

CHECK FOR DELIVERY

Remarks by Michael R. Bloomberg, Founder of Bloomberg LP and three-term Mayor of New York City, introducing Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at BLP on September 29, 2015.

Good morning, everyone. Welcome to Bloomberg – it's an honor to host you here this morning.

I hope you've enjoyed the first part of today's event focused on Japan. It couldn't have come at a better time.

Many of us here in New York are counting on strong Japanese leadership to navigate these uncertain times and deliver a bright future. I think you all know who I'm talking about: New York Yankees ace pitcher Masahiro Tanaka. (If the Yankees make the playoffs, he will be a big reason why.)

But today, we're honored to be joined by another strong leader, our very special guest: Prime Minister Abe of Japan.

I want to extend a very warm welcome to the Prime Minister. Japan is one of America's most critical allies and economic partners. Each of us benefits when the other succeeds. And the more we do to strengthen our partnership, the better off both countries will be. So we're grateful for the Prime Minister's leadership, and that he's here with us today to share his thoughts about the future.

Japan is also one of the most important markets for our company, and it has been for many years. We sold the first Bloomberg terminal in Japan in 1983, during our company's earliest days. When we decided to open our first office in Asia, in 1987, we chose Tokyo. The office is still growing, and I'm glad to say the first person we ever hired in Tokyo still works for us there.

As it turned out, 1987 was just two years before Japan's stock market reached its all-time high. The country's economy went through some very challenging times in the years that followed – and while that was not easy, Japan has proven itself to be a highly resilient country.

The financial collapse of 2008 was followed by the tragic earthquake and tsunami of 2011. But under Prime Minister Abe's leadership, the Japanese recovery has been building momentum. His policies have driven major advances in corporate governance and re-kindled economic growth, pulling the economy out of deflation for the first time in two decades.

The fact is: Japan remains an engine of technological innovation, the world's third-biggest economy, and a driver of global growth. And today, many global investors are looking to Japan with renewed optimism and heightened interest.

The Prime Minister's success has enabled him to retain leadership of his party, and he is now on track to become Japan's longest serving prime minister in four decades.

His ambitious plans to grow the Japanese economy – what's often called Abenomics – have attracted global attention. Last week, he announced bold new goals for growth, and he outlined his plans for reaching them.

Investors around the world are watching closely to see how those plans translate into policy in the months and years ahead – and today, we get to hear more about them first-hand.

Of course, serious economic reform is very difficult in any country, and it takes time. But there's a clear vision from Japan's leadership of what needs to be done to set the country's economy on a path of growth, and I think there's good reason to be confident in the future.

One of the Prime Minister's priorities – monetary easing – has helped Japan's markets rise this year to their highest point in nearly two decades. That's benefitted many investors and companies around the world, including Bloomberg.

We've seen increasing demand for Bloomberg products and services in Japan. For instance, earlier this month, we launched a new electronic trading platform to help banks and securities firms comply with new regulations there.

Our company's presence is growing in Japan, and so is the demand for data and insights we can provide global investors about Japan's economy.

This year, more than 60% of investment in the Nikkei has come from abroad. Bloomberg is in a unique position to help those investors make smart decisions, through the news and data we provide, and by bringing people together like we are today.

Stronger markets are just one piece of Japan's growth agenda. Japan is also stimulating its economy by increasing public investment in infrastructure, which it is wise to do. History shows that one of the strongest predictors of economic growth is investment in infrastructure. In fact, it's something we need to do much more of here in the U.S.

Of course, Japan's economy still faces many challenges – including an aging workforce, which is a challenge that we face here in the United States, too.

Investors around the world are hungry for insights on how Japan will address those challenges. That's a reason why Bloomberg is committed to serving as a global host for

dialogues like today's, and on behalf of everyone at the company, thank you all for being here.

Now, I'm honored to introduce our special guest, Prime Minister Abe of Japan. ###