

Presentation of Foreign Minister's Commendations

In 2015, four Foreign Minister's Commendations were awarded to people in New South Wales. Three presentation ceremonies were held in October 2015, Mr Manuel Panagiotopoulos having received his earlier on 25 September (see last issue).



Ms Cathy Jonak and Ms Sally Shimada

On 28 October, Ms Cathy Jonak and Ms Sally Shimada were presented with the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation by Consul-General Masato Takaoka, at a ceremony held at his residence. The two teachers have been

working for over forty years as pioneers of Japanese education in Australia. They have been active in their roles as the Senior Language Consultant in the Japanese language department at The Japan Foundation and the Japanese Language Officer at the NSW Department of Education, respectively.

Mr Hideo Dekura

On 7 October, Japanese cuisine master Mr Hideo Dekura was presented with the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation by Consul-General Masato Takaoka, at a ceremony held at the Consul-General's official residence. Mr Dekura has worked in Sydney for more than 40 years to promote Japanese cuisine culture overseas. He has taught more than 20,000 students at the Sydney Seafood School and other educational institutions. He has also released more than a dozen books about Japanese food, the latest publication being *Sake*.



Cr Jenny Dowell Mayor of Lismore

On 8 October, the Consul-General of Japan in Sydney, Mr Masato Takaoka, presented the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation to Cr Jenny Dowell, Mayor of Lismore, at a ceremony in Lismore. The sister-city partnership established

between Lismore and Yamato Takada in 1963 is the first and oldest sister-city relationship between Japan and Australia. Upon assuming the office of Mayor of Lismore in 2008, sister-city exchange and student exchange have been actively pursued between Lismore and Yamato Takada under Cr Dowell's leadership. Notably, in 2013, the Mayor undertook various activities to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the sister-city relationship.



Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's official visit to Japan

The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, made his first official visit to Japan on Friday 18 December 2015. Prime Minister Shinzo



Prime Ministers Turnbull and Abe outside the Urasenke Tokyo Branch

Abe hosted a summit meeting and other events for Prime Minister Turnbull in Tokyo.

The first event was a meeting in the tea room at the Urasenke Tokyo Branch. The two leaders then proceeded to the Akasaka Palace State Guest House where they received a salute and attended a ceremony by the guard of honour before holding a summit meeting. Prime Minister Abe also held a banquet in honour of his Australian counterpart. In his greetings at the banquet, Prime Minister Abe extended his heartfelt welcome and said in part:

Australia is an irreplaceable partner with which we share the universal values of freedom, democracy, basic human rights, and the rule of law, as well as strategic interests. The special relationship we have with Australia is pivotal for the Asia-Pacific Region. Today, I shared the view with Prime Minister Turnbull that we would strongly develop cooperative activities between Japan and Australia in a wide range of fields, including political economy, security, culture and personal exchanges.

'2+2' talks held in Sydney



The 6th Japan-Australia Joint Foreign and Defence Ministerial Consultations (2+2) were successfully held on Sunday 22 November 2015 in Sydney. For details, see the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website: www.mofa.go.jp/a_o/ocn/au/page3e_000410.html

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The editor of *Japan Reports* welcomes any comments or suggestions you may have and your experiences of Japan or Japanese culture in Australia.

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