

Farewell remarks of Ambassador FUJIMURA Kazuhiro
at the reception in his residence on 21st of November 2023

Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

Dear friends, 在留邦人の皆さま,

Thank you very much for coming to the reception this evening.

I am finishing my mission as the Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Finland and will return to Japan soon.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for your kindness and unwavering support during my service in this beautiful country.

Thank you very much.

Over the past two years, Finland has been facing significant challenges, such as Russia's illegal war of aggression into Ukraine, the accession to NATO, economic hardships due to rising energy and commodity prices, the general elections resulting in a change of government, and the ongoing presidential campaigns.

Meanwhile, as the Covid-19 pandemic subsided, exchanges between Japan and Finland came back again.

The Finnish-Japanese Friendship Year 2022, Her Excellency Prime Minister Sanna Marin's working trip to Japan, Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado's visit to Finland, and a great deal of collaborations including in defense and security sectors have lifted our relations.

The Embassy of Japan fully resumed its diplomatic activities. After a two-year hiatus, we joyously celebrated His Majesty the Emperor's Birthday Reception and the Self-Defense Forces Day Reception.

The Embassy also orchestrated various other events inclusive of "the Finnish-Japanese Friendship Photo Exhibition."

It is my privilege to have been serving as Japanese Ambassador to Finland during this important period.

In my life here in Finland, I have been lucky that people are kind and things are going well.

I know I will never lose affection for people and things that went before, I will often stop and think about them.

I am deeply grateful to all for affording me these opportunities to share time with you.

Now I realize, as I learned during my youth in Salamanca, Spain, "Todo lo bueno tiene un final: Everything good has an end." Nevertheless, the relationship between Japan and Finland will be persistently going on. It stands as a partnership of trust.

The Embassy of Japan remains committed to further strengthening the bilateral ties. I humbly ask for your support in this endeavor.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Before concluding, please allow me to say just a few personal words.

First, to all my colleagues, Japanese and Finnish, of the Embassy of Japan, thank you very much for your dedicated and professional support to me. I am feeling deeply grateful to you.

Finally, to my wife Junko, she has been with me more than 40 years. Without you, I could not have reached this moment. Thank you very much.

This is all. Thank you all once again. Kiitoksia paljon !