

# A message from the new Consul-General of Japan in Sydney, Mr KIYA Masahiko

*Dear Readers,*

*I arrived in Sydney in early October and have been enjoying getting to know this beautiful city which has such a large and active Japanese community. I hope to travel widely in New South Wales to promote Japan-Australia relations and to learn more about this important state. I also look forward to visiting the Northern Territory with its distinct and strengthened ties.*



*The Japan-Australia relationship is described as a Special Strategic Partnership by our countries' leaders and there is no doubt that our ties are very strong across diverse areas. I am already aware that this strength is built on the great depth of friendship that we share and the dynamic people-to-people exchange between Japan and Australia.*

*The 2019 Rugby World Cup is in full swing as I arrive and Japan has been energised by the contest. More than 40,000 Australians will have travelled to Japan for the Cup. Sporting ties will play an even larger role next year when Tokyo will host the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. I am sure there will be much friendly rivalry between Japan and Australia, particularly in the pool.*

*Finally, I would like to ask for your continued support to enhance exchange between Japan and Australia and to promote strong ties between us.*

*Kiya Masahiko*

## PROFILE

Mr KIYA Masahiko arrived in Sydney in early October to assume his current duties as Consul-General of Japan in Sydney. Mr Kiya is a career diplomat who entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of Japan in 1987.

Prior to Sydney, Mr Kiya held several positions concurrently in Tokyo: Deputy Assistant Minister, African Affairs Department / Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau / International Cooperation Bureau (2017~), Ambassador for TICAD (Oct 2017~), Deputy Assistant Minister for Evidence-based Policy-making (April 2018~) and Ambassador for NGOs (Sept 2018~). His most recent overseas posting was as Ambassador of Japan to South Sudan (2015~2017).

Mr Kiya is a graduate of the University of Tokyo (Law) and earned a Master of Philosophy (International Relations) and a Master of Law at the University of Cambridge.

He has published works on international cooperation and peacebuilding.

## New Foreign Minister

*On 11 September, Prime Minister ABE Shinzo reshuffled his Cabinet to form the 4th Abe Cabinet.*

*As a result of the reshuffle, Mr MOTEGI Toshimitsu became the new Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. The former foreign minister, Mr KONO Taro, is now the minister of defense.*



Foreign Minister  
Motegi Toshimitsu

Minister Motegi is a member of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan (LDP). He was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1993 (Tochigi 5th Electoral District) and has been elected nine times consecutively. Prior to becoming a politician, Mr Motegi had experience working as a political journalist and a management consultant.

He has held various ministerial positions (including time as Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs in 2002) as well as positions within the LDP. Before his current appointment as Minister for Foreign Affairs, he was Minister of State for Economic and Fiscal Policy, Minister in charge of Social Security Reform, and Minister in charge of TPP and Japan-U.S. Trade Negotiations.

The Minister's profile can be found at:

[www.mofa.go.jp/about/hq/profile/motegi.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/about/hq/profile/motegi.html)



On 26 September, Foreign Minister Motegi held a Japan-Australia-India-US Ministerial in New York with Mr Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State of the United States of America, Senator The Hon. Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth of Australia and H.E. Dr S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India.

Photos of the Consul-General's visits and Consulate events are regularly uploaded to our website and Facebook.

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