

## **Speech by His Excellency YAMAGAMI Shingo**

### **Ambassador of Japan to Australia**

#### **‘New Frontiers’ Biennial Conference, 17 Sept 2022**

- Thank you very much for the kind introduction.
  - President of the National Federation of Australia Japan Societies, Mr Philip Mitchell;
  - Chair of the Australia Japan Business Council of South Australia, Mr Mack Wilson;
  - The Honourable Michelle Lensink MLC
  - The Honourable Reggie Martin MLC
- Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.
- It’s a great pleasure to be back in Adelaide with you this evening.
- First and foremost, I would like to extend my sincere condolences to the people of Australia for the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
- As we enter a new era, I echo the words of Governor-General Hurley in saying that ‘new frontiers’ is indeed an apt theme for our times. The word ‘frontier’ evokes images of embracing the unknown, overcoming challenges and defying odds.

- A huge thank you to the National Federation of the Australia Japan Societies for providing us with the opportunity to explore this concept over an '*out-of-this-world*' two days.
- (If you're not into puns, you might want to '*space-out*' for the next five minutes.)
- It has been a great opportunity to consider not only the boundless potential of space exploration, but innovations in technology, energy, education and emerging areas of cooperation between Japan and Australia.

### **[New frontiers in space and energy]**

- First, let's '*shoot for the moon*'!
- The scope of the space sector is ever expanding and continues to provide much exciting and infinite opportunity for collaboration between industry and between nations. But there is a limit to how much one country can achieve on its own.
- We need to cooperate with like-minded partners, and what better partnership than Japan and Australia?
- Even Japan's first astronaut (and tonight's keynote speaker), Dr. Mohri Mamoru, chose to study his doctorate here in Adelaide. But it doesn't take '*rocket-science*' to see why our partnership makes sense.

- Located on the same longitude, you could even say we are '*space brothers*'!
- Indeed, Japan-Australia space cooperation has already produced successful results.
- Perhaps the most symbolic being our collaboration during the 2019-2020 bushfires, when data from Japan's 'Himawari' satellite was used to monitor the situation on the ground.
- Japan and Australia are both participants in Artemis, the revival of the lunar exploration program.
- Having witnessed the ambition that the Apollo program inspired in my own generation, I myself am '*over-the-moon*' about the discoveries that Artemis is sure to uncover.
- As if viewing our own moon isn't enough, JAXA are also gearing up for their MMX mission to survey and collect surface material from the moons of Mars.
- Many of you would recall when the 'Hayabusa 2' capsule made its spectacular return to Earth and was collected at the Woomera Test Range here in South Australia.
- It would be wonderful if Japan and Australia could build on this collaboration and work together toward the success of the MMX project.
- With the commitment to SA becoming the 'space capital' of Australia, there are sure to be countless more opportunities.

- You never know, perhaps we can make 'Koalanauts' a reality and work together to send a Koala into space? They can get some 'koalaty' training with the J-AIR cadets at Parafield Airport on the way...!
- Coming back down to 'earth'... Australia and Japan are also joining forces to explore 'new frontiers' of renewable energy, like hydrogen.
- SA has always been ahead of the game when it comes to renewable energy. For 180 days of last year, the state met 100% of its operational demand from renewable resources.
- SA has also been quick to recognise the potential of hydrogen energy, being the first jurisdiction to release a roadmap towards a Hydrogen economy in 2017.
- Partnership with Japan continues to gather momentum, with several Japanese trading houses and energy companies investing in and carrying out projects to manufacture green hydrogen, including a project powered by South Australian solar and wind.
- I'm a '*big fan*'.
- The vast potential of hydrogen could be the key to reducing emissions, benefiting our entire region, and the Japan-Australian partnership is leading the way.

## [New frontiers in culture & wine]

- It goes without saying that none of these innovations would be possible without strong connections between Japan and Australia at the grassroots level.
- Deepening of mutual understanding, friendship and goodwill has come about as many young Australians and Japanese explore 'new frontiers' through education and cultural exchange.
- Looking around the room this evening there is plenty of evidence of these achievements.
- In April, I had the pleasure of visiting Adelaide to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the sister-city relationship with Himeji in Japan. Both cities share many fantastic qualities, not least of which is being forward-looking innovators.
- And I can't possibly finish without mentioning one of SA's finest innovations...wine!
- SA's consistently good wines are the envy of the world. I, for one, am very envious of those attending the Barossa Valley tour tomorrow!
- There is only one thing to '*wine*' about, and that is export of high-end wine from SA to Japan - or lack there-of.
- While famous brands like Penfolds have largely concentrated on Japan's neighbor, this may be a '*pour*' decision. There are over thirty million regular wine drinkers in Japan just waiting for someone to introduce them to a good McLaren Vale Shiraz!

- South Australia, you're the '*wine*' that we want.
- You had us at '*Merlot*'!
- Did you know our free trade agreement has eliminated the 15% tariff on wine? All the more '*Riesling*' for South Australia to seek out a 'new frontier' in the Japanese market.

### **[Concluding remarks]**

- Shortages of Shiraz aside, though our region and indeed our earth face many challenges, through cooperation in innovation we can break through boundaries and embrace opportunity.
- This is Japan and Australia's chance to be daring!
- The sky is the limit when it comes to the Japan-Australia partnership. There is no frontier that is out of our reach.
- Thank you.

**[Ends]**