

(Provisional translation)

Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Kazuyuki Nakane holds discussion with young Australian political leaders

On March 13 Mr Kazuyuki Nakane, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs held a discussion with young political leaders lead by Ms Terri Butler MP who visited Japan on the Australia-Japan Young Political Leaders Exchange Program. The outline of their discussion is as follows.

1. Welcoming the group to Japan, Mr Nakane spoke of last year being the year that symbolised Japan and Australia's 'special relationship', beginning with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit in July. Mr Nakane also spoke of the people-to-people exchange and mutual understanding that supports the strategic partnership between the two countries, and expressed the importance of parliamentary exchange, particularly exchange between future political leaders from both countries.
2. The young political leaders from Australia offered their condolences for the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. They paid a visit to Tokyo, Nagasaki, and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Peace Park. The young political leaders were very grateful for their fulfilling schedule, and expressed their desire to acknowledge Japan's 70-year journey following the end of WWII.
3. Furthermore, there was an active and open discussion on a wide range of topics including the Japan-Australia Free Trade Agreement and sister-city exchange. Through these parliamentary exchanges, both parties agreed to further deepen Japan-Australia relations and mutual understanding.



(Image courtesy of Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Original Japanese text http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4_001917.html

