

**Remarks**  
**Presented by NAITO Yasushi, Consul-General of Japan in Perth**  
**On the occasion of the Tokyo City University Australia Program (TAP)**  
**Farewell Ceremony at Murdoch University**  
**Friday May 26, 2023**

Mr. Kelly Smith, Pro Vice Chancellor (International),  
Ms. Celia Cornwell, Director of Strategic Partnerships,  
Diane Rimmer, TAP Program Coordinator,  
Professors and staff of Murdoch University and Murdoch College,  
Students of Tokyo City University and TAP Program Buddies,

Congratulations on your successful completion of the TAP program at Murdoch University. I am delighted to know that all 101 TCU participants completed with excellent attendance and engagement.

I see you had the fruitful 13 weeks of study at Murdoch University. You had precious experiences you may have never experienced should you have stayed in Japan; how you see Australia, how you see Japan and what it is like to live and study abroad. You now have different perspective of Japan, your own country. The world you see now must be different from what you saw at the beginning of this year. You will get realize more how differently you now see the world, even after you get back to Japan. That inspiration and discovery in itself is a great present from the Murdoch TAP Program.

The biggest bilateral breakthrough between Japan and Australia during your stay in Perth was in fact the G7 Hiroshima Summit this past weekend. Prime Minister Kishida, who visited Perth last October, invited leaders of major economies of the world to the G7 Hiroshima Summit, including Australian Prime Minister Albanese. Although we had the unfortunate cancellation of the visit by US President Biden, which led to the cancellation of the Quad meeting planned in Sydney this week, the close partnership of Prime Minister Albanese and Prime Minister Kishida worked effectively to materialize the Quad Leaders' Meeting on the sideline of G7 Hiroshima Summit. It was arranged in just a few days and was full of important agreements, including the Quad Investment Network. We were able to turn a setback into a breakthrough through Japan Australia collaborations.

If you look at the 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 the 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 and some of you served as volunteers and I sincerely thank you for your contributions. We had a record of more than 16,000 people in attendance. We are so blessed with so many cultural ambassadors here in Perth, both Japanese and Australians who are willing to bridge our two countries. You are part of that bridge.

I was told that the highlight of student activities during your stay this time was the Murdoch Japan Festival in April, where calligraphy, origami, tea ceremony, cosplay, yukata experience and martial arts were popular among Australian students. Preparations might have been tiring and time consuming, but you must feel a sense of achievement and that through your sweat and effort, you bridged the distance between Japan and Western Australia.

You will now head for Japan. You will continue your studies and prepare for future professions. Some of you may wish to work in international trade, some may wish work abroad, some may continue studying, and some may come back to Perth; you all have a variety of possibilities for your future. I am sure the insights you gained during the TAP program will be useful in showing guidance 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.

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