

Minister for Asia and the Pacific speech at One Young World event

Introduction

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a pleasure to welcome you all to London on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, and to welcome the tenth One Young World Summit back to the UK, where it all began.

Lancaster House has hosted many an historic diplomatic occasion – prior to this evening's! This is a night up there with them all.

From the Coronation Banquet thrown by Winston Churchill, and the founding negotiations of NATO in the 1950s; you guys are making history where history had been made.

To more recent State Visits by President Obama and President Xi Jinping and last year's Commonwealth summit. Last time I was here was for the Commonwealth Trade Ministers Meeting.

Working Together

What all these occasions have in common with this evening is that they are all about bringing people together to make the world a better place. I am not going to sing the song.

That applies as much to local politics as to international diplomacy. I was first elected as a Councillor at the age of 22, and I have been Member of Parliament for the lovely constituency of South Derbyshire since 2010. I may be a Foreign Office Minister but the needs of my constituents are always still a massive priority for me. When I get back at midnight I will have a packed few days in Derbyshire.

Each Friday I meet people for open-door, face to face "surgeries". I need to be ready to consider questions about anything from the price of heating, and how to access services, to problems with parking and planning permission. Maybe even visa issues. It is a constant reminder that politics is about real people with real concerns. I am pleased and stunned that One Young World is also alive to the practical nature of the challenges in front of us. And that it is an engine of ideas for responding to the concerns of real people around the world.

These certainly are interesting times, both here in the UK and globally.

Global Britain

We in the UK are leaving the European Union and reshaping our place in the world as a truly Global Britain. A country that is loyal, energetic and

committed – to friends both near and far, new friends and old friends.

We live in a time when people across the world are re-engaging with politics and the issues that matter to them – which is great. The job of those of us in government is not to pay lip service to them, but to listen and learn, to stay true to our values, and to act in the best interests of the people we serve. It is an approach that I take in both local politics and international affairs.

Let me leave you with three messages about what that means for the UK, with our newfound freedom on the world stage.

First, we are going to engage more, listen more, and do more.

We have expanded our diplomatic service and we are opening new posts, meaning ours will be the third largest diplomatic network in the world, after the US and China. We will be more open than ever before to foreign visitors, students and workers.

Second, the UK will continue to play a leading role in global affairs, defending our interests and promoting our values as an active global citizen and a force for good in the world. That means continuing to work for global peace, security and prosperity as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, and a leading member of NATO, the G7, G20 and the Commonwealth.

Our Commonwealth delegates will have heard my colleague Lord Ahmad talk on Monday about the critical importance of that organisation as a global voice and influence.

The UK's role as a force for good also means continuing to support the world's most vulnerable people, through our generous humanitarian and peacekeeping funding, and through helping countries build resilience to climate change.

Climate Change

We have already helped tens of millions of people to adapt to our changing climate, and now we are doubling our support for international climate finance, as our Prime Minister announced at the UN Climate Summit in September. One of the first things he did as new PM.

We were the first major economy to legislate for net zero emissions by 2050. We will continue to invest in clean energy, we will build sustainable infrastructure, and we will share British expertise in science, innovation and green finance.

Next year we are hosting COP26 in partnership with Italy, up in Glasgow. We want to raise the level of global ambition and the sense of urgency, to prevent further catastrophic global warming and help the worst affected countries adapt to the impacts that are already being felt.

My third and final message to you today is that we need you – young politicians, thinkers and entrepreneurs – to get stuck in, and offer your

ideas on how we can fix the problems we all face, and make the world a better place.

Chevening

This is one reason why the UK is offering more of our brilliant Chevening scholarships. Some of you are already Chevening scholars, or applying to be.

If you don't know about it, the Chevening programme brings bright young people to the UK to study in our fantastic universities, and then afterwards they join a global network of 50,000 alumni.

So many of them are now in positions of influence that we call them Changemakers.

They include the youngest minister in Botswana's history; a distinguished Indian conservationist, and the first female judge in Pakistan, who has made a huge difference to women and other marginalised members of society.

Get on the scheme and go for the stars because you are the ones who will change the world.

If you want to make a positive difference in this world, be it in government or the judiciary, or through business or civil society, you will find a supportive partner in the UK Government.

So make the most of the Summit.

Enjoy London.

Keep in touch.

And most of all – whether big or small, local or international – always strive to make a positive difference.

Operation Brock is activated on the M20

Drivers of lorries weighing more than 7.5 tonnes heading for Eurotunnel or the Port of Dover on the M20 should follow signs directing them onto the coastbound carriageway of the M20 between junction 8 for Maidstone and junction 9 for Ashford. A 30mph speed limit is in place and, in the event of disruption at the ports, lorries could be queued on this section of motorway.

All other drivers can continue their journeys as normal. On the M20, two lanes remain open to traffic in each direction between junctions 8 and 9, using a contraflow on the London-bound carriageway, with a 50mph speed limit

in place.

