

Dear friend of Japan,

I hope this e-mail finds you well.

Before traveling to Australia this April to begin my posting, I witnessed the cherry blossoms of Tokyo in full bloom. As Canberra now moves into spring and the blossoms begin to flower, I feel very fortunate to have experienced two cherry blossom seasons in half a year.

Since arriving in Australia, I have had the privilege of addressing a number of groups on the topics of Japan-Australia relations and the regional economy. On Thursday 3 September I had the honour of speaking at the Institute for Regional Security Dialogue 2015 Annual Dinner: 'Australia-U.S.-Japan cooperation: enhancing stability and access to the maritime commons'. The following is a brief summary of my address, and the full text can be found in the attachment to this e-mail.

I believe what makes this region so unique compared to Europe is the fact that there is no multilateral or collective framework such as NATO, or the EU (of Europe). Particularly when it comes to regional security, the existing bilateral alliances with the U.S. are key to peace and stability, like a hub and spoke structure, in our region.

The main point I wish to make this evening is that Japan, Australia and the U.S. must work hard to maintain peace and stability in this region as a beacon. As allies, our three countries should set the course and steer the way forward in the region, a region which could otherwise be destabilized as a result of various factors.

We have a lot at stake in the Asia-Pacific, which is a growth center of the world. Its peace, stability, and prosperity are of paramount importance to the countries in the region, as well as to the international community. That is why I believe in rules-based order rather than unilateral, forceful actions. Without proper guidance based on the rule of law, ongoing political and economic stability and prosperity would not likely be sustainable. There comes a certain responsibility that like-minded, advanced free market economies, namely, Australia, Japan and the U.S. should take on in the Asia-Pacific.

I believe that the existing order has served as the foundation of the peace and prosperity of the region. Such principles as the rule of law, free trade, freedom of navigation and overflight must be upheld. The peace and order of the Asia-Pacific must be respected, maintained and protected by all means, because that is a foundation on which we can all thrive.

Allow me to also mention that we place particular importance on achieving high-standard regional economic partnerships through the TPP (Trans-Pacific Partnership) and RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership). We need a strong economic engine as well to ensure regional stability and prosperity. After all, I believe political security is intertwined with economic security.

Yours sincerely,

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Sumio Kusaka
Ambassador of Japan to Australia

[Institute for Regional Security Dialogue 2015 script. pdf](#)