

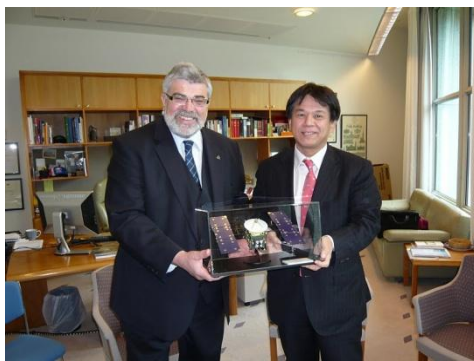
The Unveiling Ceremony of the *Hayabusa* Model and Reception

1. Background

In June of this year the asteroid explorer *Hayabusa*, launched by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), returned to Earth, landing in the Woomera Prohibited Area of South Australia. The capsule attached to the *Hayabusa* may contain samples from the asteroid *Itokawa*. JAXA successfully recovered the capsule and sent it to Japan, where its contents are presently being analysed.

The mission's success was due in large part to the cooperation of the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR) of the Australian Government which permitted Japan to land the *Hayabusa* in Australia, and the Department of Defence (DOD) which allowed the landing to take place in the Woomera Prohibited Area, as well as additional Australian support which ensured the capsule's retrieval.

In order to express the gratitude of the Government of Japan to the Australian Government for its cooperation, and with a view to further deepen our bilateral cooperation in science and technology, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) arranged for the Vice-Minister of MEXT, Ryuzo Sasaki, to visit Australia where he personally thanked DIISR and DOD, and presented the Australian side with some commemorative items. In addition, MEXT, the Embassy of Japan in Canberra and JAXA organized a reception to thank Australian officials, an unveiling ceremony of the *Hayabusa* and a meeting about the mission's achievements.



Vice-Minister Sasaki and Minister Carr



Vice-Minister Sasaki and Air Marshall Binskin

2. Outline of Events

(1) Reception

Date and time: 18:30-20:00, 11 October 2010

Venue: Official residence of the Ambassador of Japan

Hosts: Embassy of Japan, MEXT and JAXA

Outline: At the reception, Ryuzo Sasaki, Vice-Minister, MEXT and Patricia Kelly, Deputy Secretary, DIISR, both addressed the invitees. Many officials from DIISR and DOD attended this function, including Air Marshal Mark Binskin, Chief of Air Force. Yoshikazu Kato, Deputy Director-General, Research and Development Bureau, MEXT and Hideshi Kozawa, Executive Director, JAXA among others, attended from the Japanese side. Scale models of the *Hayabusa* and *Itokawa* were on display and a video about the *Hayabusa*'s mission was shown. The reception was a resounding success.



Professor Durant, Director, Questacon



Professor Ireland, ANU

(2) Unveiling ceremony of the *Hayabusa* model and meeting on the mission's achievements

Date and time: 10:00-12:30, 12 October 2010

Venue: Questacon

Hosts: MEXT, JAXA and DIISR

Outline: Master of Ceremonies, Mark Paterson, Secretary, DIISR invited Minister Kim Carr, DIISR, Vice-Minister Ryuzo Sasaki, MEXT, Air Marshal Mark Binskin, Chief of Air Force, and Hideshi Kozawa, Executive Director, JAXA, to say a few words. This was followed by the presentation of a 1/5 scale model of the *Hayabusa* and a 1/1000 scale model of the *Itokawa* asteroid to the Australian side by the Government of Japan as a token of its deepest appreciation for the cooperation that was extended in connection with the *Hayabusa* mission. The two models will be placed on permanent display at Questacon, (in the free access area of the lobby) along with a video explaining their significance. A coffee break followed, after which Professor Junichiro Kawaguchi of JAXA and Professor Trevor Ireland of the Australian National University explained to the invitees the achievements of the *Hayabusa* mission.

The unveiling ceremony was the subject of a media release by Minister Carr and was also featured the following day in the Canberra Times newspaper along with photographs of the event.



Left to right: Air Marshal Binskin, Minister Carr, Vice-Minister Sasaki, Minister Amano, Embassy of Japan, Executive Director Kozawa and Professor Kawaguchi



Hayabusa model donated to Questacon