

Closing Remarks
Presented by NAITO Yasushi, Consul-General of Japan in Perth
On the occasion of the Introduction of Microbubble Technology for Carbon Geo-Storage
At the Robertson Library, Curtin University
On Wednesday July 26, 2023

The Hon Madeleine King MP, Minister for Resources and Northern Australia;
The Hon Bill Johnston MLA, Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy; Hydrogen Industry; Industrial Relations
Prof Harlene Hayne, Vice Chancellor, Curtin University;
Mr Eiichiro Fujii, MD & CEO of Tokyo Gas Australia,

This session has been most useful in affirming the advancement of technology in carbon management. We thank Tokyo Gas and Curtin University for jointly initiating this innovation. If storage efficiency is increased by 28%, this will make huge difference to the economic viability of the whole project, worth hundreds of millions of dollars. With continued technological development, further efficiency may be achieved.

Carbon Geo-Storage is critically important as we proceed with the stable, reliable and affordable supply of gas for energy security, as well as for energy transition, while managing CO₂ emissions. This is especially so under the revised Safe Guard Mechanism. Major Japanese companies in the energy sector such as Tokyo Gas are making their utmost efforts in this area. We highly appreciate contributions by Curtin University, a world leading university on mining engineering, which is also becoming an intellectual and cultural hub for collaboration with Japan. Indeed, Curtin University hosted the 2nd Workshop on Critical Minerals in collaboration with Fukuoka University last week where 60 academics and representatives of industries from Japan and Australia participated, and at which I made some opening remarks.

It is our hope that the Australian Government and the Government of Western Australia will give encouragement and support to these initiatives; as well as other CCS/CCUS projects underway.

In conclusion, we cherish the longstanding relations between Japan and Australia built around the resources and energy sectors over the years that contributed remarkable economic development to both Japan and Australia. This relationship of mutual trust has been so firm and special, built around bonds between experts supported by people-to-people friendship that have been able to overcome every obstacle and make advances. It is my belief that the relations will lead us to further progress in this period of energy insecurity after the Russian invasion of Ukraine and this time of energy transition. Thank you Minister King and Minister Johnston for making your time available in your extremely busy schedules to join us today.

I wish to thank the Curtin University again for hosting this wonderful session. End