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Opening remarks by H.E. Mr Hiroshi Suzuki,
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,
On the occasion of the seminar *UK-Japan relations:*
on Thursday 13 February 2025

Professor Simms,
Professor Hosoya,
My Lord,
Excellencies,
Esteemed Guests,

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the people at Cambridge University and Keio University for their efforts in organising the seminar. I am pleased to note that exchange between Cambridge and Japan has deepened in the field of diplomacy and security.

The international environment surrounding us is increasingly complex and challenging.

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With the new US administration having just assumed office, the partnership with the US is the topic attracting the greatest attention. Moreover, there are a number of critical issues, including relations with China as well as Russia; and the situation in the Middle East .

In addition, climate change and energy, sensitive technologies including AI, quantum physics and biotech, and social issues such as ageing and health care are also pressing issues for both countries.

In this context, the strategic partnership between our countries is becoming increasingly important and has great potential. In fact, for the last several years, remarkable progress has been made in a number of areas.

The UK and Japan share strategic interests and fundamental values such as freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. In addition, both of us have the technology, economic strength and the capabilities to meet various challenges.

It is my mission as Ambassador of Japan to the UK to further strengthen this good partnership in every major area as well as to ensure further understanding and support from the people of both countries, especially the younger generation who will lead the two countries to flourish into the future.

I hope that today's seminar will provide an opportunity for productive discussions to further promote collaboration between the two universities and to boost Anglo-Japanese cooperation.

Thank you very much.