

フィンランド日本商工会議所 40 周年記念晩餐会祝辞
(2021 年 11 月 3 日)

Remarks by H.E. MURATA Takashi,
Ambassador of Japan to Finland,
“Finland-Japan Chamber of Commerce 40th Anniversary
Gala Dinner

On this memorial occasion on 40th anniversary of FJCC, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to all members dedicated to achieve this landmark.

FJCC was established in 1981, the same year when bilateral Air Services Agreement came into effect. Bilateral relations have much developed after inauguration of Finnair direct flight in 1983, which led Finland to become the closest European country to Japan. Now, many Japanese companies are active in various fields of business in Finland thanks to Mr. Juha Pitkänen, Chair of FJCC as well as current and former members. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude and respect for your warm support and kindness.

I believe that Japan and Finland could be business base camps for each other to serve as hubs in both Asia and Europe. Finland has kept attracting many Japanese companies as a forefront in the business of solving social issues such as global warming and aging society with its innovations. In 2019, the agreement between Japan and Finland on social security was signed, and now we are in the process of its entry into force. We are expecting to see that reflect in the promotion of business activities more than ever.

While human exchange has been limited due to the pandemic of COVID-19, the Embassy of Japan is considering to mark the next year as “Finnish-Japanese Friendship year 2022” in light of the 230 anniversary of return-home of Daikokuya, Japanese shipwrecked sailor, with support by Finnish natural scientist Erik Laxman based on their friendship, and we are planning various

activities to give a boost to interaction of two countries. Furthermore, in 2025, Japan is going to host Osaka Kansai Expo, and I WILL work on deepening bilateral relations under close cooperation with FJCC, Ms. Johanna Sumuvuori, State Secretary of Ministry for Foreign Affairs and all of you presenting here today.

In a world of uncertainty, I cannot emphasize enough the importance of the profound bilateral relations we have developed. I would like to conclude my remarks by wishing further success of FJCC and expansion of our collaborative partnership together with Mr. Nakaishi, Director General of JETRO London Office and his team for building our bright future.

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