

Farewell Remarks by Ambassador UYAMA Hideki
At the Farewell Reception
Wednesday, 26 November 2025, 4:00 PM- 6:00 PM

His Excellency Mr. Christian Schønau, Lord Chamberlain of the Royal House of Denmark,
Her Excellency Ms. Lotte Machon, State Secretary for Foreign Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Dear Friends,

I would like to extend a cordial welcome and gratitude to all of you for joining in my farewell reception. Sadly, my stint as Ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom of Denmark is coming to an end. The past three years were the happiest days of my diplomatic life. Even in a long and dark winter, the warmth and friendliness of the Danish people and the diplomatic corps members compensates for the lack of sunlight.

The relationship between Japan and the Kingdom of Denmark has been remarkably strengthened and deepened over the years by high-level exchanges and cooperation across various sectors. I feel very fortunate to have directly engaged in the two most important visits to Japan.

Prime Minister Frederiksen's visit in 2023 has significantly updated and deepened the strategic partnership between the two countries. The Joint Leaders' Statement and the Joint Strategic Work Programme have since guided our cooperation in a wide range of areas including green energy, healthcare and life sciences, quantum technologies, and security.

In April this year, we were honoured to welcome His Majesty the King to Japan. It was his first visit to Asia after his accession to the throne. His Majesty together with three Ministers visited Tokyo, the World Expo 2025 in Osaka, and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Museum. The visit reflected the enduring friendship between the Japanese

Imperial Family and the Danish Royal Family as well as our shared commitment to peace.

Japan and Denmark have been inspiring each other and steadily advancing dynamic collaborations for a better future. Together, our two nations can respond to global challenges with innovation, sustainability, and shared wisdom.

Joint projects on green methanol, green hydrogen, biogas, and sustainable aviation fuel are making progress in Jutland with significant investments by Japanese giant corporations such as Mitsui, Mitsubishi, Itochu, and Sumitomo. We also have high hope for successful cooperation on floating offshore wind technologies that is vital for the decarbonization of the world.

In life sciences sector, large-scale biopharmaceuticals manufacturing plants of FUJIFILM Biotechnologies in Hillerød and AGC Biologics in Gladsaxe have created thousands of jobs. We have launched a network of Japanese pharmaceutical companies based in Denmark.

Quantum science and technology have become a vital pillar of our partnership with Memorandum of Cooperation signed by Ministers in charge of science this year. Joint research and talent exchange between the Niels Bohr Institute, DTU and Japan's top universities, research institutes, and businesses, keep both nations at the forefront of innovation including quantum computing, and quantum sensing.

Another notable achievement is the Business Event held three times through close cooperation between the city of Vejle and our Embassy. This event's focus on welfare technology and social inclusion is important to explore solutions to challenges of aging society.

Greenland and the Faroe Islands are also important partners for Japan. I had the privilege of visiting Greenland twice and

the Faroe Islands once and was deeply impressed with their majestic natural beauty and potentials of business, research and cultural cooperation. I was also delighted to see progress in Japan-Faroese relations including Faroese Foreign Ministers' visits to Japan. I wish for the further deepening of Japan's relations with Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I cannot help but mention international situation as well. In an increasingly uncertain and dangerous world, Japan and Denmark remain firmly committed to upholding the international order based on the rule of law. Any unilateral attempt to change the status quo by force or coercion is unacceptable anywhere in the world.

If Putin were rewarded for the brutal aggression in the name of a peace plan, it would jeopardize the existence of an independent sovereign Ukraine and irretrievably undermine the principles of the UN Charter. The international community must double down on its efforts to stop Putin by putting enormous pressure on Russia and its collaborators. Japan continues unwavering support to Ukraine along with Denmark to achieve a just and lasting peace. We should never give up bringing Putin and his accomplices to justice for their war crimes and the crime of aggression, no matter how difficult it will be.

We must also refuse a double standard. The mass killing and immense suffering of Palestinian civilians in Gaza can never be justified. Both Hamas and the extremist ministers of Israel should take responsibility for the catastrophe. Japan is willing to play a part in humanitarian assistance, the reconstruction of Gaza, and in efforts towards an enduring peace based on a two-state solution.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Even in times of uncertainty, Japan and Denmark continue to build bridges, not walls, proving that friendship founded on trust can stand strong through any storm.

Interest in Japan continues to rise: the number of Danish visitors to Japan recently reached an all-time high, and Japan was honoured with a Danish Travel Award as the best destination outside Europe for the second year in a row. Japanese culture is warmly embraced across Denmark from cuisine, martial arts, design, to manga, and films.

The Copenhagen Sakura Festival has become the biggest Japanese culture event in Denmark. This year, the festival attracted a record 35,000 visitors in its 18 years history—an impressive symbol of the Danish people's affection for Japan.

My wife and I will be leaving Denmark in ten days' time carrying fond memories. I offer my heartfelt gratitude to all of you here tonight. Your cooperation and support have made my mission deeply fulfilling. I ask you to extend the same support to my successor Ambassador Mori Mikio.

Last but not least, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Deputy Head of Mission Sato Junko, all the Embassy staff, and my chef Suzuki Atsushi for working diligently to support my activities. Let me also thank my wife Mariko for her contribution as the manager of the Residence, as a flower arrangement artist, and as a gardener.

May the friendship between Japan and the Kingdom of Denmark continue to blossom.

Thank you so much. Mange tak.

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