

# Speech

**Presented by HE Mr YAMAGAMI Shingo**

**Ambassador of Japan to Australia**

**On the occasion of the Suiso Frontier Arrival Event**

**The Port of Hastings, Victoria**

**21 January 2022**

## 1. Introduction

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Distinguished guests,

I would like to begin by acknowledging Minister Taylor, Minister Pitt, Assistant Minister Wilson and Dr Finkel of the Federal Australian Government and Treasurer Pallas and Invest Victoria CEO Ms Jarrett of the Victorian State Government.

Last year I had the privilege of joining you all for the commencement ceremony of HESC's operations in Australia.

The ceremony loosely coincided with Osaka Naomi's Aus Open win.

She's here again, fully vaccinated and ready to defend her title.

So I'm hoping today's event is a sign this year's trophy also has her name on it. Don't boo me out. I'm a big fan of Ash Barty, too.

In all seriousness, it is a great honor to be here to commemorate this epoch-making moment many of us have long waited for.

Some say Hydrogen is a future energy.

But here we have it before our very eyes.

## 2. A Big Leap for Japan-Australia Hydrogen Cooperation

Two weeks ago, Prime Minister Kishida and Prime Minister Morrison conducted a leader's meeting which it is no exaggeration to say opened a new chapter in Japan-Australia relations.

Through the signing of the landmark Reciprocal Access Agreement, the two leaders reaffirmed their intention to play a significant role in the realization of a free and open Indo-Pacific and their commitment to a rules-based international order.

To strengthen regional resilience, they also recommitted to close cooperation on decarbonisation through technology, not only in our respective nations, but in the Indo-Pacific.

It is in this context that they noted the importance of the HESC project as a 'world-leading demonstration of a clean hydrogen supply chain'.

I hope this serves to illustrate just how high hopes are in our two nations for the success of this project.

HESC is a game-changer.

Not only for our nations, but also for our region, and indeed, the world.

The first shipment to Japan of liquefied hydrogen produced here in Victoria is a significant milestone.

It will be a global first.

And, it will be a big leap towards creating an international supply chain for hydrogen.

### 3. Mutual Trust for Resilient Supply Chains

At the recent Leader's meeting, our two nations also pledged to strengthen cooperation on economic security.

It goes without saying that ensuring our energy supply chains are resilient is a crucial part of that endeavor, as indicated by recent pandemic-induced issues, as well as disruptions caused by geopolitical tensions.

The HESC project therefore is an outstanding example of how new, resilient supply chains can be built between nations whose governments and businesses share a strong mutual trust.

Japan and Australia are convinced that innovation is the key to tackling climate change.

A vital pillar of Japan's detailed strategy for reducing emissions by 2050 is our aim to increase hydrogen usage tenfold.

This has not escaped the attention of Japanese companies, who see hydrogen

as our future.

But even before our two nations had announced our common goal to reach net zero, our business communities had been forging ahead with pioneering clean energy projects such as this.

I believe it is because of the trust, respect and openness shared by our business people that success stories like HESC come to fruition.

#### 4. Conclusion

I emphasized the importance of the first shipment as a global first.

But it will not be the last.

There are more in the pipeline.

The Japanese government has already secured funding for the next HESC shipments, and we welcome today's announcement by the Australian government.

To conclude, let me congratulate all of you here who have been so devoted to the project, including those from Kawasaki Heavy Industries, J-Power, Iwatani Corporation, Marubeni Corporation, Sumitomo Corporation and AGL.

Many of you, and your predecessors, members of the Japanese and Australian business communities, literally 'toiled with hearts and hands' to build a hydrogen industry in the face of skeptics.

I look forward to the day when HESC is reflected upon as the genesis of a thriving global hydrogen industry.

I hope that when that day comes, you'll tell them 'I told you so'.

Thank you.