

Mrs Akie Abe in Sydney

Mrs Akie Abe accompanied the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Shinzo Abe, during his visit to the Philippines, Australia, Indonesia and Vietnam (12-17 January 2017). On Saturday 14 January, Mrs Abe had a busy schedule in Sydney before joining her husband in the early evening for a reception at the official Sydney residence of the Australian Prime Minister, Kirribilli House.

Mrs Abe's day began at the Sydney Japanese International School in Terrey Hills (north Sydney) where she watched several performances by the students, who had gone in especially on the day to welcome her to their school. Mrs Abe gave a brief speech and donated a selection of 150 Japanese books to the school – 昭恵文庫 Akie's Library.

She then travelled to Roselands in the inner west of Sydney where she visited a Northcott respite care facility. After a briefing by CEO Ms Kerry Stubbs, Mrs Abe enjoyed spending time with the six children who were resident that weekend. Together they made pizzas and planted out herbs in the back garden.

In the afternoon, Mrs Abe was met by Ms Lucy Turnbull AO, at the Royal Botanic Gardens where they received a tour introducing plants

used by indigenous Australians and other elements of Aboriginal culture. They were welcomed by guide Ms Jess Sinnott and music on the didgeridoo by Mr Leon Burchill. Mrs Abe has a strong interest in agriculture and was very interested to learn about new plants and their traditional uses in Aboriginal culture.

Ms Turnbull then escorted Mrs Abe to the Art Gallery of New South Wales showing her several exhibitions, including works by Aboriginal Australian and Japanese artists. Mrs Abe also saw the proposed plans for the Sydney Modern extension designed by Japanese architects SANAA.

Mrs Abe and Ms Turnbull met again that evening at Kirribilli House at the official reception in honour of Mr and Mrs Abe hosted by Mr and Ms Turnbull.



Australia-Japan Business Cooperation Committee reception

On the evening of 14 January, the Australia-Japan and the Japan-Australia Business Cooperation Committees (AJBCC and JABCC) hosted a dinner reception for the members of the Japanese business delegation who travelled from Japan with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Delegation members had earlier attended a tourism seminar and business dialogue and the reception hosted by Prime Minister Turnbull and Ms Turnbull. Thus during their visit, delegation members had the opportunity to meet their Australian business counterparts and with many key people, including the Premier of New South Wales, the Australian Ministers for Foreign Affairs and for Trade, Tourism and Investment, the Federal Cabinet Secretary and former prime minister the Hon. John Howard OM AC.



Sir Rod Eddington AO, President of the AJBCC and Dr Akio Mimura AC, Chairman of the JABCC

Growing agricultural ties between Japan and the Northern Territory

On 13 January, Consul-General Keizo Takewaka witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on Agriculture between the Japanese Government (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) and the Northern Territory Government (Ministry of Primary Industry and Resources) at the Austrade offices in Sydney.

This MoC aims to promote agricultural cooperation and the development of The Food Value Chain Project in northern Australia, and it is expected to expand the export of agricultural products produced in Australia to the growing ASEAN market.

