

Message from Mr Takashi Ishida, The Japan Foundation London's New Director General



As I write this message, I have been in this country for less than a week yet I have already experienced the “typical” British weather, so long associated with this time of year! In actual fact, I was very much surprised when I touched down in London to a beautiful, clear blue sky. The good weather certainly seemed to tell me that my appointment to the UK was indeed a lucky one!

I'm Takashi Ishida and I'm delighted to have been appointed to the UK as Director General of the Japan Foundation London. I feel hugely privileged to be able to continue the work and activities of this office, and despite having only been here for a week, I am already impressed by the range of UK-Japan cultural exchange projects that are undertaken in this country. Yet despite these many achievements, I believe that there is always more that we can be doing to further strengthen and revitalise the relationship and friendship between our two countries. Seeing the range of projects undertaken in the UK inspires and motivates me to find my own area in which I can make a difference.

I have never lived in the UK before; my experience overseas has been limited to North America and South Asia and until now, I have never had the chance to live in Europe. I sincerely hope that I can count on your valuable cooperation and assistance during my time in the UK, in the same way you kindly helped my predecessor, Mr Fumio Matsunaga. I hope to be able to meet many of you during my time in the UK.