

**Message from His Excellency Suzuki Kazuhiro, Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of Japan to Australia**

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This year, on 16 June, the Basic Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Japan and Australia—also known as the NARA Treaty—marks its 50th anniversary. Prior to the NARA Treaty, Japan and Australia had concluded a Commerce Agreement in 1957, but with both sides desiring to broaden the relationship beyond economic relations, NARA Treaty was signed in 1976, formalizing the “enduring peace and friendship between the two countries and their peoples.

This Treaty has served as a bedrock of our relationship for the past half-century, promoting cooperation in a wide range of areas from political, economic, security and defense to cultural and people-to-people exchanges. And as we confront a more volatile and unpredictable world, Japan and Australia — the most stable democratic nations in the region — share a strategic interest in forging an unprecedented level of solidarity and strategic cooperation as we look to the next 50 years.

The documents issued during Prime Minister Takaichi’s recent visit to Australia in May on cooperation in areas including economic security, energy security, critical minerals, security and defense, and cyber will serve as an important roadmap for the next stage of Japan-Australia cooperation. In order to promote this cooperation, collaboration not only between the two governments but among a broad range of sectors will be critically important. The “Japan–Australia Leadership Dialogue” announced on the occasion of the visit is expected to serve as a platform to bring together representatives from both the government and private sector to develop creative policy recommendations on the future direction of the bilateral relationship.

I look forward to engaging with people of all areas and levels to elevate the Special Strategic Partnership with Australia toward the next 50 years.