



# Press Release

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## PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

### *Speaker Farrugia receives the new Japanese ambassador*

Speaker of the House of Representatives Anġlu Farrugia received a courtesy visit by Ambassador of Japan Oe Hiroshi.

Speaker Farrugia said that the long-standing relations between Malta and Japan, established diplomatically on 15 July 1965, i.e. fifty-five years ago, have flourished at all levels.

These were further enhanced by high-level visits, including the visit to Tokyo by President of Malta George Vella who attended the enthronement ceremony of Emperor Naruhito last October. He noted that the then Crown Prince of Japan Hirohito visited Malta in April 1921 as part of his first European tour and was present for the opening of the new Maltese Parliament.

The two dignitaries spoke about cooperation at Parliamentary level, following the successful visit to Malta by a delegation from the Japan-Malta Parliamentary Friendship Group in September last year, during which the Japanese delegation paid a courtesy call on President George Vella and held discussions, *inter alia*, with their Maltese counterpart.

The relations with the European Union, COVID-19, and the export of Maltese tuna to Japan also featured in the discussion.

Mr Oe Hiroshi was accompanied by Mr Yuki Tokuo, Second Secretary at the Embassy of Japan in Rome.