

Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Hiroshi Suzuki
for the Lunch Briefing for the National Ballet of
Japan, at the Royal Opera House
On 21st February 2025

Mr O'Hare,
Ms Yoshida,
Distinguished members of the media,

It is a great pleasure to be here today to
celebrate the upcoming performances of the
National Ballet of Japan in July in London.

I would like to express my sincere
appreciation to Ms Miyako Yoshida,
Artistic Director of the National Ballet of
Japan, for hosting this wonderful luncheon
and for her unwavering dedication to the
world of ballet.

As you all know, Ms Yoshida had a long and distinguished career as a Principal Dancer of The Royal Ballet. Now, she returns to the Royal Opera House as the Artistic Director leading Japan's foremost ballet company.

The upcoming performances mark a historic milestone – the National Ballet of Japan's first-ever UK tour.

This significant achievement highlights the company's artistic excellence and its growing presence on the global stage.

In the context of deep Japan -UK cultural ties, the performing arts have long played a vital role in strengthening our relationship.

The visit of the National Ballet of Japan to London is not only a celebration of Japanese ballet but also a reflection of the enduring friendship between our two nations.

I am convinced that their performances this July will fascinate audiences in London, reaffirming the power of ballet to transcend borders and connect people across cultures.

I sincerely hope that you will all share the excitement of this event and bring the beauty of Japanese ballet to wider audience.

I look forward to seeing you at the performances this July.

Thank you very much.