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of exports to Japan last year. Japan depends on the Northern Territory for mineral resources, and the Northern Territory purchases goods such as motor vehicles from Japan. While China has an increasingly large presence in this globalized economy, the strong and enduring bonds between Japan and Australia, which have been built on mutual trust and backed by the business and economic relationship, have never been frayed.

The second is the wonderful people-to-people exchanges and interactions. I particularly would like to remind you that among the first Japanese people who came to the northern region of Australia over 100 years ago were Japanese divers, who I believe contributed to the prosperous

development of the pearling industry in the Northern Territory.

The third and most essential aspect is the sharing of fundamental values such as democracy, freedom, respect for human rights and the rule of law. In this sense we are true partners in the Asia-Pacific Region. Australia and Japan should reconfirm the importance of their strategic partnership and work together towards peace and prosperity on the basis of their fundamental values.

Chief Minister,

Here are the active Japanese businessmen in Australia. They and their predecessors have built strong ties with Australian business for the

past half a century. They are eager to discover opportunities in Australia.

Last but not least, as an initiator who proposed this Japan-Northern Territory Mission, I hope the Japanese companies can seize new trade and investment opportunities in the Northern Territory, taking advantage of what they learn through the program, in such areas as mining, tourism, and infrastructure. It is my wish that new projects could be delivered in the future as an output of the Mission.

Once again, thank you very much for your hospitality and generous assistance in organising the seminar and the programs.



The story behind the diary and its return was covered by the ABC's 7.30 program, and the video and transcript are available in their September 2011 archive—

[www.abc.net.au/7.30/archive.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/archive.htm)

## Service of Respect at the Cowra War Cemetery

Dr Kohara lays a wreath in memory of fallen servicemen with Cowra Shire Mayor, Cr Bill West on Sunday 25 September.



## Consul-General Kohara's activities

### Japanese naval diary returns to family

Earlier this year, Ms Lindy Glover [second left] returned a WWII naval diary which had come into her father-in-law's possession to the seaman's daughter, Ms Yurie Nobuhiro [third left]. Dr Kohara was present on 20 September when the two women and other family members met for the first time at the Consulate-General of Japan, Sydney.

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](http://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/english/about_us/consul_generals_gallery.htm)

## Japan's New Prime Minister

*On 2 September, Mr Yoshihiko Noda was appointed as Japan's new prime minister, following the resignation of his predecessor, Mr Naoto Kan.*

The new Prime Minister and the new Cabinet were formally inaugurated at an attestation ceremony held by the Emperor that evening.

At 54 years of age, Prime Minister Noda is the third youngest prime minister in the modern era. Unlike many recent prime ministers he does not come from a political family. After graduating from the school of political science and economics at Waseda University, he attended the

Matsushita Institute of Government and Management. In 2010, he was appointed Finance Minister in the Kan Cabinet.

*Japan's new Foreign Minister is Mr Koichiro Gemba (47).*

For more about Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda:  
[www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/noda/profile/index\\_e.html](http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/noda/profile/index_e.html)

For the line-up of the Noda Cabinet see:  
[www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/noda/meibo/daijin/index\\_e.html](http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/noda/meibo/daijin/index_e.html)