

Remarks by H.E. Mr Hiroshi Suzuki,
Ambassador of Japan to the UK, at
the Japan Society Annual General Meeting

Dear Greg,
Members of the Japan Society,

Good afternoon.

Thank you for joining us at the Embassy of Japan for the Japan Society's Annual General Meeting. It is a pleasure to welcome you all.

For more than a century, the Japan Society has brought together many people with a shared interest in Japan and a commitment to strengthening the Japan-UK friendship. I am delighted to see that the Society is continuing to flourish, with an increasingly rich programme of activities.

This success reflects the outstanding leadership of our Chair, Greg Clark, and the tireless efforts of our Chief Executive, Mike, and the secretariat .

Greg, your dedication and vision have been truly inspiring. The Industrial Strategy Roundtables organised by the Japan Society have been outstanding. Having attended several of them myself, I know they owe much to Greg's exceptional network, expertise and commitment.

I suspect that the Japan Society keeps you even busier than your days as the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Japan!

Prime Minister Takaichi's visit to London last month demonstrated how far the Japan-UK partnership has progressed.

Our cooperation now extends across economic security, advanced technology and defence, while our links in culture, education and business continue to grow.

Prime Minister TAKAICHI stated that Japan-UK ties had reached a level whereby we could be described as ‘quasi-allies’.

By fostering understanding and trust between our two countries, the Japan Society make an indispensable contribution to this partnership.

Today, we will have a vote to welcome new members to the Board of Trustees. I would like to take this opportunity to thank three members of the board who are leaving at the end of their tenure, namely Ms Rie Yoshitake, Ms Clare Weaver, and Ms Yasuko Fukuda, for their dedicated service.

The Society's future is bright, thanks not only to Greg's leadership but also to the commitment and enthusiasm of everyone here this evening.

Each and every one of you is the engine that expands the cooperation between our two countries. Each and every one of you is the Ambassador who deepens friendship between our two nations. Your passion and love for Japan are what keeps us going forward.

So, thank you all for your continued support. I look forward to working with you in the coming months and years as we further strengthen the ties between our two countries.

Thank you so much.