

From the Desk of the Consul-General

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continue to be important in this age of globalization and information. Equally as important is the development of broad-based people-to-people exchange and business networks among enterprises. There are about a hundred and fifty Japanese firms and close to 30,000 Japanese people residing in Sydney. I would like to combine my efforts with the many Japanese and Australian people who have brought the Australia-Japan relationship to this point through people-to-people exchange and supporting business, and work together with them for the future prosperity of Australia-Japan relations.

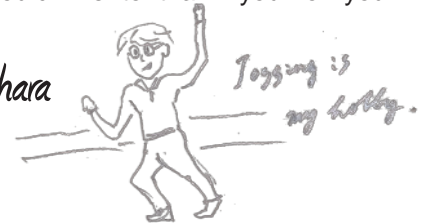
Finally I would like to touch on a practical matter.

As we began 2011, floods greatly impacted on many people around Australia and my thoughts are with those who lost their lives and those affected by the floods.

Australia is of course a relatively safe country but dangers can occur anywhere and it is at such times that it is vital that people's safety can be verified. So to any Japanese national reading this, please register and update your details with the Sydney consulate or your closest Japanese mission if you haven't done so already.

I look forward to having the opportunity to working with many of you throughout 2011. On behalf of the Consul-General of Japan, I would like to thank you for your continued support.

Masahiro Kohara



National Day Reception

The National Day reception was held on Tuesday 7 December to celebrate the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan. Some 230 guests joined Consul-General Kohara at his official residence.

The Hon. John Aquilina, Leader of the House in the Legislative Assembly, was the guest of honour representing the Premier of New South Wales.



14th Japanese Film Festival

On Monday 22 November, the Consul-General attended the Opening Reception of the 14th Japanese Film Festival in Sydney. A record 7,700 people attended the Sydney festival. Australia-wide the festival attracted more than 11,500 people.

The Japanese Film Festival is organised by the Japan Foundation Sydney. They are looking to build on the success of last year's festival to make an even better 15th JFF!



Lecture at the Australian Catholic University

Consul-General Kohara delivered a lecture on the Japan-Australia Partnership at the Strathfield Campus of the Australian Catholic University on Wednesday 20 October. Dr Kohara also answered questions from the floor and joined attendees at an afternoon tea held by the School of Arts and Sciences.

The content of his lecture was similar to an earlier address at the University of Sydney (2 September) which can be found on the consulate's website—www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/document/english/cgspeech_usyd02092010.pdf

More photos of the Consul-General's recent activities can be found on our website:
www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/english/about_us/consul_generals_gallery.htm