



Japan-Australia Exchange Program: Japanese/POW Friendship Program

September 2013

Embassy of Japan, Australia

The Japanese/POW Friendship Program is a program through which the Government of Japan (GOJ) invites former Australian Prisoners of War (POWs) of the Japanese during the Second World War to Japan.

1. Objective

- The program aims to promote mutual understanding between the peoples of Japan and Australia by fostering a spirit of reconciliation and encouraging the growth of friendship between the two nations.

2. Program

- The program for the Japanese fiscal year (JFY) 2013 is scheduled to take place from the September 30 to October 7 2013.
- A total of 8 people, including 4 former POWs and their associated carers, have been invited to participate in the program.
- The program will incorporate visits to Tokyo and Kyoto, as well as visits to places of individual significance to the participants. It includes meetings with relevant government leaders/officials.

3. Background

- The program commenced in JFY 2010. The program for JFY 2010, JFY 2011 and JFY 2012 invited a total of 28 people, including former POWs along with their carers, to Japan.
- They paid a courtesy call on the Japanese Foreign Minister on these occasions. With respect to the JFY 2012 program, the former POWs and their carers met then Foreign Minister Koichiro Gamba, who reiterated at the meeting Japan's feelings of deep remorse and heartfelt apology for the tremendous damage and suffering inflicted on many people during the war, including former Australian prisoners of war.
- There was a similar program in the past that was conducted from JFY 1997 to JFY 2005 inviting 59 people from the war veteran's community including former POWs. The total number of invited people from the programs mentioned above including this year's program will total 95.