

Summary Remarks by Consul-General Keizo Takewaka
on Japanese Infrastructure & Medical Delegation Program
Tuesday 24th July 2018

Let me first express my deep gratitude to all the people involved in this two-day event, including those in the Westmead Medical District today. We were given extremely valuable opportunities to learn many things and to interact with resourceful people. Our thanks go to the NSW Government, Premier's office, Department of Industry, NSW Treasury, Ministry of Health, Transport for NSW, Western Sydney Local Health District, NSW Trade Commissioner, Japan, not least Bob Seidler, Special Envoy for Japan.

At yesterday's session, The Honourable Stuart Ayres, Minister for Western Sydney, shared with us the strategy, purpose and importance of infrastructure development in the state of NSW. Madame Lucy Turnbull, Chief Commissioner, Greater Sydney Commission gave wonderful talks to us. Mr. Tom Reardon, Secretary of NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, and Dr Stephanie Fahey, CEO of Austrade, showed us a broad picture and plans of Western Sydney Development. Strong expectations for Japan were well-received.

In the afternoon of Day 1, Ms Sarah Hill, CEO of Greater Sydney Commission, mentioned the comprehensive plan of Greater Western Sydney. Also, Ms Elizabeth Koff, NSW Health Secretary, explained about the improvement of medical infrastructure, like digital care.

Today, Day 2, we were given a presentation on Western Sydney Airport & Aerotropolis by Mr Graham Millet, CEO, Western Sydney Airport Company, Ms Clare Gardiner-Barnes, Deputy Secretary, Transport for NSW, Mr Simon Draper, Secretary, Department of Industry, and Ms Kim Curtain, Executive Director, NSW Treasury. We learned that Western Sydney is the third largest economy of Australia. Western Sydney Airport is 5.3 billion dollar project. It will have 2 billion dollar economic impact and create 200,000 jobs. Western Sydney Corridor will carry not only people but also freight and products. Again there are high expectations of Japanese investment and technologies. From the Japanese side, we raised such issues as connectivity between Western Sydney and Sydney CBD, waste management, and energy efficiency and sustainability.

This afternoon, we had the opportunity to visit the actual site of the Westmead Medical Innovation District. We thank the presentations by Mr. Richard Alcock, Board Chair of Western Sydney Local Health District, Mr Stefan Perkovic, Director, Western Sydney Local Health District, and Mr David Ballantyne, Executive Director of Western Region Health Infrastructure. For many of the Japanese delegation, this is the first time to visit Westmead, and we need to understand a broader picture that Westmead is closely linked with Parramatta. We wish to continue more interactions with you.

What I observe here is an evolution of our business partnership. We are not simply transacting goods and services. We are discussing how our partnership should work. Beyond the stage of trade and investment, we are collaborating to design future steps. I believe that this is possible because we share long-term perspectives.

The ties between the state of NSW and Japan are increasingly stronger and wider. As I said yesterday, Japan has technologies, resources including human resources, and most importantly experiences both successful and not successful. NSW has a huge market, opportunities, and a growing population. This is a great win-win relationship. I am convinced that this two-day event by the NSW Government has provided us with a significant platform for the Japanese companies to perform further business and activities.

The next milestone event is the 56th Annual Joint Conference of Japan-Australia Business Co-operation Committee which is to be held in Sydney in October. I hope that business leaders of the two countries find more opportunities in relation to NSW, building on the discussions of yesterday and today. For our part, we would like to continue our utmost support to business partnership between Japan and NSW.

It is truly a wonderful privilege for me to see this two-day event being fruitful for both the state of NSW and Japan. I would like to express my sincere respect and gratitude again to the NSW Government and all those who helped this innovative event. Last, not least, I wish to congratulate every member of the Japanese Infrastructure & Medical Delegation for the successful accomplishment of its mission.

Thank you.