Operation Brock is the name for a series of measures that improve Kent's resilience in the event of cross-channel disruption. It has stages that can be deployed sequentially, scaling up or down to meet demand. In addition to the M20 contraflow, lorries can be routed to Manston Airfield and, if needed, the M26 motorway can be closed and used to queue HGVs too. The operation is an interim measure which was successfully deployed in March 2019, and crucially keeps the M20 open in both directions using a contraflow system.

It has been deployed now in response to potential delays at the ports in the coming days or weeks. Its deployment will be kept under continual review and it will be stood down when it is no longer needed.

For more information on Operation Brock and other contingency measures in Kent, visit:

[How Operation Brock will affect your journey](#)

[Government advice for car drivers in Europe after Brexit](#)

[Government advice for bus and coach drivers in Europe after Brexit](#)

[Government advice for HGV drivers in Europe after Brexit](#)

[How Kent County Council has prepared for Brexit](#)

[Kent's joint action plan for dealing for disruption](#)

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

£22 million awarded to farmers to boost productivity

More than 3,600 farmers are set to benefit from £22 million in productivity-boosting equipment from round two of the government's Countryside Productivity Small Grants scheme.

Under the scheme, farmers can apply for grants of between £3,000 and £12,000

to invest in new and innovative equipment – from livestock monitoring cameras to precision farming technology – which help businesses save time and money and improve productivity.

Farming Minister George Eustice confirmed today that all eligible applications have been approved as part of round two of the successful scheme, with the Rural Payments Agency writing to the 3,677 successful applicants from today.

The first round of funding opened in 2018, with £15 million spent to support farmers investing in technology to boost their productivity. Today's announcement means that £37 million has been allocated to farmers in the scheme's first two funding rounds, with a third and final funding round to open in autumn 2020.

Farming Minister George Eustice said:

Boosting farm productivity is hugely important, and I'm delighted we've been able to fund all applications, supporting farmers to invest in game-changing technology.

As a former farmer I know that new equipment can provide a real boost, saving businesses time and money while improving yields.

When we introduce our landmark Agriculture Bill we will set out further measures to help farmers become more productive, efficient and resilient.

The Rural Payments Agency is encouraging farmers to speak to their suppliers to confirm the items they wish to order are available before accepting their grant by using the acceptance portal on GOV.UK by 10 November.

New items were added to the list of the equipment available for the second round of the Small Grants Scheme, with grants available to minimise soil compaction in fields, monitor ammonia levels in farm buildings, and increase machinery precision when applying slurry.

Farmers are encouraged to make early orders to leave time for deliveries to arrive and payment claims to be processed by the end of May 2020.

Rural Payments Agency Chief Executive Paul Caldwell said:

The Small Grants scheme is extremely popular with farmers, so it is fantastic to see the funding is being made available for all the eligible applications we received for round two. Harnessing innovative technology can provide a real boost for productivity across the farming sector in England, and I am delighted that we are able to help unlock access to new equipment for many farmers.

I would encourage all our customers to contact their suppliers

early to ensure their items can be delivered ahead of the claim deadline.

More information on the Countryside Productivity Small Grants scheme can be found [here](#).

[UK technology headlines at CEBIT Australia](#)

The UK will feature as the lead partner country for Australia's annual tech exhibition, [CEBIT](#) this week.

2018 saw the UK attract more venture capital investment than anywhere else in Europe, with £6.3 billion (AUD \$11 billion) in funding from investors – an injection of capital that is driving innovation and proving a magnet for global buyers, investors, and talent.

Joining the UK Department for International Trade (DIT) on the GREAT Britain pavilion (stand F45) will be [10 disruptive UK companies showcasing the very latest in technology innovation](#) in areas from cyber to smart cities and artificial intelligence, who are seeking business and partnership opportunities in Australia.

DIT will also run a series of workshops over the three-day conference to highlight the UK's capability and expertise in emerging technology and share the very latest insights and trends from the UK's burgeoning tech eco-system.

Tech scaleups and startups with ambitions to expand globally will benefit from DIT's overseas business segment presentation and their investment workshop: 'UK Calling – The Road to a Successful Expansion'. DIT's Technology Sector Specialist, Jeff Peel will lead the sessions and be joined by Kriti Sharma, UK Artificial Intelligence expert and leading global voice on ethical technology and Michael Priddis, Founder of Australian AI company Faethm who have recently expanded to the UK.

Michael Ward, British Consul General, and UK Deputy Trade Commissioner, Asia Pacific – Australia & New Zealand said:

The UK Department for International Trade is delighted to be the lead partner country at CEBIT this year. Unprecedented levels of investment in the UK tech sector is driving world-leading innovation in emerging technologies including AI, machine learning, robotics, data science, fintech, cybersecurity, and IoT.

Our GREAT Britain showcase at CEBIT is a tremendous opportunity for

attendees to learn more about UK technology capability and expertise and how partnering with the UK can help drive their own business growth and success.

