

## Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Norio Mitsuya's Visit to Australia and Papua New Guinea

From the Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> of December, Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Norio Mitsuya visited Australia and Papua New Guinea, and made courtesy visits to the members of both governments. The following is a summary of Mr Mitsuya's visit to Australia.

### 1. Interview with The Australian (Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>, Sydney)

Mr Mitsuya expressed Japan's emphasis on bilateral relations with Australia and the strengthening of these relations to reach a 'new level'. Together with Japan's view on China's Air Defence Identification Zone, Mr Mitsuya outlined Japan's assessment of Australia's strong concerns about China.

### 2. Courtesy call on the Hon Julie Bishop, Minister for Foreign Affairs (Monday 16<sup>th</sup>, Sydney)

Mr Mitsuya met with the Hon Julie Bishop, Minister for Foreign Affairs and discussed regional affairs, including China's Air Defence Identification Zone, as well as outlining Japan's effort towards maritime security. Furthermore, Mr Mitsuya and Ms Bishop exchanged dialogue over the Pacific islands, and agreed to cooperate closely together.

### 3. Meeting with Victorian Deputy Premier Peter Ryan (Monday 16<sup>th</sup>, Melbourne)

Mr Mitsuya stated that Japan wants to strengthen relations with not only the federal government, but state governments as well. Mr Mitsuya expressed his hope for the state government to continue their support for Japanese companies. Furthermore, Mr Mitsuya and Mr Ryan discussed strengthening relations between Japan and Victoria and Japanese companies operating in the state.

### 4. Discussions with Japan-Australia Businesses

Mr Mitsuya visited Melbourne and Brisbane and held informal talks with business representatives, and discussed the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), bilateral economic relations, and personal exchange.

