

## Remarks

**Presented by NAITO Yasushi, Consul-General of Japan in Perth**  
**On the occasion of the Tokyo City University Australia Program (TAP)**  
**Student Farewell Ceremony at Edith Cowan University (ECU)**  
**Monday May 22, 2023**

Mr. Jake Garman, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International),  
Professors and staff of Edith Cowan University,  
Students of Tokyo City University and buddy ambassadors,

(And I am glad that we have Monica Barry, a graduate of ECU as well as TAP buddy ambassador who now works as a cultural officer at Japanese Consulate is with us at this occasion.)

Congratulations on your successful completion of the TAP program at Edith Cowan University. I see you had the fruitful 13 weeks of learning here in ECU. I believe you had precious experiences you would never hope to get should you continue to stay in Japan; how you see Australia, Japan and how it is like to live and study abroad. The world you see now must be different from what you saw at the beginning of this year in Japan. And you will get to know more of it, even after you get back to Japan.

The biggest bilateral breakthrough between Japan and Australia during your stay in Perth was in fact, G7 Hiroshima Summit at the past weekend. Prime Minister Kishida who visited Perth last October, invited leaders of major economies of the world to G7 Hiroshima Summit including Prime Minister Albanese of Australia. Although we had unfortunate cancellation of the visit by US President Biden that led to cancellation of the Quad meeting planned in Sydney this week, a close partnership of Prime Minister Albanese and Prime Minister Kishida, has worked out effectively to materialize the Quad leaders meeting on the sideline of G7 Hiroshima Summit. It was arranged in just few days and landed up with full of important agreement including Quad Investment Network and Quad Fellowship.

If you look at bilateral trade relations, out of Japan's total import, more than 50% of iron ore, 35% of gas and 15% of wheat (which is predominantly for udon noodles) are from Western Australia. Australia is biggest supplier of canola oil, beef and sugar. You will go back to Japan and realize that everyday life in Japan is so much dependent on Australia.

But most importantly, those bilateral relations I mentioned is supported by people-to-people bonds. During your stay in Perth, we had the Perth Japan Festival at the Supreme Court Gardens that I believe many of you also enjoyed. We had a record of more than 160,000 people in attendance. We are blessed with so many Japanese and Australians who are willing to bridge the two countries.

And TCU students are part of the bridge. I was informed that the highlight of student' activity during your stay this time was ECU Japan Festival at the Joondalup Campus in April where kendama, calligraphy and origami experience were so popular among Australian students.

You will now head for Japan and continue your studies and prepare for future professions. Some of you may wish to work in international trade, some may wish to work abroad, some may continue studying, and some may come back to Perth; you have a variety of possibilities. And I am sure insights you had during the TAP program would be useful in showing guidance for the future in some way or another. And for those of you who wish to come back to study or work in Perth, we will be here and welcome you again to this beautiful city.

Congratulations to you all and thank you for your attention.

End