

A message from Consul-General Masato Takaoka

Consulate-General Activities

73rd Anniversary Memorial Service for HMAS Kuttabul

Dear Readers,

In Japan, many people think of Sydney as being eternally warm and sunny. It might not get anywhere near as cold as northern Japan or even Tokyo, but I am certainly feeling the chill these days. Please look after yourselves as winter sets in.

Over the past few months, I have been impressed on several occasions by teachers and students of Japanese language and studies and their knowledge and enthusiasm for their subjects.

On 29 May, I was honoured to open the NSW Japanese language teachers' conference. It was wonderful to see so many enthusiastic and dedicated teachers. Many of you would know the term 'genki' 元気 which means 'lively, energetic'. As I looked at the audience, which seemed to be a great mix of experienced and younger teachers, that was the word that came to mind. Seeing all those genki teachers, the comments of university students at the AJS-NSW University Awards Night made sense. Most recipients made a point of not only thanking their university teachers, but spoke of the fun and interest that their Japanese teachers had created in their learning at high school.

One of the most genki teachers I've met is one of NSW's most experienced. The organiser of the conference has been working as a Japanese language advisor for the NSW Department of Education for more than 20 years, after many years as a classroom teacher. It's an honour to think that there are people who dedicate their lives in this way to furthering knowledge of Japan and Japanese culture here in Australia.

Masato Takaoka

On 1 June at the Kuttabul Naval Base, a memorial service was held to commemorate the 73rd anniversary of the sinking of HMAS Kuttabul by a Japanese midget submarine. In this year's ceremony, along with the names of the sailors on the HMAS Kuttabul, the names of the six Japanese submariners were read. HMAS Kuttabul Commanding Officer Rebecca Jeffcoat paid tribute to the bravery of the submariners and commemorated the loss of all those who gave their lives for their country during wartime. The Consul-General of Japan, Mr Masato Takaoka, was among those who laid a wreath.



Japanese companies' growing presence in Sydney



The presence of Japanese businesses in Sydney continues to grow. On 30 April, Consul-General Masato Takaoka attended a ceremony [above right] at the Waterfront in Circular Quay held to mark the **official opening of Sumitomo Rubber Australia Pty. Ltd.** in Sydney. Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd. President and CEO, Mr Ikuji Ikeda and Mr Craig Kelly MP were among the attendees. On 23 May, the Consul-General was present at **the opening of MUJI The Galleries, MUJI's flagship store** in Sydney. Mr Satoru Matsuzaki, President of Ryohin Keikaku Co. Ltd. came from Japan to attend the ceremony [above left]. The Consul-General also had the pleasure to be present at the **opening of UNIQLO's new Parramatta store** on 28 May.

AJS-NSW 2015 University Awards Night

On 19 May, the Australia Japan Society of New South Wales (AJS-NSW) held their annual University Awards Night. The awards recognise students with outstanding performances in the field of Japanese Studies, from the six major universities around Sydney. Before presenting students their awards, Consul-General Masato Takaoka gave a keynote presentation about the current political and economic situation in Japan and the ongoing Japan-Australia relationship.



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