

**Japanaroo Opening Night
Opening Remarks by
Mr Kiya Masahiko
Consul-General of Japan in Sydney**

Friday, 20 August 2021

Good evening! Thank you all for joining the Japanaroo Opening Night!

I hope many have already enjoyed the origami workshop and the Japanese food and drink session. More attractions are coming up.

We are currently facing a big challenge of COVID-19 here in Sydney, NSW, Australia, and indeed throughout the world including Japan.

It is exactly for this reason that we need to demonstrate our strength, our resilience, by enjoying ourselves and entertaining others.

I am glad to see a vibrant Japanese community in Australia. The number of Japanese nationals here is the third largest in the world, after the US and China.

I am also pleased to find that there are so many Australians who love Japan and who know so much about Japan – language, culture, food, sports, anime, tourism, and more.

I believe that you, who are joining this Japanaroo Opening Night, and those who are organizing various events for Japanaroo 2021 are the very “core” people who can realise the great enjoyment and benefits through Japan-Australia collaboration.

We are the Japan-Australia community – the Japanaroo community! Our mission is to work as a catalyst to enrich multiculturalism and enhance prosperity in Australia through our deep connection with Japan.

Let's Japanaroo!

Thank you.

(End)