

Remarks

**Presented by NAITO Yasushi, Consul-General of Japan in Perth
On the occasion of the welcome session of the visiting delegation from
the Nagoya Port Authority hosted by Fremantle Ports
On January 31, 2024**

Mr Chris Sutherland, Chairman of Fremantle Ports Board,
Mr Tomoya Yamashita, Vice-Chairperson, Nagoya Port Assembly,
Mr Steve Lewis, Director of the Fremantle Ports Board,
Mr Michael Parker, CEO of Fremantle Ports,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Mr Sutherland and all the officials of Fremantle Ports for welcoming the delegation of the Nagoya Port Authority. The twin-port relationship between Fremantle Ports and Nagoya Ports is now over 40 years and it constitutes a firm basis of people-to-people personal bonds between Japan and Western Australia, as well as trade and investment including energy and resources that led to the remarkable economic success of Japan and Australia.

Since the visit of Prime Minister Kishida to Perth 14 months ago, positive developments followed, including two visits of WA Premiers to Japan last year, the resumption of the direct flights, and even now Minister Madeleine King is visiting Japan to discuss energy and resources partnerships. The Japan-WA relationship is at an all time high and expected to grow further, including areas of new energy and decarbonization solutions. Ports play a vital role in our bilateral relationship, namely the Special Strategic Partnership including economic relations as well as security cooperation.

In celebrating the 40 years in May last year, I was presented by Mr Parker, CEO of Fremantle Ports, with a historical framed picture of Icebreaker Fuji visiting Fremantle in 1968, a touching picture with children welcoming the ship by waving Japanese flag. Human-to-human bonds are the most important asset between Japan and Western Australia.

I sincerely hope fruitful interactions will be made during this visit and strengthen the relation for the next 40 years and beyond.

Thank you for your attention.

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