

Ambassador Kusaka's Message No.71

Visit to Darwin by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

- A historic visit reaffirming the robust Japan-Australia relationship -

22 November 2018

Dear Friends,

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Darwin from 16th to 17th November, wrapping-up Japan-Australia relations for 2018 and carrying the momentum even further beyond. The visit was a success with excellent outcomes from the Leaders' Talks, the productive and meaningful schedule, and the wide media coverage resulting in an even stronger Special Strategic Partnership between our two countries.



I would like to inform you of the outcomes of the Leaders' Talk by sharing some excerpts of the Joint Press Statement with you.

- The annual meetings between Australia and Japan are symbolic of the deep, enduring and resilient friendship between the two countries, based on common values and interests. This engagement builds on strong business, community and education ties between the Australian and Japanese people.
- During Prime Minister Abe's first visit to Darwin, the two leaders acknowledged the loss and sacrifices of World War II and their determination to work tirelessly to ensure a peaceful future for the region. They highlighted the immense progress made since the war, the speed and sincerity of reconciliation between the two countries and the development of deep trust, reflected in the Special Strategic Partnership the two countries share today.
- The Prime Ministers noted the significance of their meeting in Northern Australia, at

the confluence of the Indian and the Pacific Oceans. They reaffirmed their commitment to deepen cooperation to ensure a free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific region underpinned by the rule of law, as enunciated in Australia's 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper and Japan's vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific.

●The Prime Ministers reiterated the importance of deepening and expanding people-to-people exchanges between the two countries, including at the regional level, which underpin the vitality of the bilateral relationship. In this regard, they looked forward to the expansion of the exchange of researchers and students.

(Click [here](#) for the full text of the Joint Press Statement)

Please also allow me to take this opportunity to share with you some photos of the occasions which took place during the visit.



Wreath laying at Darwin Cenotaph



Meeting with war veterans



Reception given by Northern Territory Chief Minister Michael Gunner



Remarks at the INPEX Gala Dinner

I also would like to give a special mention to the wide media coverage of Prime Minister Abe's visit to Darwin. The significance and success of his visit was widely written about in newspapers, both local and national, as well as international. News programs on TV also widely reported on the visit to Darwin. Thanks to this wide media coverage, I firmly believe that the significance of this visit by Prime Minister Abe, as well as the friendly relations between our two nations was broadly shared among people from all walks of life.

Yours sincerely,

/S/

Sumio Kusaka

Ambassador of Japan to Australia