

**Speech by H.E Ambassador YAMAGAMI Shingo at the Rinnai
Corporation Exclusive Decarbonisation Event**

1 July 2022, 09:00 – 11:45

(Ver.1)

1. Introduction

- Environment Minister the Honourable Lily D'Ambrosio, Professor Alan Finkel, Director Ellis, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,
- A very good morning to you all.
- I should begin by first thanking Rinnai Australia and Director Greg Ellis for the kind invitation to join you here this morning for this launch event.
- Rinnai has successfully developed the world's first residential water heater that is 100% hydrogen based, producing zero CO2 emissions.

- This project stands at the forefront of developing hydrogen as a new power source for a new age. I therefore wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Rinnai of the successful development of such technology.
- This project not only speaks to Rinnai's technical know-how, but is also a prime example of what co-operation between Japanese and Australian companies can produce.
- For that, it owes much of its success to the support shown by Minister D'Ambrosio, my good friend Manuel Panagiotopoulos of Australia-Japan Economic Intelligence, and staff from the AGA and AGIG.

2. The Position of Hydrogen in Japan, and Japan-Australia Hydrogen Co-operation

- I'd like to cast your minds back a few weeks to the Quad Leaders' Meeting that took place in Tokyo at the end of May. The leaders of the four countries involved – Japan, Australia, India, and the US – agreed that they would further develop practical co-operation to address the issue of climate change.

- The introduction of non-carbon emitting hydrogen energy is an indispensable part of the strategy to tackle climate change.
- Japan first turned its attention to hydrogen back in December 2017, and led the world in producing a strategic framework for hydrogen standards.
- This itself was a product of the public and private sectors working together to promote this new energy source from the point of view of both supply and demand.
- In June last year, Japan and Australia signed the “Partnership on Decarbonization through Technology”, thereby marking the beginning of Japan-Australia hydrogen co-operation through such initiatives as the Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain Project here in Victoria.
- Hence hydrogen co-operation opens up an entirely new frontier for bilateral co-operation between Japan and Australia.

3. The Rinnai Organisation

- In the midst of all this, Rinnai has taken the global lead in successfully producing a residential water heater that runs entirely on hydrogen.
- In order to ensure that they could create a stable source of fuel, Rinnai conducted over 100 tests. Through a process of trial and error, they were eventually able to create the technology for the water heater.
- This development owes its success both to Rinnai's proud tradition in high-level technical prowess and the hard work of all of its employees.
- What I am particularly happy to note is that the Australian Gas Association (AGA) has highly evaluated this technology as part of the process of commercialisation of hydrogen water heaters, while the Australian Gas Infrastructure Group (AGIG) has agreed to co-operate in installing these water heaters as part of field tests for Victoria's "hydrogen house project".

- I'm strongly convinced that the invention of the world's first hydrogen-powered residential water heater by Rinnai, and the co-operation from Australian partners such as the AGA and AGIG in realising its commercialization, will not only help to take Japan-Australia hydrogen cooperation to a whole new level, but will open up a whole new golden age in Japan-Australia economic relations.

4. Conclusion

- I would therefore like to offer my sincere congratulations to all the staff at Rinnai, and to all of our Australian counterparts for their assistance and 'hard yakka'.
- In closing, I would like to offer my encouragement to all those gathered here this morning to continue to work in close cooperation with your Japanese colleagues and counterparts, and wish you every success in this exciting field of sustainable energy-based technology.
- Thank you.

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