

Japan REPORTS

The Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney's
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New Year's Greetings from the Consul-General of Japan in Sydney

Happy New Year!

It was my third time to see in the New Year in Sydney. New Year on Sydney Harbour is certainly very different to how I used to spend New Year growing up in Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost prefecture, but the sense of optimism that seems to come with this time of year is very familiar. There is something that makes people look forward, reflecting on what the New Year might bring and thinking about what they would like to do or achieve.



Mr Nobuhito Hobo
Consul-General of Japan in Sydney

My office shares this optimism as we look forward to the year ahead. While Japan and Australia do not agree on everything, we have a very strong, cooperative and friendly relationship which continues to grow. Some days this is made especially clear to me.

One such day was 27 November 2009. During the day, I attended the 'Australia & Japan Economic Outlook Conference'. In my speech, I noted that during the Global Financial Crisis, despite the downturn in Japan, Australian exports to Japan actually increased by 50% during the period from July 2008 to June 2009, and that there has also been a new wave of Japanese investment in Australia. Later at a reception that evening, I farewelled 84 students and 9 educators from NSW who were selected as part of the Japan East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youth Program (JENESYS-said 'Genesis') which was created in 2007. The NSW

Continued on page 2

あけましておめでとございます

シドニーで迎えるお正月
も3回目となりました。シドニー湾での新年の幕開けは、日本最北に位置する郷里の北海道とはかなり違いますが、年が明けると前向きな気持ちで満たされるところは変わりません。新年を迎えることには、将来を思い、この1年をどう過ごし、何を成

すべきかを考えさせる何かがあると思います。

当総領事館としても、新年に前向きな期待を持っています。もとより日豪両国は、すべてにおいて考えが一致している訳ではありませんが、強固で協力的かつ友好的な関係を保ちそれを深化させています。昨年はこうした関係がはっきりとわかる出来事がいくつかありました。

例えば2009年11月27日の出来事ですが、私は「日豪経済見通し講演会」に出席、スピーチの中で、世界金融危機のさなか、日本経済は下降していたのにもかかわらず、対日輸出は2008年7月から翌年6月にかけて50%も

2ページへ続く

- INSIDE:** ● JETAA Sydney ● Toward the Realisation of an East Asian Community ● Ukiyoe by Utamaro at the AGNSW
● Destination Japan: Kamakura ● Local staff study tour in Tokyo ● Results of the 27th Australia-Japan Relations Essay Contest
● Educational Resources ● Seeing in the New Year in Japan