

Consul-General of Japan in Sydney's Newsletter

No. 49 "Top down" and "Bottom up"

29 September 2021

There have been major developments in diplomacy and security at the summit level. On 16 September, Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States announced the creation of the Australia-UK-US Trilateral Security Partnership (AUKUS). Its first initiative will see Australia construct a nuclear-powered submarine fleet with the close cooperation of the UK and the US. On 24 September, the first in-person Japan-Australia-India-US Summit Meeting (known as the Quad) was held in Washington DC. They agreed that new working groups would be established and that the summit meeting would be held annually from here on. On the occasion of the Quad summit, the Japan-Australia Summit Meeting was also conducted.

As these major gears turn in our history, it is important to think of their long-term implications and to consider how our own future actions are connected. Having been involved in diplomacy and security over a long period to now, I feel that in order to make the most of "top down" movements, we must steadily promote "bottom up" initiatives in response.

In this issue of my newsletter, I would first like to reflect on two big news items – the creation of AUKUS and the Japan-Australia-UK-US Summit Meeting. I also invite you to consider with me how we can act on these developments from here on the ground in NSW and the NT.



At the Australia-UK-US Leaders' joint press conference
announcing the creation of AUKUS
(16 September 2021; image, Prime Minister Morrison's Facebook)

● **Australia-UK-US Trilateral Security Partnership (AUKUS)**

In the early morning of 16 September, Canberra, London and Washington DC were connected virtually, and Prime Minister Morrison, Prime Minister Johnson and President Biden gave a joint press conference. The messages from the three leaders can still be viewed [online](#) (approximately 12 mins). The [Joint Leaders Statement on AUKUS](#) was also issued.

[Prime Minister Morrison spoke](#) first at the press conference and announced the creation of the trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States (AUKUS) to meet the increasingly complex security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region. The first initiative of AUKUS will be the construction in Adelaide of a nuclear-powered submarine fleet for Australia in close cooperation with the UK and the US. Prime Minister Morrison explained that the submarines would not carry nuclear weapons and that Australia would continue to meet all its nuclear non-proliferation obligations. AUKUS also intends to advance cooperation in cyber capabilities, artificial intelligence (AI), quantum technologies and additional undersea capabilities.

In addition, AUKUS will enhance the three countries' contributions to the network of partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region (ANZUS, ASEAN, bilateral strategic partners, the Quad, Five Eyes countries and with Pacific nations). Prime Minister Morrison also emphasized that over the course of more than a century, the three countries have fought together in various conflicts and have a history of trust. AUKUS will work towards a future of peace and stability with their partners in the Indo-Pacific region.

The Ambassador of Japan to Australia, HE Yamagami Shingo, has already written on this topic in his newsletter [“News from under the Southern Cross” \(Edition 35\)](#).



Japan-Australia Summit Meeting
(24 September 2021; image, Cabinet Public Relations Office)

- **Japan-Australia Summit Meeting**

Just over a week later, on 24 September, the four leaders of Japan, Australia, India and the United States gathered in Washington DC. As agreed and announced at the historic Japan-Australia-India-US Summit Meeting held online in March this year, this second meeting of the four leaders was the first to take place in-person.

Prior to the 2nd Japan-Australia-India-US Summit Meeting, a [Japan-Australia Summit Meeting](#) was held. At the bilateral summit meeting, to address the issue of strategic competition in the Indo-Pacific, the two leaders affirmed the importance of strengthening ties with allies and like-minded countries, including cooperation between Japan, Australia, India and the US. To that end, Prime Minister Suga stated that Japan welcomes the establishment of the Australia-UK-US trilateral security partnership (AUKUS).

Both leaders concurred that Japan and Australia would promote bilateral relations in security and economic areas and cooperate closely. They again shared their opposition to any economic coercion and any unilateral attempt to change the status quo by force in the East and South China Seas. The two leaders also exchanged views on collaboration with Southeast Asia and regarding North Korea, among other issues, during their discussions which went for approximately 70 minutes.

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The 2nd Japan-Australia-India-US Summit Meeting
(24 September 2021; image, Cabinet Public Relations Office)

● **The 2nd Japan-Australia-India-US Summit Meeting**

Then in the afternoon of 24 September, the [2nd Japan-Australia-India-US Summit Meeting](#) was held. Regarding the response to COVID-19, which is a pressing challenge facing the international community, at this Summit, the four leaders affirmed that Japan, Australia, India, and the US play a major role to ensure equitable access to safe, effective, and quality-assured vaccine through vaccine supply and financing. They also concurred that they will continue to work together on the response to COVID-19, including expansion of vaccine production and its supply to the Indo-Pacific region.

The four leaders confirmed the progress of the working groups on critical and emerging technologies and climate change, which were launched at the leaders' video conference in March. Of particular note, the leaders adopted a statement regarding critical and emerging technologies - [Quad Principles on Technology Design, Development, Governance, and Use](#). They also concurred to launch new working groups on space and cyber security and to strengthen cooperation in areas of clean energy and people-to-people exchange. You can read further details in the [Joint Announcement](#) and [Fact Sheet](#). I think you can see how Quad cooperation is expanding and deepening.

Furthermore, the four leaders affirmed to maintain and strengthen the momentum of the cooperation among the four countries and concurred to hold the Japan-Australia-India-US summit every year.

The Ambassador of Japan to Australia, HE Yamagami Shingo, has explained this topic, including its relationship with AUKUS, in his newsletter [“News from under the Southern Cross” \(Edition 37\)](#) (English to be published).

Agenda Overview

As momentum builds in the Western Parkland City and the Bradfield City Centre starts to take shape, the Western Parkland City Authority (WPCA) is excited to invite you to **Tomorrow's City Today - Opportunities in the Bradfield City Centre and Western Parkland City**, an online briefing for industry to learn more about future tender, investment and partnership opportunities.

