

26 October 2016

Dear Friends,

I hope this e-mail finds you well.

I recently had the honour of speaking at the Institute for Regional Affairs (IFRS) Annual Dinner on the 18th. It was a wonderful dinner, with an impressive audience composed of senior policy makers, opinion leaders and experts in Japan - Australia - US trilateral relations, and I was most thrilled to have the opportunity to speak along with the Hon. Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr James Caruso, Charge d'Affairs of the U.S. Embassy and General Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy, Commander of the Pacific Air Force of the U.S. Air Force.

Those who attended the dinner will surely agree with me that it was a splendid dinner in terms of substance and the exchange of thoughts. Throughout the dinner there was a meeting of minds that Japan, Australia and the US must stick together in times of uncertainty, and strengthen our trilateral relationship, which was echoed among all speakers. The importance of upholding the rule of law in our region was also a common thread in our speeches.

I would also add that it contributed greatly as an induction to the discussion of a host of complex issues at the subsequent Strategic Dialogue in Bowral. While we recognised the daunting challenges ahead of us at the Strategic Dialogue, it was very heartening to be in the company of so many like-minded and true friends.

Please find attached a copy of my speech on the 18th for your perusal. As always, I welcome your thoughts and suggestions. ([Full text of Ambassador's speech](#))

Yours sincerely,

/S/

Sumio Kusaka

Ambassador of Japan to Australia