

PRESS RELEASE

Visit of Special Envoys of the Prime Minister of Japan to Australia

25 FEBRUARY 2009

Embassy of Japan in Australia

Special Envoys of the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Masakazu TOYODA and Ambassador Yoshinori KATORI, who visited Canberra from 23 to 25 February, met on the 24th with Stephen Smith, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Wayne Swan, Treasurer, and Simon Crean, Minister for Trade, and exchanged views on the appropriate policy to pursue in order to promote economic growth and development in Asia in light of the current global financial and economic crisis.

In the meetings, the two Special Envoys explained that in Japan's view, it is important on the one hand for the Asian countries to cooperate and to respond to the impacts of the global financial crisis and on the other hand to strengthen Asia's growth potential and expand domestic demand. They conveyed Japan's view that it is important for the leaders of the East Asian countries to share concrete policy directions and to announce their determination to take united actions at the East Asia Summit and ASEAN plus 3 Summit meetings. They asked for the support and cooperation of the Government of Australia.

In response, the three Australian Ministers welcomed Japan's views and promised that Australia will cooperate with Japan in the lead-up to the East Asia Summit.

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