

## Queen's birthday sees UK, Japan enhance cooperation

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Ambassador of the United Kingdom

This year, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's official birthday was marked in a way unlike any other. During the "Platinum Jubilee Weekend" from June 2 to June 5, the United Kingdom was transformed by colourful festivities and deeply-felt moments of thanks marking Her Majesty The Queen's 70th year on the throne. It is an incredible milestone; the longest reign of a British monarch and the first ever Platinum Jubilee.

Her Majesty The Queen has been the UK's foremost diplomat. Wherever she has visited, she has demonstrated her values of responsibility and respect for oth-

ers and become a much loved and respected figure across the globe, including here in Japan.

The relationship between the Royal and Imperial families is very close. His Majesty the Emperor Emeritus, the then Crown Prince, made his first overseas journey to the United Kingdom to represent Japan at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in June 1953. The relationship between the UK and Japan has only strengthened during her reign.

We are not only longstanding partners with a rich history, but also modern champions of innovation and shared values, and we are continuing to deepen our cooperation and tackle the big issues affecting the world.

There are growing partnerships between Japan and the UK's world-class science and research sector. There are huge opportunities too for both countries to work together on renewables and nuclear deployment speeding up the clean energy transition, and to join forces to



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enhance economic security, strengthen global supply chains and address the challenges of digital transformation.

Japan is the UK's closest security partner in Asia. We want to build upon existing close cooperation on global security. Cooperation will go from strength to strength with the Reciprocal Access Agreement and joint work on the development of the landmark Future Combat Air Systems project.

Successful UK accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) will further enhance opportunities for Japan and the UK in trade and investment.

With border restrictions easing, we can now invest with renewed enthusiasm in the important science, education and cultural people-to-people links. Her Majesty The Queen is patron of the British Council that brings together universities and cultural institutions, and helps people across Japan to improve their English language skills. Visiting exhibitions from The V&A Museum and appearances in Japan by The Royal Ballet and London Symphony Orchestra, as well as

the Harry Potter stage show later this year are sure to delight and enthral.

Events in Japan will span the whole of the 2022 Platinum Jubilee year, so there is time for everyone to get involved. Supported by an information pack, communities can hold their own events; from community lunches and classroom activities to planting a tree as part of "The Queen's Green Canopy" initiative.

Yet we cannot forget that it has been a difficult two years for all of us. Moments of celebration and togetherness should be cherished. Each day we see images of the impact on innocent civilians of Russia's unprovoked war against Ukraine. The UK stands with Ukraine. It is in difficult times that Her Majesty The Queen is an inspiration for us of fortitude in the face of adversity and the importance of standing by our values.

We are always stronger when we stand with our friends and partners, as we continue to do with Japan. In this special year for Her Majesty The Queen, we have much to look forward to as the UK and Japan deepen further our relationship and come ever closer together.



Courtesy of the British Embassy

The Platinum Jubilee Community Pack produced by the British Embassy Tokyo offers details of the Platinum Jubilee events taking place in the UK and Japan and gives ideas on how you can get involved. It is available in English and Japanese.

Link to community pack: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/her-majesty-the-queens-platinum-jubilee-community-pack-in-japan>

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