

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 November 13, 2023

Mr Jake Garman, Deputy Vice-Chancellor International,
Professors and staff of Edith Cowan University,
Students from Tokyo City University,
Buddy ambassadors,

And we are again happy to have Ms Monica Barry with us, a graduate of ECU and former buddy, now working for the Japanese Consulate-General as Culture and Information officer.

Congratulations on your successful completion of the TAP program at Edith Cowan University. It was like yesterday that I was here to welcome you in August. I see you had the fruitful 16 weeks of learning here in ECU.

I believe you had precious experiences you would have never hoped to get should you have stayed in Japan. The world you see now must be different from what you saw at the beginning of the program including how you see Australia, how you see Japan and what it is like to study abroad. And you will get to know more of this difference within you, after you get back to Japan.

While you were here in Perth, the ANA Perth-Tokyo direct flight finally took off after three and a half years of COVID suspension, and the Premier and the Deputy Premier became the first passengers of the direct flight and made their visit to Japan. Human interactions and exchanges are expected to be uplifted to another level, and already many delegations from Japan are pouring into Western Australia during the past two weeks.

I am also excited that there are developments of cooperation between ECU and TCU including the joint master course program.

Soon after the World War II, when Japan was at a crossroads, forward thinking leaders of Australia, especially of Western Australia, took the courage to join hands with Japan, overcoming the difficult times and unlocked the potential of two countries to the maximum, first on iron ore and later on LNG to contribute to the world economy and now toward the energy transition in the near future.

This remarkable relationship of the world, I should say, has been based on mutual trust

and supported by robust people-to-people bonds which have been the most important asset between Japan and Western Australia.

During your stay in Perth, you organized the ECU Japan Festival which was one of highlights of your term this time. I was delighted to see Kimono experience, Super Ball Scoop Isobe Yaki and Kehai-Giri were popular among students.

You will now head for Japan and continue your studies and prepare for future professions. Some of you may wish to work abroad, some continue studying, and some may come back to Perth; you have a variety of possibilities.

And I am sure insights and inspirations you had during the TAP program will be useful in showing guidance for the future. 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.
Thank you for your attention.

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