

Foreign Minister's Commendations awarded to NSW residents

On 1 December 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed the recipients of the Foreign Minister's Commendations for FY 2020. Among the recipients (individuals and groups) were two from New South Wales:

Mr Funayama Seiji, Proprietor of Jun Pacific Corporation Pty Ltd, is among the individual recipients, and **JETAA-NSW**, the NSW Chapter of the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme Alumni Association, is among the groups.

Mr FUNAYAMA Seiji: for services to the promotion of Japanese food culture in Australia

As a Japanese wholesaler, Mr Funayama has contributed to the distribution of Japanese food products for more than 40 years, laying the foundations of the Japanese food market throughout Australia.



JETAA-NSW: for services to the promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and Australia

For more than 30 years, JETAA has promoted Japanese language and Japanese culture by organising various cultural activities. It has also been deeply involved in the administration of the JET Programme, supporting former participants and other JET alumni associations.



Current JETAA-NSW
President Ms Ashlie O'Neil

[Read more about Mr Funayama's and JETAA-NSW's contributions here](https://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/20201201.html)

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His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan to Australia, Mr YAMAGAMI Shingo, who recently arrived in Canberra in December 2020, visited Sydney from 21 to 23 January 2021.

One of his many meetings was with the Chair of the IOC Coordination Commission for Tokyo 2020 and President of the Australian Olympic Committee, Mr John Coates AC.



NSW-Japan economic ties—growing connections

Despite the many difficulties since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, activity in the economic arena has continued to strengthen thanks to cooperation between Japan and NSW in both the public and private sectors.

On 17 December, the NSW Government and the Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney presented a briefing session (webinar), exclusively for the Japanese business community, on the NSW Government's procurement process. Senior leaders from the NSW Government spoke about NSW Government's procurement processes, unsolicited proposals, as well as opportunities in Western Sydney.

If you would like to learn more about Japanese business in NSW, please see our webpage:

www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/japanese_business.html

In his opening remarks at the webinar, Consul-General Kiya Masahiko expressed his gratitude to the NSW Government, conveying how he valued the cooperation between Japan and NSW and their achievements in 2020 given the very challenging environment.