Remarks by H.E. Mr Hiroshi Suzuki, Ambassador of Japan to the UK, at Japan day reception on 26th October 2026

My Lady Mayor,
Eminent Alderman and Sheriff,
Distinguished guests,

Good evening. It is a true pleasure to be here at Mansion House. I would like to thank the Lady Mayor and the City of London Corporation for making today's Japan Day such a great success.

As you will just witness in a minute, the Lady Mayor and I are delighted to going to enjoy a tea ceremony in the Urasenke tradition.

Kimura-san, Yamaguchi-san, thank you very much for conducting such a splendid tea ceremony.

The tea ceremony as we know it today was established by Sen no Rikyu in the 16th century, and it is built on the philosophy of WA, KEI, SEI, JAKU. WA means harmony, and KEI means mutual respect – exactly the same core values which underpin the strong ties between the financial sectors of Japan and the UK.

Over 150 years ago, Japan raised funds for its modernisation and industrialisation through the London capital market by issuing government bonds, taking one of its earliest steps into international finance.

Now the times have changed. 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.

I would like to thank the Lady Mayor for her leadership over the past year in strengthening the cooperation between the financial community of the City and Japan.

In particular, the Lady Mayor visited Japan in June, and her meetings with Tokyo Governor Koike and Japanese financial leaders further strengthened these valuable connections.

And the success of that partnership is underpinned by the private sectors. Looking around this room, it is clear to me that every single one of you play an important role.

Whether you are in banking, asset management, insurance, legal, accounting and other professional services, your hard work and dedication is what makes Japan-UK cooperation so successful today.

So, I am delighted that this evening we can celebrate our partnership. Japanese Sake is especially delicious when it is enjoyed with close friends. So, please join me in making a toast to:
the Lady Mayor,
and the friendship between Japan and City of London.

Kanpai! Cheers!

Thank you very much.