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# King Charles III's Birthday Special

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## A life of dedication to public service, charity

**JULIA LONGBOTTOM**

BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN



Last month the United Kingdom and people across the world celebrated the historic coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty Queen Camilla.

June 17 marks the official birthday of the king. The British Embassy Tokyo and Consulate General Osaka will both host king's birthday parties to mark this significant occasion.

The king has dedicated his life to public service. He has established nearly 20 charities that have raised over £100 million each year for good causes. The king is also known for his promotion of environmental awareness. He delivered his

first speech on environmental issues in 1970, aged 21, highlighting the dangers of plastic pollution. He was clearly ahead of his time. This is one of the reasons that we have chosen to focus on sustainability at both events.

The king's coronation was a celebration of the modern and diverse communities of the U.K. This also represents a strong theme at our event in Tokyo. Our diverse lineup includes the Pride Choir Tokyo, singer Chisara Agor, and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

We will also officiate the marriages of two same-sex couples at the British Embassy Tokyo, on the day of the king's birthday party. I will raise a toast to the newly married couples and to mark the 10-year anniversary of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act in England and Wales.

The king's links to the imperial family and his connection to Japan are longstanding. His first visit to Japan was in 1970 and his most recent was in 2019 to

attend the enthronement of Emperor Naruhito, marking his fifth visit to Japan.

The U.K.-Japan partnership is the strongest it has been in decades. The Hiroshima Accord signed by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in May marks a further step up in our global strategic partnership.

This landmark accord sets out new collaborations on defense, trade and investment, science and innovation, and joint work on tackling global issues like climate change. It marks an exciting new phase in the flourishing U.K.-Japan partnership as we step up cooperation between our armed forces, grow our economies together and develop our world-leading science and technology industries.

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*This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.*