

Remarks by H.E. Mr Hiroshi Suzuki,
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,
On the occasion of the presentation of
Ambassador's Commendation
to Lord Justice Dingemans
on 13th July 2026

Lord Justice Dingemans,
Lady Dingemans,
Eminent representatives from the judiciary,
Distinguished guests,

Thank you for coming to the Japanese
Embassy this afternoon. It gives me great
pleasure to present the Ambassador's
Commendation to Lord Justice Dingemans.

Over the years, Lord Justice Dingemans made great contributions to strengthening Japan – UK judicial cooperation.

As a Lead Judge for International Relations from 2021 to 2025, he kindly welcomed judges from Japan to the Royal Courts of Justice during their overseas research visits.

Lord Justice arranged programmes centred on court visits for visiting Japanese judges, offering them indispensable support and providing them with various opportunities to deepen their understanding of the UK's legal system and practice.

Sometimes, the Lord Justice even kindly invited Japanese judges to his home, fostering warm and personal friendship going beyond the professional engagement.

The Lord Justice attended the Lawyers' Reception which Japanese Embassy hosts annually. His participation as high-ranking Justice greatly enhanced the significance of the reception.

Through these activities, he has made outstanding contributions to the promotion of judicial cooperation between Japan and the United Kingdom.

His dedication to promoting Japan–UK relations extends beyond the courtroom to the pitch of rugby. Many of you may well know that he is a dedicated rugby advocate. He served as the first Independent Head of the Judiciary for the Rugby Football Union, laying the structured foundations for modern rugby disciplinary panels.

When Japan hosted the Rugby World Cup in 2019, he visited Japan as a Judicial Chair and contributed significantly to the success of the World Cup in Japan.

Since August 2025, he has assumed the distinguished position of the Senior President of Tribunals. He is one of the top judicial leaders with heavy responsibilities in the UK judicial system.

Beside every great man stands a great lady. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Lady Dingemans. Without your dedicated support, Lord Justice Dingemans could not have made such an outstanding achievement.

As John Locke put it, “Wherever law ends, tyranny begins.” The importance of the rule of law is now greater than ever before. In this context, Japan-UK cooperation in the judicial field is more important than ever.

In closing, I would once again like to extend my most sincere and heartfelt congratulations to Lord Justice Dingemans.

Thank you very much.