

Ambassador's Message No. 45 (Official Visit to Western Australia)

16 June 2017

Dear friends,

I hope this email finds you well.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of June, I paid an official visit to Western Australia where I had the opportunity to meet with the new Premier of Western Australia, the Hon. Mark McGowan MLA and Treasurer, the Hon. Ben Wyatt MLA. In the meetings, we renewed confirmation of the deep relationship between Japan and Western Australia and agreed to expand economic ties. I also had discussions with a number of people from Western Australia in the fields of business and academia during my visit. We reaffirmed Japan and Australia's partnership, which is based on shared values and interests such as the economy and security of the Indo-Pacific region as well as the importance of Western Australia in the strengthening of the Japan-Australia relationship.



With WA Premier, Mark McGowan



With WA Treasurer, Ben Wyatt

I participated in a roundtable discussion at the Perth USAsia Centre (PUSAC) where I addressed a number of eminent experts from Western Australia, including former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Stephen Smith (PUSAC Board of Directors), former Premier of Western Australia, the Hon. Colin Barnett MLA (Member for Cottesloe), and former Australian Ambassador to the United States, Mr Kim Beazley AC (PUSAC Distinguished Fellow) on Japan-Australia relations in an age of uncertainty. Beginning with a message of the growing significance of Japan and Australia's cooperation in the

Indo-Pacific region in a global environment of increasing uncertainty, I touched upon the prospects of the Indo-Pacific region, the uncertainties and challenges facing the region, the TPP and economic cooperation and cooperation between our two countries in the Indian Ocean. A robust and meaningful exchange of views under Chatham House Rule followed my address ([Speech text](#)).



I also had the opportunity to attend a special networking function hosted by Sir Rod Eddington, President of the Australia Japan Business Co-operation Committee, where more than 100 people engaged in economic exchange between Japan and Australia were in attendance. It was a very productive opportunity for guests to network and further deepen economic exchange ([Speech text](#)).



While in Western Australia, I visited Edith Cowan University which is proactively developing exchange with Japan's Tokyo City University. I had the opportunity to meet with exchange students from Japan and it was very heartening to see exchange between our two countries occurring among the younger generation. During my stay in Perth, I

also had a meeting to exchange views with Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Community and Engagement) of the University of Western Australia and notable Japan specialist, Professor Kent Anderson.



Meeting students from Japan



Information on the Japan Festival organised by the Japanese exchange students

Yours sincerely,

/S/

Sumio Kusaka

Ambassador of Japan to Australia