Ends

Companies exhibiting on the GREAT Britain stand:

[Chipside – Paul Moorby, CEO](#)

Chipside is a specialist software development company providing products and services to around a quarter of local and regional government traffic authorities which digitally transforms parking services, law enforcement and traffic management through a variety of platforms and systems. Their latest smart city contracts include London Borough of Newham, host of the London Olympics 2012.

[Conductrr – Robert Pratten, CEO, Maria Torres, Consultant](#)

Conductrr is a professional transmedia production and management tool used by game designers, instructional designers and transmedia storytellers. The business will showcase a suite of new features for its crisis simulation software to make its immersive training exercises more realistic and engaging.

[Audoo – Ryan Edwards, Founder and CEO](#)

Audoo is a technology company that is changing how music royalties are monitored, identified and distributed. The business actively uses six technologies for its website. These include SPF, Microsoft Exchange Online, and Office 365 Mail.

[Novastone Media – Douglas Orr, Founder and CEO](#)

Novastone Media builds white label messaging solutions enhancing engagement internally and with external parties. With its unique, patented asymmetric technology, Novastone enables companies to communicate with clients on their preferred platforms and transform the way conversation happens.

[Qumodo – Benjamin Gancz, CEO and Co-founder, Cosima Calder, Data Scientist](#)

Qumodo conducts bespoke research and development into human interaction with artificial intelligence. It offers specialist products to aid the detection and prevention of terrorism and child sexual exploitation. In March 2019, Qumodo won a highly contended contract to supply its specialist AI-based data analysis software, Q-Ecosystem, to every police force in the UK.

[On TAAP – Steve Higgon, CEO](#)

On TAAP is a software licensing business built around digitisation and all aspects of the digital transformation journey. It processes real-time data, data insights through business intelligence and cross-platform mobility

amongst other things. On TAAP has delivered its technology to Tesco in the UK to help with the Food Surplus initiative. Launched in 2015 the technology is now deployed across the UK and Ireland and has helped distribute in excess of 20 million meals to 7,500 charities.

[Unifi.id – Paul Sheedy, CEO](#)

Unifi.id specialises in the smart building sector, including high-rise buildings, education and hospitality. It provides digital engagement through Smart card long-range card detection, data interrogation and communication protocols.

[Unmanned Life](#)

Unmanned Life is the global multi-award-winning AI for Autonomy SAAS Platform enabling industries to be fully autonomous, deploying Autonomy-as-a-Service for Industry 4.0 over wireless networks including 5G, across major verticals like Supply Chain Logistics, Telco, Public Safety, Smart Cities and Manufacturing.

[HYPERVSN](#)

HYPERVSN is an award-winning British Company responsible for developing innovative and disruptive 3D holographic system that provides an immersive experience for viewers. It creates, displays and manages 3D holographic visuals that appear to be floating in mid-air.

[Digital Shadows](#)

Digital Shadows minimises digital risk by identifying unwanted exposure and protecting against external threats. Organisations can suffer regulatory fines, loss of intellectual property, and reputational damage when digital risk is left unmanaged. Digital Shadows SearchLight™ helps you minimise these risks by detecting data loss, securing your online brand, and reducing your attack surface. Digital Shadows was named 'Leader' in the 2018 Forrester New Wave for Digital Risk Protection.

Key UK tech statistics

- The UK tech sector is the largest in Europe. It is growing 2.6 times faster than the wider economy and is worth nearly £184 billion pounds (AUD \$335 billion)
- In 2018 it again attracted more venture capital investment than anywhere else in Europe, with £6.3 billion (AUD \$11 billion) in funding from investors
- The UK also had a landmark year for exits achieving sales, IPOs and mergers worth £40 billion (AUD \$73 billion), more than every other country in Europe
- At the same time jobs in digital tech rose at five times the rate of the rest of the economy
- London is Europe's most attractive city for EU tech workers, ahead of Paris, Amsterdam and Berlin

- The UK has created 35% of all unicorns from Europe and Israel (60 out of 169).
 - The UK Tech sector is made up of over 223,000 tech companies
 - London is the second most connected tech ecosystem on the planet and the centre of Europe's tech sector
 - Hosts 3,527 tech meetups
 - Employs 2.1 million people in its digital tech economy
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[UK Government statement on death of Daesh's leader](#)



The UK has played a leading role in the Global Coalition Against Daesh, working hand in hand with international partners to defeat Daesh. Since the Global Coalition commenced in September 2014, it has helped to liberate more than 7.7 million and 110,000 sq km across Iraq and Syria from Daesh.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said:

The death of Baghdadi is a significant milestone in the coalition's work to defeat Daesh but it is not the end of the threat.

Daesh has imposed terrible suffering on innocent civilians. The UK will continue to work with our international partners to bring this to an end.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said:

ISIS is one of the most murderous terrorist organisations of our generation. Their leaders have twisted Islam to groom thousands of people into joining their evil cause.

I welcome the action that has been taken. The world will not miss Al-Baghdadi.

The UK has played a leading role in the Global Coalition Against Daesh, working hand in hand with international partners to defeat the group and we will continue to do so

Further information

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