

Japan REPORTS

The Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney's
Quarterly Newsletter

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Japan-NSW Relations

On 22 June, the Consul-General of Japan in Sydney, Dr Masahiro Kohara, hosted a dinner at his official residence. The Hon. Barry O'Farrell, Premier of New South Wales, was guest of honour and spoke to members of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI). Also in attendance were the Minister for Health and Medical Research Jillian Skinner, Minister for Transport Gladys Berejiklian and Treasurer Mike Baird.

Below is an edited transcript of Dr Kohara's speech delivered that evening.

One of the first official announcements made by Mr O'Farrell after becoming Premier was a donation of \$1 million to assist those who were affected by the terrible earthquake and tsunami in my home country.

Mr O'Farrell is a man of sincerity. When this disaster struck Japan, he called me to express his sympathies and support before also visiting my office to sign a condolence book.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for the incredible kindness and generosity of the NSW Government.

Premier, I would like to remind people how important our relationship is.

Let me share with all of you here the three aspects upon which our relationship is based.

The first aspect is of course our strong economic relationship. Today, Japan is still the number one export partner for NSW, and trade has been promoted in a complementary manner.

The second is the wonderful people-to-people exchange and interactions



Premier O'Farrell and Consul-General Kohara

between our two nations.

Some of you may not be aware of this fact, but NSW has more than 40 sister-city relationships with Japan. This is the highest number of sister city relationships NSW holds with any country in the world.

The third and most essential aspect is the sharing of fundamental values such as democracy, freedom, respect for human rights and the rule of law in Asia and the Pacific Region.

Power is shifting from the West to the East. Economic interdependence is growing in this region.

Australia and Japan should reconfirm the importance of their strategic partnership and work together towards peace and prosperity on the basis of their fundamental values.

Premier, Ministers and Treasurer: Here are the active samurai businessmen who have the strong determination and power to strengthen our relationship.

They and their predecessors have built strong ties with Australian businesses for the past half century.

I have personally welcomed to my residence many top business leaders from both Japan and Australia. I was deeply impressed by their passion and solidarity as trusted partners.

Some of them have fond memories of their younger days when they worked together outdoors at mining camps in the desert in Western Australia.

Such personal ties and bonds are treasures deep-rooted in our relationship.

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