

Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Hiroshi Suzuki for the Press
Conference for the 2025 Grand Sumo London Tournament
at the Royal Albert Hall on 4 December 2024

It is a pleasure to be here today at the press conference for the 2025 Grand Sumo London Tournament.

I am delighted that Sumo will return to the UK next October, 34 years after its last tour here in 1991. This is a very special occasion, and I am excited to share it with you all.

I served here as Minister for Cultural Affairs in 2012. Last month, I returned as Ambassador of Japan. It feels very fortunate to be back in time for this historic event.

Sumo is more than just a sport. It is a symbol of Japanese culture and tradition. With over a thousand years of history, sumo has its roots in Shinto rituals. Each match showcases the strength, skill, and discipline of the wrestlers, reflecting the spirit of Japan.

I hope many people will feel the unique charm of Sumo, its blend of tradition, beauty, and power. Holding the tournament in the Royal Albert Hall, with its rich history and stunning architecture, will make the experience even more memorable.

I also hope this event will inspire more people to learn about Sumo and Japanese culture, while further strengthening the friendship between Japan and the UK.

The Embassy of Japan is fully committed to supporting the Grand Sumo contest in London.

I look forward to seeing you at the 2025 Grand Sumo London Tournament.

Thank you very much.