

Remarks by H.E. Mr Hiroshi Suzuki,
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,
at the presentation ceremony of the Foreign
Minister's Commendation to
Dr Rosina Buckland on 21st October 2026

Dr Buckland,
Mr Tim Clark,
Distinguished guests,

Thank you very much for coming to the
Japanese Embassy today for this special
occasion.

It is my great pleasure as Ambassador of
Japan to the UK to present the Foreign
Minister's Commendation to Dr Rosina
Buckland.

Dr Buckland has been working for many years
at the British Museum as curator of Japanese
arts, and since 2020, as head of Japanese
collection there.

Founded in 1753, the British Museum is a world's leading museum, with one of the most comprehensive Japanese collections outside Japan.

Dr Buckland has made great contributions to promoting Japanese culture in the UK and fostering friendship between Japanese and British people. Among her many achievements, let me just share with you two most recent examples.

First, the huge success of the Samurai exhibition earlier this year at the British Museum is still fresh in our memory. Dr Buckland curated this splendid exhibition with great success, attracting around 183,000 visitors.

I had the pleasure of visiting the exhibition myself. It offered a fresh perspective on Samurai. It helped visitors to look beyond familiar stereotypes and gave visitors a chance to discover Samurai in multiple perspectives; Samurai as warrior, Samurai and culture, Samurai as bureaucrats, Samurai as ideal, the end of Samurai and Global Samurai.

Second, Dr Buckland visited Japan to give a special lecture linked to *Edo in Focus: Japanese Treasures from the British Museum*, held at the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum for its 100th anniversary. The exhibition, which closed this past weekend, attracted great interest in Japan.

Through its galleries and special exhibitions, from Hiroshige and Hokusai to manga and Samurai, the British Museum has helped countless people discover and appreciate Japanese culture.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr Buckland for leading the world's top level institution in highlighting the beauty and wonder of Japanese culture. I am also grateful to her team for supporting her, as well as to the Japanese companies that support the Japan Gallery, curatorial positions and special exhibitions.

This Commendation is a sincere expression of our deep gratitude for her many years of contributions.

In closing, I would like to congratulate Dr Buckland once again on her well-deserved honour. I wish Dr Buckland every success in her continued work, with my ardent hope that cultural and friendly ties between Japan and the United Kingdom will continue to flourish for many years to come.

Thank you very much.