

Remarks by H.E. Mr Hiroshi Suzuki,
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,
At the Forty-Third International Symposium on
Economic Crime
on 26 August 2026

Professor Rider,
Professor Nakajima,
My Lords, My Ladies,
Eminent Guests,
Excellency,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to attend this dinner tonight at the Forty-Third International Symposium on Economic Crime here in Cambridge.

Most of us here are from the legal community, so let me state, for the avoidance of doubt, that nothing in my speech shall be construed as a request for billable legal advice.

Moreover, having due regard to your significant hourly rates, I will keep my remarks as short as possible to keep your fees to a minimum. Kindly send a modest invoice to my Embassy.

Today, we are living at a time of great global change.

Over many decades, humankind made great progress in establishing a rule-based international order.

At the same time, we see serious challenges to the existing order in various parts of the world. Russian invasion of Ukraine is a flagrant violation of the fundamental principles of the international order based on the rule of law.

As John Locke said, “Wherever law ends, tyranny begins.” Today, the importance of the rule of law is greater than ever before.

In the field of international law, ensuring the effective implementation of the law is particularly important.

The International Criminal Court is a vital institution in helping to ensure that the most serious crimes do not go unpunished.

Thomas Hobbes wrote, “Covenants, without the Sword, are but Words.”

This is why Japan has consistently supported the ICC and will continue to do so, despite the recent U.S. sanctions against the President of the ICC, Judge Tomoko Akane. I consider this very regrettable.

Among us like-minded partners, who share the fundamental importance of the rule of law, we become stronger, and better prepared to meet emerging challenges through the accumulation of practice and sharing our experience with each other.

At times, practice is easier said than done. By citing the example of punting, Jerome K. Jerome said, “Punting is not as easy as it looks.”

“It takes long practice before you can do this with dignity.” We should never blink at this time of crisis. We should never give up our endeavors to put the rule of law into practice.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Professor Rider and the organisers of this Symposium.

I would also like to thank you for a wonderful dinner in the beautiful setting of Jesus College.

Let me conclude by expressing my ardent hope that this Symposium will contribute to further strengthening international cooperation and upholding the rule of law for our future generations.

Thank you very much.

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