Dear Friends,

On 19th July, I hosted a reception at my residence to bid farewell to this year's batch of the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme participants from Canberra. They will embark on their journey in Japan on July 28, and I wished them all the best in their adventures and challenges ahead in what will be no doubt a rewarding chapter of their lives.

The annual farewell reception for the new JET Programme participants is yet another occasion to appreciate the cordial relations between Japan and Australia. It is also a time when I am inspired by meeting with young Australians with full of ambition and potential as well as a desire to positive link between our two countries.





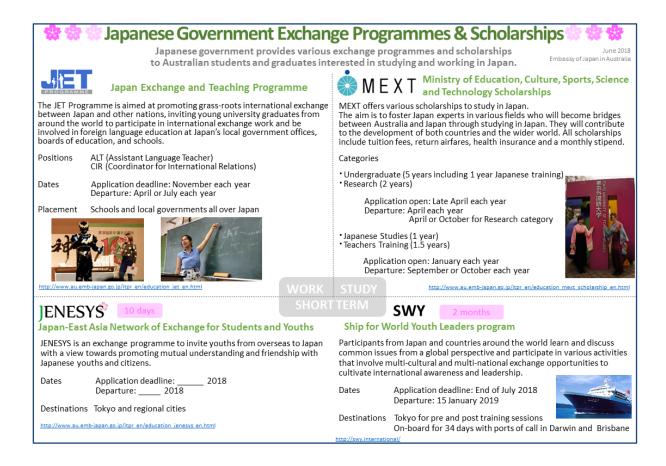




The JET Programme is aimed at promoting grass-roots international exchange between Japan and other nations, inviting young university graduates from around the world to participate in international exchange work and be involved in foreign language education in Japanese local government offices, boards of education, and schools.

It was launched in 1987 with participants from the United States, United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia in an effort to promote international exchange. Since its initiation, over 65,000 people from 65 countries, including approximately 4,300 Australians have participated making it one of the world's largest and most successful exchange programmes. More information can be found on our Embassy's website.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to share with you an information sheet that introduces exchange programmes and scholarships offered by the Government of Japan.



I sincerely hope to see more and more "bridges" being built to further strength and enhance the cordial relations between Japan and Australia.

Yours sincerely,

/S/

Sumio Kusaka

Ambassador of Japan to Australia