

23 September 2016

Dear Friends,

I hope this e-mail finds you well.

I write to you today to bring to your attention an address made by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to the Invest Japan Seminar held in New York on 19 September.

In the speech, Prime Minister Abe stressed the importance of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) to the stability and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region. Prime Minister Abe also emphasised that the agreement provided an opportunity for the United States to “make clear its commitment to playing a leadership role in the growing Asia-Pacific.”

Furthermore, Prime Minister Abe explained that he would seek approval of the TPP at an upcoming session of the Diet. In the words of Prime Minister Abe: “Japan will spare no effort (to ratify the TPP), and we count on the U.S. to do the same.”

I have observed that Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and other Australian leaders have also been urging American lawmakers to pass legislation needed to bring the TPP into effect.

I too believe that the TPP has a very important role to play in strengthening the rules-based order that has benefitted the Asia-Pacific region for so many years. Therefore, I would like to commend the Australian government for its efforts in this connection, and call on both our countries to continue to voice our support for the deal, while highlighting the many benefits it offers the region as a whole.

Prime Minister Abe’s speech is available at the link below.

[http://japan.kantei.go.jp/97\\_abe/statement/201609/1219185\\_11015.html](http://japan.kantei.go.jp/97_abe/statement/201609/1219185_11015.html)

Yours sincerely,

/S/

Sumio Kusaka

Ambassador of Japan to Australia