

Closing Remarks by Consul-General Kiya Masahiko

Reception on the occasion of the
Unveiling Ceremony of Plaque Commemorating the Names of the 80 I-124 Crew Members
18 February 2022 (Friday) – 12pm reception start

Distinguished Guests, Ladies & Gentlemen

It is an honour to say a few final words on this important occasion.

I express my heartfelt thanks to Australian Japanese Association of the Northern Territory (AJANT) for taking the lead in this project and to the Northern Territory Government for fully supporting the creation of the new I-124 memorial commemorating the names of the 80 crew members who perished onboard.

Last month, when I attended the commemorative service for the I-124, held 80 years since the submarine's sinking, I keenly felt that the current Japan-Australia relationship and the peace and prosperity we enjoy today are built on the sacrifice of precious lives lost during the Second World War. After the war, our two countries walked along the road of reconciliation, exchange, and cooperation, to the "Special Strategic Partnership" that we enjoy today.

As we close this reception, I thank you all for attending. Together let us work to create ever stronger ties of friendship between Japan and Australia. I, for one, will do my very best to this end.

(End)