

Queen Elizabeth II's Birthday

A lifelong legacy of amicable relations across many areas

PAUL MADDEN
BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN



This week we are celebrating the Official Birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. As Queen, she actually has two birthdays. Her real birthday was on April 21, when she turned 91.

She is Britain's longest serving monarch. In Britain, the official birthday in June is celebrated with the Trooping of the Colour ceremony on Horseguards Parade in central London, which this year will take place on June 17. It is a splendid spectacle of military, horses and bands, drawing many visitors. I used to enjoy listening to the bands rehearsing their music, while sitting at my desk in the Foreign Office.

Earlier this year, Her Majesty's husband and consort, HRH Prince Philip, who turned 96 last week, announced that he would be stepping down from public



Queen Elizabeth II greets guests at a garden party at Buckingham Palace in London on May 16. AFP-JJII

duties from autumn this year. He has been a patron, president or member of some 780 separate organizations. The most famous of these is the Duke of Edinburgh awards, through which some 5 million young

people in Britain, and another 3 million around the world, have achieved success in activities, including voluntary work and expeditions.

The very warm relations between the

British Royal family and the Japanese Imperial family, many members of which have studied in the U.K., are a fitting symbol of the close ties between the two countries across the political, economic, cultural and educational areas.

Following last week's general election, the Queen has invited Theresa May, as leader of the largest party in the House of Commons, to form a government. The Queen's speech to Parliament will set out the new government's priorities. These will include delivering Brexit. We look forward to the Brexit negotiations producing an outcome that will benefit the U.K. and the EU, as well as the many Japanese companies that have made a home in Britain. We are confident that Britain will remain a very attractive base for Japanese businesses.

Last month I was present when Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met Prime Minister May at Chequers, her country residence. The two leaders discussed a wide range of areas of cooperation, and it was clear that there is a strong commitment to working even more closely together, as two countries that share so many values.



Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip observe a minute's silence to honor the victims of the attack on Manchester Arena at the start of a garden party at Buckingham Palace in London on May 23. REUTERS



Tourists watch the start of the Changing the Guard ceremony outside Buckingham Palace in London on May 26. PA VIA AP

Birthday Greetings
to
Her Majesty
Queen Elizabeth II



JAPAN TOBACCO INC.

JT Bldg., 2-1, Toranomon 2-Chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-8422, JAPAN
Phone: (03) 3582-3111 Fax: (03) 5572-1463 URL: <http://www.jt.com>

Birthday Greetings
to
Her Majesty
Queen Elizabeth II

Marubeni

<http://www.marubeni.com>

Birthday Greetings
to
Her Majesty
Queen Elizabeth II

Mitsubishi Corporation

Birthday Greetings to
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

WEDGWOOD

ENGLAND 1759

Waterford Wedgwood Japan Limited
www.wedgwood.jp