

Japan REPORTS

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

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From the Desk of the Consul-General

Dear Readers,

As this is the first issue for 2012, I would like to wish you a safe and happy new year.

This was my second time to see in the New Year here in Sydney, and even though it hasn't been typical summer weather, I enjoyed the holiday season with my family and friends. I hope you did too.

When I reflected back over the events of 2011, of course uppermost in my mind were the many people who lost their lives in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami disaster. I pray for the souls of those departed and I would like to express my deepest sympathies to those affected by the disaster.

On 11 March, a year will have passed since the disaster. When it occurred, we received great support from the Australian and New South Wales governments, and many organisations and individuals.

On the occasion of the anniversary, the Consulate-General of Japan would like to express its gratitude to the Australian people and will be arranging several opportunities to do so.

On page three, you will find information about an exhibition called *Tohoku, Japan—Rebuilding for a Better Tomorrow*. The Japanese title is 'strength for Tohoku's recovery'. I hope visitors to the exhibition see for themselves the strength that victims of the disaster are showing as they work to rebuild their lives and communities.



Consul-General Kohara with NSW Treasurer, the Hon. Mike Baird MP, at the Emperor's Birthday Reception on 7 December 2011

In February, the Consulate is organising and hosting an event to promote Japanese tourism and saké. We would like to remind everyone of all that Japan can offer and the many attractions that await travellers to Japan.

In March, the Consulate will be hosting a reception especially to say 'thank you' to Australian people who supported Japan after the earthquake and tsunami disaster. Japan is well on the road to recovery. The supply chain is restored, and Japanese industries and enterprises are back and keen to do business with the world.

In January, the NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for Trade and Investment, the Hon. Andrew Stoner MP, paid an official visit to Japan. This follows NSW Treasurer Mike Baird's official visit to Japan last year. There is no doubt NSW and Japan share strong and friendly ties.

Indeed, exchange between us is flourishing. In December 2011, I attended a farewell reception for university students about to leave for Japan on the JENESYS program (see pp.4-5). I was very impressed by the enthusiasm these young people had to learn more about Japan. In mid-February, a group of young Australian business people will visit Japan on a JENESYS exchange study tour. I believe this type of people-to-people exchange adds new vitality to the Australia-Japan relationship.

Once again, I would like to wish you the very best for the rest of the year ahead.

Masahiro Kohara
January 2012

- INSIDE:**
- Ichthys: largest ever Japanese investment in Australia
 - Tohoku Exhibition at Customs House, Sydney
 - Nadeshiko Japan shines at FIFA Ballon d'Or awards
 - JENESYS Program for Australian university students studying Japanese—the students speak
 - Results of the 29th Australia-Japan Relations Essay Contest
 - Winter in Japan
 - Setsubun—keeping the demons out
 - World Children's Haiku Contest
 - Educational Resources
 - Destination Japan: Wakayama