

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Minoru Kiuchi's meeting with Australian Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs The Hon. Steven Ciobo MP

On April 21, commencing from 5:00pm for approximately 30 minutes, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Minoru Kiuchi held a meeting with The Hon. Steven Ciobo, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Trade and Investment Australia during his visit to Japan. The outline of their meeting is as follows.

1. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Minoru Kiuchi expressed his congratulations for Parliamentary Secretary Ciobo's inauguration as Parliamentary Secretary in December last year. State Minister Kiuchi then welcomed Parliamentary Secretary Ciobo's visit to Japan during this period of increasing opportunities for Japan and Australia's growing relationship, such as the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) coming into effect in January this year. State Minister Kiuchi expressed his desire to further elevate Japan-Australia's "special relationship". In response to this, Parliamentary Secretary Ciobo stated that he also hopes to assist in further strengthening bilateral relations.
2. State Minister Kiuchi stated that he wishes to cooperate with Australia so that next month's 7th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting to be held in Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture will be a success, in response to which Parliamentary Secretary Ciobo indicated his agreement. State Minister Kiuchi and Parliamentary Secretary Ciobo were in agreement regarding engagement in cooperation in the Pacific Region.
3. State Minister Kiuchi then asked for Australia's understanding regarding Japan's submission of the New Scientific Whale Research Program in the Antarctic Ocean (NEWREP-A) to the International Whaling Commission Scientific Committee, to which Parliamentary Secretary Ciobo replied that while Japan and Australia's way of thinking may differ, he hopes to continue constructive dialogue on the matter of whaling.
4. In addition, State Minister Kiuchi and Parliamentary Secretary Ciobo exchanged views on matters such as sustainable management of natural resources, security and high quality infrastructure investments.



(Images courtesy of Cabinet Public Relations Office)

