Shonosuke,
Ms Motokura,
Distinguished guests,

I am so excited to celebrate the return of Grand Sumo Tournament to London after 34 years.

Among many Japanese sports, such as Judo, Karate and Kendo, Sumo stands out as Japan's national sport which is steeped in traditional Japanese culture.

I hope that the British people will be able to feel the essence of Sumo. It is the integration of 心 (Shin), 技(Gi), 体(Tai). 心(Shin) represents inner spirit, such as concentration, perseverance and dignity. 技(Gi) represents technics and skills. 体(Tai) represents power, stamina, physical capabilities.

心技体 all put together, Sumo represents dignity, integrity, culture and history of Japan.

Through this Grand Sumo Tournament, I ardently hope that the power of Sumo and the depth of Japanese culture will leave a lasting impression on the British people, and further strengthen the bonds of friendship between Japan and the UK.

【Check against Delivery 実際の発言と多少内容が異なることがあります】

Kampai!