

A ceremony was held at Ueno station on Ginza line to unveil the roundel donated by Transport for London.
(Permanent installation scheduled next year to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the subway's operation in Japan)

Tokyo Metro Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Taito ward, Tokyo; President: Akihiro Kosaka; hereinafter referred to as “Tokyo Metro”) received donation of a roundel designed in local style from Transport for London (TfL), in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the subway's operation in Japan in December 2027. Following this, an unveiling ceremony of the roundel was held today on Platform 2 at Ueno Station (Ginza Line), with the attendance of Sir Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London.

On December 30, 1927, the Ueno-Asakusa section opened as the first subway in the East and will celebrate its 100th anniversary on December 30, 2027. This was prompted by Noritsugu Hayakawa, the founder of Tokyo Underground Railway Co., Ltd. (the predecessor of Tokyo Metro), who was impressed by the advanced urban transportation system he observed in London over 100 years ago. The London Underground can be considered the origin of Tokyo Metro.

Tokyo Metro began operating the Elizabeth line in the UK in May 2025 as part of GTS Rail Operations Limited, a joint venture between Go Ahead Group, Tokyo Metro and Sumitomo Corporation.

The connection with the London Underground, which began over 100 years ago, has evolved into its current business operations.

At today's unveiling ceremony, Sir Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London, unveiled the roundel at Ueno Station together with Akihiro Kosaka, the President of Tokyo Metro. Afterward, a commemorative photo was taken with Mr. Andy Lord, the commissioner of Transport for London, and the station staff of Tokyo Metro Ueno Station.

Furthermore, this roundel adopts the design used in London and displays the station name "UENO", which is the first subway section in the East. As a monument symbolizing the 100th anniversary of the subway, Tokyo Metro will continue preparations for its permanent installation in 2027.



Tokyo Metro plans to implement various initiatives to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the subway in 2027.

<The unveiling at Ueno station>



<Photo with the attendees>



(From the left) Mr. Andy Lord, Sir Sadiq Khan, Akihiro Kosaka

Comment by Sir Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London

"I am delighted to unveil this Transport for London Roundel sign at Ueno station, as a special gift ahead of the 100th anniversary of the Japanese subway. It's amazing to think the inspiration for the Ginza Line can be traced back to our Tube in London – and the relationship has now come full circle, with Tokyo Metro involved in running our newest and busiest railway, the game-changing Elizabeth line. I am pleased to be working together and learning from one another as we continue building greener, better, more prosperous cities for everyone."

Comment by Mr. Andy Lord, the Commissioner of Transport for London

"It was an honour to visit the Tokyo Metro and help present this roundel, similar to those seen across the London transport network, to commemorate its 100th anniversary in 2027. Our iconic roundel is recognised around the world and is a symbol of safety and service that all Londoners trust. We look forward to visitors to Ueno subway station being able to see it permanently from next year as both metros continue to serve the millions of people who rely on them each day."

Comment by Mr. Akihiro Kosaka, the president of Tokyo Metro

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the opening of the subway in Tokyo next year, we are deeply honoured to have received a donation of the roundel from Transport for London, which operates the London Underground, the origin of the Tokyo Metro, and to have Mayor Khan visit Ueno to unveil it with us. Following our participation in the operation of the Elizabeth line, which began in May 2025, this adds yet another link between London and Tokyo Metro, and we are very pleased that passengers using Ueno station will be able to feel our connection with the London Underground through the roundel from next year. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Sir Sadiq Khan, the mayor of London, Mr. Andy Lord, the Commissioner of Transport for London, and all those involved for their efforts in making this a reality.