

Dear friend of Japan,

I hope this e-mail finds you well.

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia paid an official visit to Japan on December 18. This was his first trip to North Asia since becoming Prime Minister. I accompanied Prime Minister Turnbull during his visit in my capacity as the Ambassador of Japan to Australia.

Granted it was a fleeting visit, Prime Minister Turnbull enjoyed an efficient program in Tokyo; the Japan-Australia Summit Meeting, Joint Press Occasion, a visit to the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan), lunch with the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry where many Japanese business leaders gathered to meet Prime Minister Turnbull, a cha-no-yu (tea ceremony) experience hosted by the Grand Master of Urasenke, an Iron Chef-style Australian food event, a meeting with members of the Parliamentary Association for the Friendship between Japan and Australia, and a banquet dinner held at the State Guest House, Akasaka Palace.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe spent half of his day with Prime Minister Turnbull, including the visit to Urasenke, in addition to Japan-Australia Summit Meeting and the Joint Press Occasion. Through this visit, the Prime Ministers reaffirmed the special strategic partnership between Japan and Australia, and underlined the importance of deepening this special relationship with a vision to shouldering responsibility for peace and prosperity in Asia and the Pacific and the international society. Both Prime Ministers issued the joint statement, Next steps of the special strategic partnership: Asia, Pacific and Beyond (please see the attached document).

I believe that Prime Minister Turnbull's first visit to Japan was very fruitful. Additionally, Prime Minister Turnbull expressed that he looked forward to receiving Prime Minister Abe in Australia next year reciprocating this year's visit by Prime Minister Turnbull, which will be very important in further promoting our valued relationship.

In closing, I would like to wish you a joyous holiday season and a new year filled with peace and happiness.

Yours sincerely,

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Sumio Kusaka

Ambassador of Japan to Australia

[Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Turnbull Joint Statement](#)