

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Invitation Programme for Future Business Counterparts  
from Australian 2009**

18 June 2009

1. Through this Japanese Government-sponsored initiative, 50 young Australian professionals will visit Japan from 24 June to 4 July 2009 under the Invitation Programme for Future Business Counterparts from Australia 2009 (herein after referred to as FBC.AU). This is the second FBC.AU following the successful visit of 48 young Australian professionals to Japan in June last year.
2. The aim of FBC.AU is to promote a greater understanding of Japan, deepen Australian-Japanese relations and reinforce future partnerships. It is also envisaged that the programme will play a leading role in exploring new frontiers in economic ties and opportunities.
3. During the programme, the participants will visit Tokyo, Kyoto and Aichi. Numerous tailor-made workshops, lectures, cultural studies and visits to facilities and major industries have been incorporated into the programme to assist in achieving the aims of FBC.AU.
4. Following on from former Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda's announcement on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2007 at the 45<sup>th</sup> Japan-Australia Joint Business Conference, the details of the FBC.AU programme have been formulated in close cooperation with the Australia-Japan/Japan-Australia Business Co-operation Committee in both countries. This programme was also welcomed by the Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd during his official visit to Japan last June.
5. FBC.AU is an integral part of the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) Programme; which extends invitations to about 6,000 outstanding young people from East Asia Summit member countries, to visit Japan every year for the duration of five years.

**The send-off reception for the 50 participants in the invitation program will be held at Stanford Plaza Sydney Airport, Mascot B&C at 6:30pm on Tuesday, 23 June 2009.**

**Media are welcome to attend. Media are expected to arrive by 6:00pm. Prior registration is required**

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