

令和7年度天皇誕生日祝賀レセプション
茂木外務大臣挨拶

Excellencies, distinguished guests, It is my great honor to welcome you this evening to celebrate the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor.

On February 23, His Majesty the Emperor celebrated his 66th birthday. On this special occasion, I would like to join you in extending our heartfelt wishes to His Majesty the Emperor for a very happy birthday.

Over the past year, as the symbol of the State and of the unity of the People of Japan, Their Majesties the Emperor and the Empress have demonstrated their dedication to the country and its people, sharing in the joys and sorrows of the people.

In July last year, Their Majesties visited Mongolia. They have also met with many dignitaries from all over the world. I am truly grateful to His Majesty for fostering international goodwill.

At the moment, we are facing the shifts in the balance of power, as well as intensifying

confrontation and conflicts, including the situation that arose this weekend, making the whole international order uncertain.

In order to fulfill the roles and responsibilities expected of Japan by the international community, we will pursue “diplomacy that has inclusiveness and strength” in response to the changes in the international community.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for your cooperation with Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai. Furthermore, in March next year, GREEN×EXPO 2027 will open. Today, we have invited its official mascot, “Tunku Tunku”.

This evening, we have prepared a delightful menu using delicious ingredients from areas affected by disasters, such as the Tohoku region and the Noto Peninsula, together with sparkling sake kindly provided by the Awa-sake Association. I hope you will enjoy them.

I now propose a toast to the continued health of His Majesty the Emperor, the prosperity of the Imperial Family, and the good health of everyone here this evening.

乾杯, Cheers!