You will hear from **The Hon. Stuart Ayres, MP**, Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney; WPCA Chair **Dr Jennifer Westacott AO**; WPCA CEO **Dr Sarah Hill** and Western Sydney Airport CEO **Simon Hickey** and other industry leaders for a discussion on the Bradfield City Centre, Western Sydney Aerotropolis and Western Parkland City.

Speakers

 The Hon. Stuart Ayres MP Minister for Jobs, Investment Tourism and Western Sydney	 Dr Sarah Hill Chief Executive Officer Western Parkland City Authority	 Natalie Camilleri Executive Director, Multi-Utilities, Environment and Circular Economy Western Parkland City Authority
 Clr George Brticevic Chair Western Parkland Councils	 Susie Harwood Executive Director Freight Transport for NSW	 James Fisher Director, Air Business Western Parkland City Authority, LH1 Airfreight Interface Concept
 Jennifer Westacott AO Chair Western Parkland City Authority	 Tim Poole Chair City Co-ordinator Western Parkland City Authority	 Simon Hickey Chief Executive Officer Western Sydney Airport
 Peter Mackey Executive Director New Education and Training Model, Western Parkland City Authority	 Anne Skewes Executive Director, Marketing and Development Western Parkland City Authority	 Alison Webster Vice Chair, Western WSA Co.
 Dr Aniss Chami Chief Executive Officer Vitec Pharmaceuticals	 Mark Goodsell Manufacturing Lead AI Group	 Angela Jeffery Project Director Sydney Metro Western Sydney Airport
 Joanna Kubota Executive Director Western Parkland Councils	 Leon Drury Executive Officer Manufacturing Skills Australia	 Danielle Mesa Chief People Officer BAE Systems Australia

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Online briefing for Western Sydney development
(To be held 8 October 2021)

● Tangible outcomes in business

As described above, in response to strategic competition in the Indo-Pacific, cooperation is progressing under new frameworks, namely AUKUS and the Quad. Within this, Japan-Australia collaboration has come to play a major role.

Here in NSW and the NT, the area that can ride and support these developments the most is business. Critical and emerging technologies, climate change and decarbonization, space, cyber and infrastructure are all becoming focal points of Japan-Australia-India-US cooperation.

Western Sydney is set to become a centre of these advanced technologies. On 8 October, there will be an online [briefing](#) for companies and industry groups interested in procurement, investment and partnership opportunities for the development of Western Sydney. The 5-hour briefing will include explanations by numerous stakeholders, including the Hon. Stuart Ayres, MP, NSW Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney.

Also, a [Japan-Australia innovation cooperation seminar](#) will be held on 6 October organised by Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and JETRO – this is the J-Bridge Australian launch event. Potentials for Japan-Australia open innovation will be explained from the perspective of both Japanese and Australian companies.



Exchanging views with Study NSW representative Toshi Kawaguchi [left]
(22 September 2021)

- **Promoting people-to-people exchange**

The expansion of people-to-people exchange is also important as a foundation of Japan-Australia cooperation. On 22 September, I exchanged views with Mr Toshi Kawaguchi, a Japanese-Australian who is Acting Director, Education Engagement and Study NSW, about the resumption of student exchange post-COVID-19. Two days later, the NSW Government announced the [International Student Arrivals Pilot Plan](#) to return international students to NSW. As a first step, 500 fully vaccinated students will return to Australia on charter flights before the end of the year.

Then, on 28 September, I had a meeting with Ms Debra Liddiard, Director of International Education at the NT Department of Education. During the COVID pandemic last year, the Northern Territory implemented a pilot program to receive exchange students, and they include Japanese exchange students currently at Charles Darwin University (CDU).

Austrade operates a [website](#) for Japanese interested in studying in Australia and the site also introduces [the post-study careers of former Japanese students in Australia](#). Right now, the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme, which dispatches Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) and Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs) throughout Japan, is [seeking applicants from Australia for the 2022 Programme](#) (applications close on 12 November). I intend to promote efforts such as disseminating information, so that post-COVID, youth exchange between Japan and Australia will be further expanded and enriched.



Japanese Festival Darwin
(18 September 2021; image, AJANT Facebook)

- **“Top down” and “bottom up”**

In my more than 30 years working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I have been present at various summit-level international conferences and bilateral summit meetings. On the other hand, I have worked on the ground in various places: when I was seconded to the Ministry of Defense, I was in charge of measures relating to US

military bases and travelled around Japan; I was also present at a meeting between the commander of the US submarine that collided with the Japanese fishing boat *Ehime-maru* and the relatives of victims killed when the *Ehime-maru* sank; and when posted to Bangladesh and South Sudan, I met with people at the front-line of support operations for those in need.

Through these experiences, I have felt that summit diplomacy brings about results and develops sustainably through the daily efforts of people who are supporting it at the grass-roots level. “Top-down” and “bottom-up” work in concert – the world moves, as it were, in a type of scissor action.

On 18 September, the [Australian-Japanese Association of the Northern Territory \(AJANT\)](#), with the support of the NT Government, Paspaley and Inpex, held the Japanese Festival Darwin. I sent a message as I could not attend the event due to COVID. If history is one of the factors that links Australia, the UK and the US through AUKUS, then in the place where the Bombing of Darwin by the Japanese Imperial Forces occurred during the Second World War, there is also a history of Japan and Australia cooperating to foster friendship and exchange. By valuing the various efforts in business, people-to-people exchange, cultural exchange and other areas, I would like to contribute to the peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region.

Kiya Masahiko, Consul-General of Japan in Sydney

(Ends)