

Court of Common Council

Great Hall, Guildhall

Thursday 20th June 2024

The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of London

Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli

Good afternoon, everyone.

Since we last met together on 23rd May, I travelled to Japan and Singapore to discuss opportunities for collaboration with key stakeholders in areas like asset management, fintech, and green finance.

In Singapore, we met with the Development Bank of Singapore, attended a forum on the 'Business of Trust', and held a dinner for fintech investors.

In Japan, we held a bilateral meeting and press conference with Governor Koike – restating the Corporation's commitment to our MoU with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government.

We met with the head of Japan's financial services regulator and the Vice Minister of the Ministry of Finance, held a dinner for Japan's major banking institutions, and even met with family who live in Japan.

I told Tokio Marine directly how pleased I was about their support for our Space Protection Initiative, which aims to protect our planet from the growing

environmental and financial problem of space junk using space debris retrieval insurance bonds.

And I was fortunate to be able to meet with liverymen in both Singapore and Japan...strengthening the City's connections across continents!

The visit was extremely timely as, next week, we will welcome The Emperor of Japan to Guildhall for a State Banquet celebrating the strong ties between our nations – and, particularly, our business and trade links.

Given the Emperor shares my love for the Thames...even naming his memoir *The Thames and I*...I am confident we won't run out of topics to discuss.

On the 4th of June, we brought key stakeholders together for the third annual Net Zero Delivery Summit at Mansion House, where we emphasised the role of the private sector as we transition to a more sustainable economy.

On the 5th June, Professor Manahel Thabet, the Commonwealth Special Envoy for Science and Technology, and Baroness Scotland, the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, spoke at the Science and Innovation Banquet at Mansion House.

I reflected on the City's scientific strengths and spoke about the need to take a multidisciplinary approach and maintain robust international standards to tackle big challenges on this planet, and beyond.

Baroness Scotland announced the creation of 'CommonSpace', a new initiative bringing together 56 Commonwealth member countries that will leverage powerful space technology and data to help developing countries better predict, manage, and recover from increasingly frequent and severe climate disasters, which supports the 695th Lord Mayor's Space Protection Initiative.

From the limits of outer space to the dizzy heights of the City skyline...on the 7th of June, Elisabeth and I abseiled down the Leadenhall Building to support the Lord Mayor's Appeal's three charity partners: MQ Mental Health Research, Homewards, and National Numeracy.

Despite the rumours that Donald Trump is proposing a tax on shredded cheese – part of his plan to Make America Grate Again... we landed safely on *terra firma* shaken – but, crucially – not shredded by 'The Cheesegrater'.

Last week... in another display of the City's incredible philanthropic spirit... the Lady Mayoress and I welcomed guests to Mansion House for a Bavarian Ball inspired by her Franconian heritage.

It was a fantastic evening of Bavarian beer and delicacies, games, dancing and fun and we raised *viel geld* for the Appeal.

Since we last met, we have also held a freedom ceremony for our 'City Scholars' - international students from Goodenough College who participated in a new

programme to help talented young people forge lasting connections with the City and its institutions.

This weekend, we have the National Livery Weekend...hosted, for the first time ever, right here in the City!

Bringing livery leaders from across the UK together, the weekend is a fantastic way to strengthen connections between the City and our nation's liveries and guilds.

My thanks go to the Livery Committee and Corporation officers for creating a fantastic programme of activity.

In closing, by the time we meet again on the 25th of July, a new government will be in place.

We stand ready to work with them to ensure the City's continued success.

Thank you.