

Speech

Presented by Mr NAITO Yasushi, Consul-General of Japan in Perth

On the occasion of the Conferment of the Order of Rising Sun, Gold Rays

with Neck Ribbon

On Mr Samuel Maurice Cossart Walsh AO,

Consul-General's Official Residence, Perth, Australia

8th November 2022

H.E. the Honourable Chris Dawson APM, the Governor of Western Australia

The Honourable Richard Court AC, Former Ambassador to Japan and former
Premier of Western Australia,

Her Grace, the Most Reverend Kay Goldsworthy AO, Archbishop of Perth

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening. It is my great pleasure to welcome you all this evening to this ceremony to confer “the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon”, upon Mr Samuel Maurice Cossart Walsh AO in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the promotion of economic relations between Japan and Australia over many years. The announcement of his conferment was made on the 3rd of November 2021 and I am delighted and honoured to host this occasion, to be able to confer this most prestigious Order of Japan to Mr Walsh in person on behalf of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan.

Mr Sam Walsh has made a historic contribution to our economic relations through his career, most famously at Rio Tinto. Throughout his career, Mr. Sam Walsh has visited Japan more than 131 times, building strong and stable relationships with many Japanese and entering into joint ventures with a number of Japanese companies in areas such as iron ore and aluminium.

Australia supplies approximately 60% of Japan's iron ore imports, making Australia one of Japan's most important long-term partners. Rio Tinto, the largest supplier of iron ore to Japan for more than 50 years, shipping more than 1.9 billion tonnes in total, thereby contributing to Japan's post-war economic development. As Iron is "Mother of Industry" and backbone of our modern economy, the sustained efforts and achievements by Mr Sam Walsh made a significant impact toward the success of Japan's economy.

Mr Sam Walsh, as Rio Tinto's CEO Iron Ore and later as CEO of the entire group oversaw the stable supply to Japan and to the world of this vital resource overcoming challenges posed by Lehman Shock with his leadership. And very memorably, Mr Walsh is the very person who made arrangement of the legendary visit of late Prime Ministers ABE Shinzo and Mr Tony Abbot, then-Prime Minister of Australia together to Rio Tinto's Pilbara mines in 2014.

The other day, I had an honour of joining the 50th year celebration of Robe River Joint venture project and there, Mr Walsh shared with me the story of how the

visit of Prime Minister ABE to Robe River project site was planned through his personal interactions with Prime Minister ABE.

8 years later, Perth hosted another historic visit of Japanese Prime Minister last month. Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio and HE Prime Minister Albanese held Leaders Meeting and uplifted the partnership between the two countries to yet another level. This is culmination of efforts made by many Japanese and Australians including people inspired by Mr Walsh. I am glad that on this latest visit by a Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Wash was introduced by Prime Minister Albanese to Prime Minister KISHIDA.

Under Mr Walsh, Rio Tinto also appreciated Japanese technology and products including Komatsu, Hitachi and Bridgestone among others.

In his roles in the Australia-Japan Business Cooperation Committee (AJBCC), including as Vice Chair, he ensured the continuation of the success of the annual meetings, presenting recommendations on policy issues between Japan and Australia, and has been made an Honorary Life Member of the AJBCC in recognition of his exceptional achievements.

Even after retiring from the forefront of the business world, Mr Walsh continued to be actively involved in exchange activities between Australia and Japan and in the promotion of exchanges for young Australians.

Mr. Sam Walsh continued to actively participate platform such as the Australia-Japan Society, the Japan Trade Forum among others. Mr. Walsh has been a supporter of the JET Programme here with his conviction of fostering next generation.

On behalf of Japanese community here in Perth, my predecessors and all the staff of the Consulate, I wish to convey my sincere congratulation to Mr Sam Walsh who made Japanese proud to be true Friends of Australia. Your contributions will continue to benefit both countries for many years to come.

“The Order of the Rising Sun” is the highest order conferred by the Government of Japan, in the name of His Majesty the Emperor, upon those who have made distinguished achievements in international relations, promotion of Japanese culture, achievements in their respective fields, development in welfare or preservation of the environment. Mr Sam Walsh, with my respect and humility, more than merits to be distinguished by the noble cause of the spirit embedded in this Order.

Mr. Walsh, Congratulations and thank you.

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