



BRITISH-JAPANESE  
PARLIAMENTARY GROUP  
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## **BRITISH - JAPANESE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP**

### ***Annual Report for the Session 2012/2013***

CHAIR: Roger Godsiff MP;

VICE-CHAIRS: David Wright MP; Paul Farrelly MP; Fabian Hamilton MP; Mark Pritchard MP; Sir John Stanley MP; John Spellar MP; Baroness Hooper; Viscount Trenchard

TREASURER: Robert Walter MP; SECRETARY: Steve McCabe MP

#### **ACTIVITIES:**

The group's first trip to Japan in over 18 years was the highlight of its activities over the recent period. All members of the delegation were appreciative of the support and assistance that they received from not only the Embassy of Japan in London but also the Diplomatic Service in Tokyo, in putting together a comprehensive programme of events and meetings for the delegation.

The InterParliamentary Union (IPU) in London also made a generous financial contribution which made the trip possible.

The group's popular programme of parliamentary lunches continues to run throughout the year and was well attended by the group's sponsors, their guests, representatives of cultural organizations, MPs and members of the House of Lords, as well as by the Japanese Ambassador and his staff. The group also had a special lunch as part of the Japan400 program of events which commemorated the start of diplomatic, trading, scientific and cultural relations between Britain and Japan in 1613.

The group's annual spring reception in the House of Lords was also one of the highlights of the year. It was well attended, with the Cholmondeley Room providing yet again its impressive Terrace and accompanying views of the Thames as a backdrop for guests to network and forge new links among the UK-Japanese community.

The group is working to develop smaller 'sector' events and was delighted to work with one of its pharmaceutical sponsors, PSI CRO, in organizing a reception and tour of the Palace of Westminster. It also held a similar reception for new organizations which had expressed an interest in learning more about the group and its activities, with a view to potentially becoming sponsors.

The group hopes to develop this part of its program to include such areas as the automotive industry, bioscience, nanotechnology and mobile phones. The group is also fully committed to developing cultural and artistic links.

More recently, in November of this year, the group co-hosted an event with Japanese Investment Company Nikko AM. Supported by the FCO as well as by the group, this event focused on "Abenomics" and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's plans to boost economic growth in Japan.

The group's chair, Roger Godsiff MP, welcomed guests including MPs, representatives of the Japanese and English media, banks and financial institutions, academics, and representatives of Japanese companies. Roger introduced the speakers, Charles Beazley, the CEO of Nikko, and Sir David Warren, a former British Ambassador who is currently head of the Japan Society, and also made the introductory remarks at this event.

This event was part of the group's programme of expanding the range and number of events it offers. The group plans to continue to develop this part of its programme over the coming year, while maintaining its core programme of lunches and receptions. The ongoing support from its sponsors, which underpins all of the group's activities, also made possible the launch of its new website: see [www.bjpg.co.uk](http://www.bjpg.co.uk).

The group as ever worked closely with the Japanese Embassy, which always provides invaluable support and co-operation. The Japanese Ambassador always gives generously of the time in a busy schedule to attend group events, which is always appreciated. The group continues to develop its close links with business and cultural organizations, the wider Japanese community both in and outside London and to promote good relations between Westminster and the Diet in Tokyo.