

Speech by Minister Akazawa,
Representative of the Government of Japan,
at the Official Ceremony for the United States of
America National Day at Expo 2025,
Osaka-Kansai Japan

It is my great honor to offer my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the United States National Day today, celebrated in the presence of the U.S. Presidential Delegation, led by the Honorable Scott Bessent, Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the Honorable George Glass, Ambassador of the United States to Japan, the Honorable Lori Chavez- DeLemar, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor, the Honorable Christopher Landau, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, and the Honorable Ambassador William E. Grayson, USA Pavilion Commissioner General.

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to President Trump for dispatching such an outstanding delegation, led by Secretary Bessent.

The theme of the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai is *"Designing Future Society for Our Lives."* People from around the world are gathering here in Osaka, and experiencing a rich diversity of cultures, sharing cutting-edge technologies and wisdom, and exploring the theme of "life."

Among the many national pavilions, the USA Pavilion stands out as a testament to U.S. leadership in global innovation. It exemplifies the "greatness" of America and is drawing widespread attention from around the world.

Half a century ago, in 1970, the Osaka Expo was held. At that time, countless people visited the U.S. Pavilion to catch a glimpse of the "Moon rock."

That "Moon rock" was more than just a rock; it represented the very "future" of humanity, made possible by the most advanced space technology of its time. It inspired "dreams" in the hearts of many children, actually including myself. Back then, I myself stood in line and saw it, and the sense of excitement I felt comes back vividly. I am delighted to have the opportunity to see the "Moon rock" again at the USA Pavilion at this Expo.

Meanwhile, the Japan Pavilion features the "Mars rock," which is one of the largest known meteorite

from Mars on Earth. It is expected to offer important clues in unraveling the origins of the water and life.

I sincerely hope that many visitors will take the opportunity to see these two cosmic treasures that are exhibited at the Japan and USA Pavilions.

In recent years, Japan-U.S. space cooperation has made remarkable progress. Under the U.S.-led Artemis Program, we are quickly approaching the historic day when a Japanese astronaut will set foot on the lunar surface for the very first time. The hearts of many children across Japan and around the world is sure to be filled with excitement, by that “One Giant Leap.”

Esteemed guests,

This February, Prime Minister Ishiba held his first meeting with President Trump. At that meeting, the two leaders expressed their determination to pursue a new golden age for Japan-U.S. relations.

This vision reflects the determination of Prime Minister Ishiba and President Trump, to advance Japan-U.S. bilateral cooperation across all aspects, under their strong leadership. This includes foreign policy, security, and the economy, and building a mutually beneficial, win-win relationship, and together contribute to global peace and prosperity.

I would like to conclude my remarks by expressing my high hopes that this Expo will deepen exchange and mutual understanding

between Japan and the U.S. and open new horizons in the Japan-U.S. relations, which is bound by a strong and enduring “*kizuna*,” or bond.