

Remarks for H.E. Kaoru Ishikawa
Emperor's Birthday Reception
The Westin Ottawa,
November 22, 2012

The Honourable Andrew Scheer,
The Honourable John Duncan,
The Honourable Steven Fletcher,
The Honourable Gary Goodyear,
The Honourable David Tkachuk,
The Honourable Mike Wallace,
Your Excellencies,
Members of the diplomatic community,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen:

C'est un grand plaisir pour mon épouse Masako et moi de vous accueillir ce soir à l'occasion de la célébration du 79^e anniversaire de Sa Majesté l'Empereur du Japon.

Pendant le weekend dernier, le célèbre Quatuor à cordes de Tokyo a donné un concert ici à Ottawa dans le cadre de leur tournée mondiale d'adieu. Le quatuor original ayant été fondé il y a 43 ans par quatre élèves japonais de la Julliard school, conservatoire de musique de New York. L'ensemble est maintenant composé d'un canadien au premier violon, de deux musiciens japonais au violon et à l'alto, ainsi que d'un

anglais au violoncelle. Grâce aux talents et à la créativité de ces artistes d'origine multinationale, les spectateurs ont éprouvé de profondes émotions et la salle a été remplie d'harmonie.

(Thanks to the talent and creativity of these wonderful artists from different national backgrounds, concert-goers were transformed and the hall was filled with harmony.)

A year ago, on the occasion of the Emperor's birthday celebration reception, I talked about the need for balance between life and death, between Mother Nature and mankind, between humility and ambition, and between tradition and innovation.

And now, one year later, I would like to expand on that line of thought by suggesting that the achievement of balance can help us achieve harmony. Harmony, whether in a music hall or in the international community, is a goal worth pursuing. Article 1 of the first Japanese constitution ever written, in the year 604 by the female Emperor Suiko, identified harmony as the most important human value.

I am convinced that, given the strength of the Canada-Japan partnership, we can build together a more harmonious world together. It is strength that is fuelled by what we have in common: transparent, accountable

societies supported by democratic political structures and genuine market economies.

L'année dernière nous avons été énormément touchés par le coeur chaleureux et l'amitié sincère montrés par nos amis canadiens au moment difficile suite au tsunami au Japon. Nous sommes profondément reconnaissants au Premier ministre Monsieur Harper pour avoir effectué son déplacement à la région sinistrée avec des membres de son Cabinet à l'occasion de sa visite au Japon en mars de cette année. Ses mots exprimés aux habitants des régions affectées ont été très sincères et chaleureux.

Durant cette visite, le Premier ministre Monsieur Noda et le Premier ministre Monsieur Harper se sont mis d'accord sur le lancement de négociations pour conclure un accord de partenariat économique entre nos deux pays. Si l'on parle de « partenariat », c'est parce que cet accord ne sera pas de simples arrangements commerciaux tout en permettant aux entrepreneurs des deux pays de faire des activités variées dans la communauté internationale globalisée.

(It is called a "Partnership" agreement because it goes beyond mere trade arrangements to include multifaceted activities in the globalized international community.)

Japan-Canada relations are not simply about trade and investment. In our search for balance and in our efforts to create harmony between Mother Nature and mankind, and in human society itself, science and technology are vital elements. Japan and Canada have a proud history of working together in this area to create products that improve everyday life.

I would like to welcome the Honourable Garry Goodyear, Minister of State for Science and Technology. In a recent visit to Japan he attended two very high-level scientific meetings. This is a good example of the growing cooperation in this area between our two countries.

Canada has been a pioneer in science and technology, including the field of communications (Alexander Graham Bell), aviation (first supersonic jet fighter), and medicine (including the discovery of insulin). And the list continues to go on. It is natural for Japanese researchers to work together with Canadian counterparts. Two of the most recent areas of groundbreaking cooperation are stem cell research and nanotechnology cooperation, both of which will result in improvement to our quality of life, and therefore to balance and harmony.

In the field of stem cell research, stem cells were first discovered by Canadian scientists at the University of Toronto in the 1960s. Four

decades later, in 2006, the groundbreaking discovery of induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS cells) was made by Dr. Shinya Yamanaka of Kyoto University, who enjoyed a close working relationship with the University of Toronto. His discovery has overturned the established theory in life sciences and is revolutionizing the way in which doctors are able to understand and treat disease. This year, Dr. Yamanaka was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his iPS research.

In the field of nanotechnology which is indispensable in our daily life, a comprehensive MOU in cooperative research was signed between Japan's National Institute for Material Science and the University of Waterloo Institute for Nanotechnology in 2010.

Other areas of forward-looking cooperation include aerospace, space, and land transportation.

The first fixed-wing, engine-powered aircraft to fly in Canada was the "Silver Dart". It made its historic maiden flight in 1909 in Nova Scotia. The wings of the Silver Dart were made with strong, silvery Japanese silk; hence the aircraft was given the name the "Silver Dart". Today, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries of Japan manufactures important parts of fuselages and wings for Bombardier aircrafts.

Up in Space, a Japanese rocket regularly launches a large space cargo ship that transports needed supplies to the international space station where the Canadarm 2 continues to play an important role in docking procedures.

The spirit of cooperation between Canada and Japan in the field of space exploration was bolstered earlier this year by the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Canadian Space Agency and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency. International Trade Minister, The Honorable Ed Fast, signed the MOU on behalf of the Government of Canada when he was visiting Japan with Prime Minister Harper in March this year.

Back on the ground, on the spacious Canadian prairies, Mitsubishi of Japan, the Government of Manitoba, and a number of local Canadian companies have developed an all-electric, battery-powered bus in the city of Winnipeg. Ecofriendly joint activities also extend to the seas; Canadian planes use Japan's Hakodate Airport as a staging point when policing international waters to prevent illegal fishing activities.

These concrete examples of cooperation do not necessarily draw public attention in spite of their fundamental importance. Yet, I am proud to say that Canada and Japan do work together to create a better world for our children and grandchildren. We are able to do this because of the

fundamental, shared values that I alluded to earlier: Values such as freedom of thought, freedom of expression, freedom of faith, the protection of human rights, the liberal multi-parties political institutions. These values form the foundation on which both of our countries have been built.

I want to once again thank you all for joining us here this evening.