

Dear friends,

I hope this e-mail finds you well.

Under the clear blue sky of Tuesday the 23rd of May, I hosted the annual Self Defense Force Day Reception at my official residence. Members from the Australian Defence Force, Department of Defence and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade were in attendance together with academics and security specialists. Defence attachés from diplomatic missions in Canberra also attended. Similar to last year, guests enjoyed an exhibition by Japanese defence industries as well as Japanese food, sake and whiskey.

In marking the occasion, I stated that it has been 10 years since the signing of the Japan-Australia Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation and the Trilateral Information Sharing Arrangement, otherwise known as 'TISA', which was signed in October last year has assisted in speeding up information sharing processes between Japan, Australia and the U.S. It is important that we use these success to reinforce defence cooperation between the three countries to ensure regional peace and stability.

In addition, I touched on the Self Defense Force participating in exercises and events hosted by the ADF, such as Exercises Southern Jackaroo, Kakadu and the Avalon Air Show, all of which improve mutual understanding and reinforce interoperability. Furthermore, I stated that at the seventh Japan-Australia 2+2 in April this year, our foreign and defence ministers renewed expectations that the Reciprocal Access Agreement will be negotiated preferably by the end of the year. I have included a [link](#) to my speech for your interest.

I was deeply encouraged by the words of Rear Admiral Michael Noonan, Deputy Chief of the Navy when he stated, 'It is true to say that security relations between Japan and Australia today have reached their peak, but that is only because tomorrow they will grow even higher'. I will endeavour to work closely with my Australian government counterparts in Canberra to further strengthen defence and security cooperation between our two countries for the peace and stability of the region and the international community.



Ambassador and RADM Noonan making a toast



Members of defence attachés

Yours Sincerely,

/s/

Sumio Kusaka
Ambassador of Japan to Australia