

A message from Consul-General Keizo Takewaka

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian visits Japan

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian paid her first official visit to Japan in her capacity as premier from 20 to 23 August. The focus of her mission was to boost infrastructure investment into New South Wales and strengthen cultural and trade ties. Among her engagements was a meeting with the Governor of Tokyo, Ms Yuriko Koike.

The business focus of the Premier's trip was of course very strong, but her trip also included items which point to the broad ties between Japan and New South Wales. The sharing of know-how was a stand-out.

During their meeting, Premier Berejiklian and Governor Koike discussed the sharing of expertise and experience gained from the Sydney 2000 Games in the lead-up to Tokyo 2020. In 2015, New South Wales and Tokyo signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on exchange and cooperation in three areas—sports, education and city planning. The last of these has seen staff exchanges between the Tokyo and NSW governments.

Still on the Olympics, the Premier was joined by Australian Olympic Ambassador, Ian Thorpe, as she toured the Tokyo Tatsumi International Swimming Center and the Olympic aquatic centre. NSW-based architects, Cox Architecture, are helping to design the aquatic centre.

Ever brighter—

Sydney's Vivid 2018 dates launched in Tokyo

Tourism is important to both Japan and Australia, for their economies and for creating closer ties between the people of both countries. At the global launch of the Vivid 2018 dates, Premier Berejiklian announced a major initiative by Destination NSW to invite the largest ever Japanese travel trade delegation to visit Vivid 2018.

Beyond Sydney—Japanese university coming to Newcastle

During her visit to Tokyo, the Premier visited Nihon University to discuss the university's plans to build a campus in Newcastle. The former Newcastle Law Courts will be home to Nihon University's first overseas campus. After restoration, the campus will have classrooms for up to 200 local and international students as well as a library and a 100-bed dormitory.

**Japan is NSW's
largest export
market and it is
Australia's second
largest source of
direct investment.**

Dear Readers,

The warm ties between NSW and Japan were evident during Premier Berejiklian's important first overseas mission, which included a visit to Tokyo. Expertise gained during Sydney 2000 is being shared with Japan ahead of Tokyo 2020.

When you mention Tokyo these days, more and more people are aware of Tokyo 2020. The Olympics and Paralympics are certainly something to look forward to, and Japan is gearing up to host this great event.

While in Tokyo, the Premier promoted tourism in Sydney to the Japanese market. In the other direction, a number of Japanese organisations have come to Sydney aiming to attract more Australians to visit Japan's regions. One such group was Kanazawa Hakka, a group of 8 local hoteliers who are proud to promote their beloved Kanazawa, now accessible from Tokyo by shinkansen.

The shinkansen now connects as far north as Shin-Hakodate in Hokkaido, which is the subject of this issue's travel article (p.8). Japan is becoming ever easier to explore.

On a different note, I am always impressed how Japanese people contribute to local community festivals. Last month, I attended the Matsuri—Japan Festival in Willoughby where there is a large Japanese community. Japanese performers will also participate in the upcoming Burwood Festival and Ryde's Granny Smith Festival.

Sydney's major Japanese festival "Matsuri-Japan Festival" will be held at Darling Harbour on 9 December. I encourage you to come along.

Finally, I'd also like to encourage you to visit our Facebook page for regular posts about Consulate activities and events you might be interested in.

Keizo Takewaka

Find us on Facebook



Thank you to everyone who has visited and liked our Facebook page, launched on 21 July. We hope you continue to follow us and share us with your friends for news, events and information about Japan.

If you haven't discovered us yet, find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CGJSYD. Please like us. Facebookで「いいね！」してね。

Don't forget the Consulate's **Japanese-language e-newsletter** for Japanese nationals residing in NSW and the NT.

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