

**Remarks by NAITO Yasushi, Consul-General of Japan in Perth  
At the signing of the MOU between JOGMEC and the Government of WA  
December 7, 2022**

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted to welcome to Perth Mr HOSONO Tetsuhiro, Chairman & CEO of JOGMEC, the Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security.

JOGMEC is an agency of the Japanese Government which supports the Japanese private sector with finance and research for oil, gas and mineral resource. However, amending its legislation in November, JOGMEC has broadened its portfolio formally to include the production of hydrogen, ammonia, CCS, and offshore wind power as legally mandated responsibility.

JOGMEC as Government Agency, has been a major player in supporting Japanese private sector in the field of energy and mineral resources, and in Australia, JOGMEC has made notable contributions to both the Ichthys and Wheatstone projects.

And how timely it is to have Chairman Hosono visiting WA and representing the “New JOGMEC” to sign this MOU with the Government of Western Australia during the Hydrogen Conference.

It was just 6 weeks ago that Minister MacTiernan received and welcomed Prime Minister Kishida on the tarmac at Perth Airport.

The visit by Prime Minister Kishida and his Leader’s Meeting with Prime Minister Albanese in Perth was a great success, and as a result, the profile of the bilateral “Special Strategic Partnership” has been uplifted to an even higher level.

During the visit, the leaders signed the New Security Cooperation Declaration and confirmed the long-term partnership of energy and mineral resources, agreed on a new partnership for Critical Minerals and agreed on strengthened cooperation in the area of decarbonization, including hydrogen, ammonia, CCS and CCUS.

As Mr Hosono said, Western Australia will be the first government to sign an MOU with the “New JOGMEC”. Japan is very willing to work closely with Western Australia to tackle

our common challenge of energy transition, transforming it to opportunity. We wish to advance firmly and include both Green and Blue Hydrogen and Ammonia.

Japanese companies are participating in, or initiating cooperations in more than 30 projects in the area of decarbonization throughout Australia, and that number only continues to grow.

After the visit by Prime Minister Kishida, the profile of WA has been further heightened in Japan, as a frontline and frontrunner in this energy transition.

In reflecting on the requirements of this era of energy transition, I am certain this MOU will be instrumental for JOGMEC and the Government of Western Australia by enhancing public and private partnerships on advancing the collaboration.

Thank you and congratulations.

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