

(translation)

January 9th, 2013

Dear Minister,

Please allow to me to express my heartfelt sympathies to all those who have been affected by the fires in Tasmania and other parts of Australia over the past few days. At such a difficult time as this, we stand together in solidarity with the people and Government of Australia.

At the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the friendship and support that we received from Australia provided a great solace in our time of need, and so I avail myself of this occasion to again express our gratitude for such assistance.

Sincerely,

/s/

Fumio Kishida
Minister for Foreign Affairs