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# Press Release

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**PRESS RELEASE FROM THE OFFICE OF MR SPEAKER**

*Speaker Farrugia receives Japanese Ambassador*

Speaker of the House of Representatives Anglu Farrugia received a courtesy visit by the Ambassador of Japan, Mr Keiichi Katakami.

After welcoming Ambassador Katakami, Speaker Farrugia referred to the visit to Malta in May 2017 by the Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe and First Lady Akie Abe, and the visit by Prime Minister Joseph Muscat to Tokyo in July-August 2018. He mentioned the visit to the Maltese Parliament by a group of Members of the House of Representatives, National Diet of Japan, in August 2017. He also noted that Malta would be represented at the Official Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Imperial Highness the Prince Crown Majesty this coming October.

The two dignitaries spoke mainly about cooperation at Parliamentary level, following the formation of the respective Parliamentary Friendship Group. Ambassador Katakami indicated that the Japan-Malta Parliamentary Friendship Association intended to visit Malta towards the end of this coming summer.

The Japanese Ambassador remarked that Japan organised events in Malta during Valletta 18 and that a good number of Japanese students were visiting Malta to study English, while Speaker Farrugia noted that a good number of Japanese tourists visited Malta on cruise-liners.

Mr Keiichi Katakami was accompanied by Ms Yuki Tokuo, Second Secretary at the Embassy of Japan in Rome.