Remarks by H.E. Mr Hiroshi Suzuki, Ambassador of Japan to the UK, at Japan-UK Financial Seminar – “Japan Day” on 26th October 2026

Minister Rigby,

Mr. Ohira,

Distinguished guests,

Good afternoon, It is a great pleasure to welcome you to “Japan-UK Financial Seminar”, jointly hosted by the Embassy of Japan and the City of London Corporation.

This Seminar is a major pillar of “Japan Day”, the first dedicated event to celebrate the partnership between the financial sectors of Japan and the UK.

Firstly, I would like to thank Nomura for its generous support in hosting today's event. And huge congratulations to Nomura Group on the remarkable milestone of its 100th anniversary this year.

Today, I am particularly grateful that Minister Rigby is joining us. In her second term as City Minister, she brings valuable experience and strong leadership to the UK's financial sector.

Japan and the UK enjoy a close partnership built on our shared values of freedom, democracy, the rule of law, and open markets. These fundamental values continue to underpin our deepening economic and financial ties.

Our partnership was clearly demonstrated in June, when Prime Minister Takaichi visited London and reaffirmed the importance of cooperation in finance, investment, and economic growth.

In July, the Japanese government versioned up its policy to promote Japan as a Leading Asset Management centre, strengthening the functions of financial institutions and markets, advancing corporate governance reform to promote growth investment, and enhancing financial market infrastructure.

And under new “Japan’s Growth Strategy”, Japan aims to bring its GDP from today`s about 690 trillion yen, (3.29 trillion pounds), to nearly 1,100 trillion yen,(5.24 trillion pounds) in the fiscal year 2040, by unlocking more than 370 trillion yen, (1.76 trillion pounds) in public and private investment into 17 strategic fields, including physical AI, semiconductors, quantum technologies, and defence industry.

To achieve this goal, the Japanese government is carrying out fundamental reforms in budget formulation to enhance its predictability in order to catalyse private investments. At the same time, it is essential to create strong momentum in private-sector investments, including those coming from overseas.

Geopolitical uncertainty is reshaping investment and supply chains. Technology is transforming financial markets, and businesses and governments alike are having to think differently about resilience.

For internationally connected economies like ours, turning inward is not the answer. Japan and the U.K have much to gain from working more closely together, and financial services should be central to that partnership.

That is why today's seminar is very important. This seminar brings together financial leaders and investors from both countries to explore new opportunities for cooperation and growth.

I would like to thank all of you here today for your support and engagement, and I look forward to working with you to strengthen our partnership even further in the months and years ahead.

Thank you very much.