



Japan-Australia Exchange Program: Japanese/POW Friendship Program

January 2011

Embassy of Japan, Australia

1. Objective

- The Japanese/POW Friendship Program has extended a formal invitation from the Government of Japan to former Australian Prisoners of War (POWs) of the Japanese during the Second World War.
- The program aims to promote mutual understanding between the peoples of Japan and Australia by fostering a spirit of reconciliation and encouraging the growth of friendship between our nations.

2. Program

- The program is scheduled to take place from the 2nd to the 9th of March, 2011.
- A total of ten people, including 5 former POWs and their associated carers, have been invited to participate in the program.
- The program will incorporate visits to Tokyo and Kyoto, as well as visits to places of individual significance to the participants. It also includes meetings with relevant government leaders/officials.

3. Foreign Minister Seiji Maehara's remarks (made on the 23rd of November, 2010)

- Foreign Minister Seiji Maehara took the opportunity during his stay in Canberra last year to pay a visit to the statue of Sir Edward ("Weary") Dunlop, former POW of the Japanese during the Second World War, at the Australian War Memorial.
- He stated on the occasion that... *"I wanted to take the opportunity to express or to demonstrate my feeling of apology towards those people (POWs) by visiting the statue."*
- He added that... *"Next year, a number of former POWs will be visiting Japan, and I look forward to giving them the warmest welcome that we possibly can."*