

Opening Remarks by Consul-General Kiya
Australian Sake Awards
17 September 2022 – 10am
Paddington Town Hall

Good morning, everyone.

It's wonderful to see so many people at the inaugural Australian Sake Awards.

Congratulations to the organisers on realising this event.

Importantly, these Awards are linked to the Sake Festival on 1 October, which will be open to the public.

It is exciting to think that this could lead to more people discovering sake for the first time or new varieties of sake.

I would like to thank the expert panel of judges who have volunteered for these awards – you are participating in a historic event for sake in Australia.

Thanks to you, more Australians will be able to enjoy Japanese sake and food.

Many Australians list Japanese food as one of the reasons they travel to Japan. Sake could inspire more travel to and exchanges with Japan, which will bring about even greater benefits and enjoyment.

I hope that you, as sake pioneers, will take the lead in carrying this event for many years to come, and, that like coffee from Italy, Japanese sake will become an important part of Australian culture.

To conclude, I wish today's Australian Sake Awards and the Sake Festival on 1 October great success.

How good would it be if the Australian Sake Awards became an annual event?

I am sure we could all drink to that!

Thank you.

(End)