

Remarks

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

On the occasion of the Welcoming Ceremony for TCU students at the Edith Cowan University

Monday August 7, 2023

Prof Steve Chapman, Vice Chancellor of Edith Cowan University,
Professors and Staff of the ECU,
Mr Tachibana, Senior Manager, Tokyo City University
Visiting Students from the Tokyo City University,

I am also happy to have Ms Monica Barry, a cultural officer at the Consulate with us, who is a graduate of ECU as well as a former buddie ambassador of the TAP program. She has just translated the welcome remarks of Vice Chancellor beautifully into Japanese.

(Words of Welcome)

I wish to welcome the students from Tokyo City University to Perth to participate in the TAP program. This is a great opportunity for students from Japan to learn, experience and make friends. After the 16 weeks, I think how you see the world, Japan and Australia will be different. It is going to be fun, but try to make maximum the use of this precious opportunity so that this learning experience will be an important turning point toward your future careers

(Bilateral Relations)

Japan and Australia, Western Australia share very strong ties that were built over the years. And we are fortunate to see much progress recently with Prime Minister Kishida visiting Perth last year, the Premier of Western Australia and Ministers visiting Japan, and Prime Minister Albanese visiting Hiroshima for G7 and Quad Summit. I should also mention at this time of 78th Hiroshima Day that Prime Minister Albanese, at his visit, solemnly showed his respect by laying wreath at the Peace Memorial.

(Resumption of Direct Flight and Exchanges)

And you know the great news about All Nippon Airway's direct flights between Perth-Narita (that takes less than 10 hours) is resuming as of the 29th of October. It is wonderful that resumption of direct flights would enable the volume of exchange to expand.

(Trade with Western Australia)

You will find perhaps through your research that Japan and Australia, especially Western Australia share very strong ties over many years. Economically, 53% of iron ore, 35% of LNG, 15% of wheat are imported from Western Australia. Japan's imported sugar, beef, canola oil are also from Australia. So Western Australia is everywhere in your life in Japan.

(Goodwill ambassadors between Japan and Australia)

We have 8,250 Japanese living in Western Australia and Japanese language is one of most popular foreign language taught in government schools. Learners of Japanese language per capita is one of the highest in the world. You will find friendliness and level of understanding of Japan among people all around you.

That shows the level of mutual trust build over the years through people-to-people interactions between Japan and Australia and is something we cherish very much. We have many goodwill ambassadors that bridge Japan and Australia here, but for the next 16 weeks you will find yourself to be goodwill ambassadors of Japan. It was impressive to hear students speaking of the sense of achievement at the completion ceremony before their departure.

(Words of Appreciations)

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to professors and staff of Edith Cowan University for providing this excellent program to the students of TCU and for promoting exchange between Japan and Australia.

Let me now say a few words to TCU students in Japanese.

貴重な 16 週間の留学の機会を是非有効に活用してください。海外から日本を見つめ、世界を見る、そして自分自身を向上させるチャンスです。問題意識をもって活動し、楽しんで下さい。様々な発見を日本に持ち帰り、さらに咀嚼されることでしょう。こだわりが信念になり職業選択の時にも活かされると思います。今後、留学を続けたり、豪州を含め、世界を相手に活躍する方もおられると思います。

他方、安全で暮らしやすいパスですが、やはり外国ですので各自責任をもって行動し、安全・健康に留意され、旅券等紛失しないよう、犯罪に合うリスクが高まるような行動をしないよう注意してください。具体的には総領事館の担当者より注意がありますので、是非参考にしてください。その上で困った事態となれば総領事館までご相談下さい。

それでは今日から始まる留学経験が皆さんの将来にとり大変みのりのあるものになることを祈念しています。

ありがとうございました。Thank you for your attention.

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