

**Speech by Ambassador SUZUKI Kazuhiro**  
**Ambassador of Japan to Australia**  
**On the occasion of the reception to mark the fifth JSPS AAA annual symposium**  
**22 Nov 2023**

Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Before I begin, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land upon which we meet, the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people, and pay my respects to their elders past, present, and emerging.

Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude to the organizers for hosting today's symposium, where researchers from Japan and Australia have an excellent opportunity to gather annually.

Science and technology are undeniably the biggest sources of a nation's future strength.

The strength of Japanese science and technology lies in its ability to commercialise research outcomes into industry, as well as research-industry cooperation and the broad base of manufacturing capabilities in many industries that make extensive use of science and technology.

Have any of you ever visited one of Toyota's factories?

If not, I absolutely urge you to go there. You will see the real-life Terminator 7, alongside so many industrial robotics with super-precision in full swing.

In addition to this, Space is also an area where Japan excels.

JAXA is advancing a project to send a spacecraft to Mars' moons next year and bring samples back to Earth in five years.

In line with the collaborative works of our two countries in the Hayabusa 1 & 2 projects, Japan and Australia have combining their collective efforts to ensure that Australia becomes the landing site of this project.

These are some examples of experiences that Japan could offer to Australia.

Australia, on the other hand, has a remarkable track record in recent research. Everyone is likely familiar with the great inventions of WIFI, Cochlear Implant and Google Maps. Were you aware those all originated here in this nation?

It is no coincidence that the number of Australian unis ranked at the Top-100 in the QS and Times Higher Education rankings stands at seven respectively in 2023 and this number will no doubt continue to increase.

The rankings note that Australian unis excel in both research quality and quantity and is why international students from all over the world decide to come study here in such large numbers.

Just take a look at Vice Chancellor Brian Schmidt.

He was born in the U.S., but the Professor is proud to be the latest Australian Nobel Laureate. This is truly a strength of Australia, and something that Japan could learn from.

According to a forecast recently released by the Australian Treasury, in 40 years, Australia's population will increase from 26 million to 40.5 million.

A major contribution of this growth will come from immigration.

Many young First Generations are proud to be Australian and willing to contribute to Australian science, technology, and education.

I believe that such an inclusive and diverse society is the underlying and long-lasting strength that will shape Australia's bright future.

From the perspective of making Japanese science and technology more open to the world, I believe this is something Japanese people should take note from Australia.

I hope that Japanese participants have also been able to get a glimpse of this particular strength of Australia's social base at today's symposium.

At the same time, Japanese research has a broad base and excels in industrialization. The potential outcomes from future research cooperation between our two countries are immeasurable and worth getting excited about.

It is indeed symposia like today's that are extremely important.

By getting to know each other on a wider and deeper level, there is more that we'll learn from each other, as there is a strong, mutual complementarity potential in future Japan-Australia research collaborations.

Taking this opportunity once again, I would like to express my gratitude for the contributions of Vice-Chancellor Schmidt, who, with the support of JSPS, spent his research life in Japan, alongside Japanese researchers and served as the Vice-Chancellor of ANU.

Thank you sincerely for all your contributions to Japan and Australia, Vice-Chancellor Schmidt.

I hope that this symposium will expand the perspectives and networks of all participants, leading to even greater research collaboration and promotion between our two nations.

Thank you.