Abe invites UK ‘with open arms’ to join Pacific trade pact after Brexit

LIONEL BARKER AND BOB HARDING

Tokyo has made it clear that Japan would welcome the UK’s trade talks if it can secure a deal.

The TPP is a wide-ranging trade agreement between 12 Pacific countries, including Japan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Canada, Mexico and Australia. It originally included the US, but withdrawal was due to President Trump’s first act as president.

Some TPP members are now seeking new opportunities for trade outside the US, which would provide a route to Europe after Brexit, but would still be a country “equipped with similar social values and cultural outlooks.”

His remarks will encourage Brexit supporters to vote for Japan. They want Japan to be the “top priority” for free trade talks with the US, which is expected to be the TPP’s main focus.

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Interview: Shinzo Abe

Japanese PM targets big reforms to cement legacy

Long-serving leader vows to tackle structural problems, including ageing population

LIONEL BARKER

Just before almost everyone in office, with a maximum of three to five, to do something now, November 2018, he will become the longest-serving leader in Japanese democratic history.

That milestone has made milestones. In 2007, when scandal rocked his party, he quit his mandate. A year later, he returned, another three years as leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

So far his premiership is a tale of much progress, with the country emerging on the global stage. But the country is facing a pressing problem: with 30 percent of Japan’s population aged over 65, policymakers must find ways to support the growing number of elderly people and ensure the country’s economic growth.

Second life: Shinzo Abe wants to make it easier for older citizens to stay in the workforce.

What he said on the need for more stimulus: "I will completely depend on objective analysis by economists, but the government can make an appropriate decision."" On holding a referendum: "I am aware of the British example. Of course there are risks in politics."