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Japan-Northern Territory Relations

From 28 September to 2 October, Consul-General Masahiro Kohara paid his third official visit to the Northern Territory. A three-day business mission, the Japan-Northern Territory Mission, led by Dr Kohara was the main reason behind the trip. On the first evening in Darwin, the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, the Honourable Paul Henderson MLA, held a welcome reception for the Japanese delegation. In reply to the Chief Minister's welcome, the Consul-General made the following remarks.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to you for welcoming the Japan-Northern Territory Mission. I am also grateful to all the staff of the Northern Territory Government and people in the private sector who have assisted us with developing this exciting and fantastic three-day program for the Mission. Hearing your speech, I am now more confident that this Mission can help further develop our economic relationship in the future.

Chief Minister,

I am very pleased to take such a big mission here to Darwin. Our mission, the first and largest, is making a historical visit to the Northern Territory. I would firstly like to touch on your briefing provided to the Japanese business community in Sydney in June last year. Listening to your speech, I got the sense that massive potential was developing in



Consul-General Kohara with Chief Minister Paul Henderson & Speaker of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, the Hon. Jane Aagaard

the Northern Territory for foreign investors, but these abundant opportunities were sometimes being missed because of a lack of familiarity on both sides. I have since promised to work together with you to enhance the mutually beneficial economic relationship between the Northern Territory and Japan, and today I am most pleased that our discussions have led to this business mission, which includes 31 members of Japan

Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) led by Mr Daisaburo Akita.

I hope that this three-day mission will be a fruitful opportunity for these Japanese businesses to learn about the potential of the Northern Territory for mining, tourism, infrastructure, and other business ventures and to extend their networks with local business. This will further drive the economic relationship between Japan and the Northern Territory.

Let me share with you and the people present here the three aspects upon which I believe Japan's relationship with Australia, particularly with the Northern Territory, is based.

The first aspect is, of course, our strong economic relationship. Japan has been a major trading partner for Australia, having developed in a complementary manner. Japan is the largest trading partner for the Northern Territory, recording around \$2 billion worth

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