

Consul-General Kiya's Farewell Speech

**Farewell Reception for Consul-General Kiya Masahiko and Mrs Kiya Yayoi**

[Note: inclusion of Foreign Minister's Commendation for Ms Midori Furze]

The Residence, 15 September 2022

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The Honourable Andrew Bell, Chief Justice of NSW

Members of Parliament

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

<b>(1) Introduction</b>
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It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to my residence one final time, before my wife, Yayoi, and I must leave Sydney.

Yes, I am sad to say, my almost 3 years in Sydney are coming to an end.

I would like to thank you all for your cooperation, support and friendship.

Thanks to you, I could play my part in advancing Japan-Australia cooperation in NSW and the Northern Territory.

<b>(2) Political ties and high-level meetings</b>
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Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Japan-Australia ties have grown ever closer with many high-level visits and ministerial meetings.

Japan was the first destination for both the NSW Premier and the NT Chief Minister on their first official overseas visits.

Japanese Ministers recently visited Sydney to exchange views with their counterparts – one signing an important agreement.

And it was an honour and pleasure to meet the Governor of New South Wales and the Administrator of the Northern Territory on many occasions.

### **(3) Trade ties and business developments**

Our vibrant Japan-Australia business community works closely in many fields.

Recent developments are in hydrogen, clean energy and decarbonisation.

Japan-Australia innovation collaboration is taking place, such as smart infrastructure in Western Sydney and ecosystem creation at Tech Central

### **(4) Sister city relationships and cultural exchange**

Turning to people-to-people and cultural exchange, it was my great pleasure to promote sister-city, school and sport exchange.

I visited Lismore, the first sister city with Japan, working to overcome the recent floods as they receive goodwill support from Yamato-Takada city and the Japanese community in NSW.

School exchange, on hold for a long time, is restarting.

Tokyo 2020 was another big event, cementing our ties.

It's wonderful to see cultural exchange activities crossing sectors.

I saw this Japan-Australia community in action at Japanaroo events.

And Japanese language is flourishing, thanks to dedicated teachers, academics and students.

<b>(5) History (reconciliation), future hopes, farewell</b>
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During my tenure, I had the privilege of attending many commemorative services in Cowra, Darwin or here in Sydney.

After the war, Japan and Australia, we walked the road through reconciliation to exchange, cooperation and partnership.

Whenever I attended these ceremonies and whenever I have remembered them, I renewed my determination for Japan and Australia to work together to build peace for the future as the geopolitical situation evolves.

We can achieve so much together for our mutual benefit – and for the benefit of the world.

I wish you all the best and hope that our paths may cross again.

BUT before I leave, I would like to do one very important thing.

外務大臣表彰：みどりファーズ氏

Tonight, I am delighted to present Ms Midori Furze with the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation.

Based in Sydney, she has worked as an origami artist for many years – founding her studio in Terrey Hills in 2010. She has held workshops and planned events in various places around NSW promoting Japanese culture through origami, creating opportunities for increased Japan-Australia cultural exchange at the grassroots level.