

Tokyo will host the 2019 Rugby World Cup and the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics. Japan and Australia share genuine enthusiasm for sports exchange and there is noticeable excitement in the lead-up to 2019 and 2020 in Tokyo.

Minister in charge of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games visits Sydney

On 22 September, the Minister in charge of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, HE Mr Shunichi Suzuki, visited Sydney.

Coming the year before the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the hosting of the 2019 Rugby World Cup will no doubt be watched with interest by many—not just for the great rugby contests, but with an eye to the running of Tokyo 2020.

In Sydney, Minister Suzuki visited the headquarters of Australia Rugby Union and met with ARU CEO Mr Bill Pulver to discuss the best way for Japan to host the 2019 Rugby World Cup.



Minister Suzuki in discussion with Sydney Olympic Park Authority CEO Charles Moore during a site inspection

Minister Suzuki then moved on to meet with the CEO of the Sydney Olympic Park Authority, Mr Charles Moore, and he visited various sports facilities and the former athletes village. The Minister and Mr Moore exchanged opinions on how to effectively maintain the legacy of the Olympic and Paralympic Games after their completion.

President of the Australian Olympic Committee and Vice President of the International Olympic Committee, Mr John Coates, AC [left] was among those who attended the '2 & 3 To Go' reception.

'2 & 3 to Go!' reception celebrates sports exchange

With two years to the Rugby World Cup and three years to the Olympic and Paralympic Games being held in Tokyo, a reception called "2 and 3 to GO!" was held at the Consul-General's residence on 27 September to celebrate and encourage sports exchange between Japan and Australia.

The reception was attended by many distinguished guests and representatives of the various Australian Olympic and Paralympic sports organisations, including Mr John Coates AC, the President of the Australian Olympic Committee and the Vice President of the International Olympic Committee.

On the rugby side, there were legendary rugby players who participated in the inaugural Rugby World Cup in 1987, including former Wallabies Nick Farr-Jones, Peter Grigg, Michael Lynagh, Simon Poidevin and Ross Reynolds. From Japan, the captain of the Japan National Team in the '87 RWC, Mr Toshiyuki Hayashi attended, as did Mr Yoshihiro "Demi" Sakata, the first Japanese inductee to the World Rugby Hall of Fame.

The reception was graced by a special message from the Minister in charge of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, HE Mr Shunichi Suzuki, which was read out by the Consul-General.

To commemorate the occasion, representatives of the sporting organisations and teams signed a Japanese and an English commemorative poster.

