

Speech of Ambassador ARAI Yusuke

at the Japan-Israel Tech Bridge Summit
on February 11th, 2026

Good morning.

Thank you for joining us today at this business event hosted by the Embassy of Japan in Israel. This is the first such event held by the Embassy in over two and a half years, since September 2023, before the war began.

I am delighted to see so many of you here today. I am especially pleased that representatives from Japanese companies have joined us today from Tokyo, London and other countries.

Welcome to Israel.

The past two and a half years since October 2023 have been a challenging period for Japan-Israel business relations. Even so, I believe our business ties have been maintained. Recently, we've seen an increase in businesspeople visiting Israel from Japan and Europe, including executives from large enterprises.

At the governmental level, Economic Minister Barkat visited Japan last September, and the 5th Japan-Israel Innovation Network Plenary Meeting was held for the first time in two years since 2023, with His Excellency's attendance. Both governments reaffirmed continuous promotion of bilateral cooperation in the field of innovation.

It has been one year and eight months since I was assigned to Israel, and I continue to be amazed by the resilience and energy of Israeli high-tech and startup ecosystem. I have visited various tech startups and exchanged ideas with entrepreneurs. Their creativity, initiative, and speed are truly remarkable.

I firmly believe that Israel's business momentum, passion, entrepreneurship, and unique technologies can inject fresh vitality into the Japanese economy. I hope that all participants from Japan today will feel this energy of Israeli high-tech, through lectures and panel discussions by distinguished speakers, and mingling with other participants from Israeli ecosystem.

At the same time, I want Israeli companies to learn about the strength of Japanese companies, which may not be fully known. The companies participating today are mega global enterprises with branches and subsidiaries worldwide, possessing extensive and powerful business networks all over the world and inside of Japan itself.

Japanese companies, in particular, have a significant presence in the Indo-Pacific region. By partnering with Japan, Israeli high-tech companies can gain a ticket to this vast Indo-Pacific market.

I hope today's event will contribute to building and promoting bilateral business relations.

Thank you very much.