

Court of Common Council
Guildhall
Thursday 22nd July 2022
The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of London
Alderman Vincent Keaveny

Thank you, Town Clerk.

Good afternoon to everyone here and all those watching online. I hope that you have managed to keep cool during the last couple of days. I must admit, these ceremonial robes are not as breezy as I had thought.

Since the last Court, I have been very busy.

I was delighted to visit – as part of my ASEAN trip – both Indonesia and Japan.

In Indonesia, I had some excellent meetings on how the UK financial services can support their green infrastructure proposals.

I also met with their Minister of Finance and their regulators.

As they are one of the world's leading centres for Islamic Finance, I also helped form stronger bonds between the City of London and Jakarta, building on an already successful relationship.

In Japan, I continued to form closer ties with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, visiting Governor Koike, as well as leaders of fintech and green finance.

I also met with investment banks and outlined how the City of London – through its Global Investment Futures campaign – is encouraging more markets to invest in the UK.

I also toured the British School in Tokyo, which highlighted the deep cultural connection between the UK and Japan.

Once back in London, I hosted the Dinner to the Judges alongside the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice, where I was able to outline the strong connection between the UK's rule of law and our economy.

I also updated the judges on the new court and police facility in Fleet Street. I then visited the United States and Canada, accompanied by Sheriff Alison Gowman, in particular to promote the UK's offering in asset management.

Alongside DIT and the Investment Association, the Corporation hosted an Global Investment Futures Summit in the New York Stock Exchange, launching that important campaign to our North American stakeholders.

In Boston and New York, I met with key investors and financial institutions including JP Morgan, Blackrock and Fidelity, as well as the endowment funds of Boston's extensive higher education ecosystem.

As the first Irish Roman Catholic Lord Mayor, I was especially touched to the guest of honour at Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral in New York.

In Canada I met with banks and pension funds in Toronto and concluded my programme in Montreal with a meeting with the Finance Minister of Quebec.

On returning I was delighted to host the Finance for Impact Summit, which is a cornerstone of my mayoral theme – People and Purpose: Investing in a Better Tomorrow.

Alongside the Impact Investing Institute and KPMG, we launched a 'Just Transition Finance' Challenge, where eighteen financial services firms with more than £3.6 trillion of assets committed to reducing CO2 emissions in a way that take account of socio-economic impacts.

We also launched a new industry-led set of recommendations for scaling finance that delivers positive and measurable impact across the financial services sector.

On Tuesday, I was honoured to host our annual Financial and Professional Services Dinner, where I spoke alongside the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England.

I spoke about the strong relationship between the City and the Treasury, and how we had worked together on creating the new annual 'State of the Sector'

report, which was published yesterday alongside the Financial Services and Markets Bill.

It was a great opportunity to hear about the priorities of our new Chancellor, alongside the Governor's views on how we tackle the rise of inflation while ensuring we have a strong and healthy economy.

I would like to finish by wishing you all a very pleasant summer.