

PALM 7

Australian Foreign Minister the Hon. Julie Bishop MP visited Japan on the occasion of PALM 7 held in Iwaki, Fukushima, on 22-23 May.

The Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) is held every three years in Japan. Leaders and representatives from Japan and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) attend the meeting. Australia is a member of PIF.

The PALM leaders discussed challenges to the region including overcoming and reducing the risk of disasters, and building economic prosperity throughout the Pacific region.



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe received a courtesy call from Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop during her visit to Fukushima to attend PALM 7.

In his opening speech, Prime Minister Abe declared to PALM 7 delegates that Japan would “spare no efforts in making our society of Pacific citizens into a community brimming with resilience and potential”.

The Premier of NSW visits Tokyo

The Hon. Mike Baird MP, Premier of New South Wales, paid his first official visit as premier to Tokyo on 19-20 May 2015.

The Premier paid a courtesy call on Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, who noted that NSW is an important supplier of energy to Japan and that there are Japanese businesses active in various fields in NSW. In response, Mr Baird said he welcomed Japanese investment in his state.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga and Premier Baird confirmed their desire to continue economic reforms to further strengthen the Japan-NSW economic relationship into the future.

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Sydney Modern

Leading Japanese architects to design new galleries for the Art Gallery of New South Wales

Top Japanese architects Kazuyo Sejima + Ryue Nishizawa / SANAA were unanimously selected by an international jury to design the new galleries for the AGNSW Sydney Modern Project.

Ms Sejima and Mr Nishizawa are co-founders of the Tokyo-based architectural firm SANAA. In 2010, the pair were awarded the Pritzker Architecture Prize, considered



The SANAA-designed 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art is a major attraction in Kanazawa City

the world's top award in architecture. SANAA have designed major art museums in Japan and overseas.

The Sydney Modern Project will double the size of the current Gallery and offer flexible spaces, which open out and relate to the landscape. The Sydney Modern galleries should become a new landmark for Sydney.

Over the next 12 months, SANAA and the AGNSW will work closely to develop the final concept. Views of the wider community will be sought as part of the process.

For details of the selection, the architects and the process from now, see:

www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/sydney-modern-project/

Letters to the Editor

The Editor of *Japan Reports* welcomes any comments and suggestions you may have.

Tell us about your experiences of Japan or Japanese culture in Australia.

The Editor, Japan Reports
Consulate-General of Japan
GPO Box 4125, SYDNEY NSW 2001
cginfo@sy.mofa.go.jp