

Remarks
Presented by NAITO Yasushi, Consul-General of Japan in Perth
On the occasion of the TAP Welcoming Ceremony for TCU students
at the Edith Cowan University
Thursday February 8, 2024

Mr Jake Garman, Deputy Vice-Chancellor International of Edith Cowan University,
Professors, staff and buddies ambassadors at ECU,
Mr Simon Davies-Burrow, Manager of Internationalization at ECU
Tokyo City University students,

(Words of Welcome)

I wish to welcome 107 students from Tokyo City University on the TAP program to Perth. This is a great opportunity for students from Japan to learn, experience and make friends with people from different cultures. After the program's 16 weeks, I believe how you see Australia, Japan and the world will be different.

It is going to be a lot of fun, but I recommend you try to maximize this opportunity as this learning experience will be an important turning point for your future careers.

(Bilateral Relations)

Japan and Western Australia share very strong ties that have been built over many years. Economically, 53% of Japan's imported iron ore, 35% of LNG and 15% of wheat, just ideal for udon noodles are from Western Australia. Japan's imported sugar, beef and canola oil are also from Australia. Western Australia is everywhere in your everyday life in Japan.

(Expanding people-to-people exchanges)

Last year, 2023, was a year of expanding people-to-people exchanges. It was like the blossoming of flowers after a long winter. This included the resumption of ANA's direct flights between Perth and Narita after three and a half years of suspension due to the pandemic. The Premier and Deputy Premier became the first passengers of the direct flight on their first official visit to Japan, strengthening the Japan-WA relationship.

(Goodwill ambassadors between Japan and Australia)

We have 8,500 Japanese citizens living in Western Australia, and Japanese language is one of the most popular foreign languages taught in government schools. You will find friendliness and a level of understanding of Japan among people all around you. This shows the level of mutual trust built over the years through people-to-people interactions between Japan and Australia, and is something we

should cherish deeply. We have many goodwill ambassadors who bridge Japan and Australia, and for the next 16 weeks you will find yourself to be goodwill ambassadors of Japan. It has been impressive to hear TCU students from previous cycles speak of their sense of achievement at their farewell ceremonies before their departure.

(10th Perth Japan Festival)

A major event on our calendar each year is the Perth Japan Festival, a day where the Japanese and WA community come together to celebrate Japanese culture, music and food, and we would like to encourage you all to join, as either volunteers or participants.

The 10th Perth Japan Festival will be held on Saturday 23rd of March at the Supreme Court Gardens, and we welcome you to take the opportunity to enjoy the festivities with your friends and buddies. You will be surprised to see we have so many friends of Japan in Perth, and I am sure it will be an unforgettable experience during your stay in Western Australia.

(Words of Appreciations)

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the many professors and staff of Edith Cowan University for supporting this excellent program and the students of TCU, and for promoting exchange between Japan and Australia. I congratulate you on the massive achievement that more than 1200 students for TCU have completed the TAP program at ECU and more than 600 ECU students have joined EAP being buddy ambassadors to support TCU students since it started in 2016. I am looking forward to welcoming President of Tokyo City University, Professor Yashiro to Perth when he has opportunity visit ECU. Prof Yashiro is the successor of President Miki, who made tremendous contribution to the foundation of the TAP program, and to whom we all have deep appreciation.

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

東京都市大学の皆さん、パースへようこそ。在パース日本国総領事の内藤です。貴重な 16 週間の留学の機会を是非有効に活用して頂ければと思います。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ので、楽しんで下さい。様々な発見を日本に持ち帰り、職業選択の時にも役立つと思います。今後、海外留学を続ける方や、オーストラリアを含め、世界を相手に活躍する方もおられると思います。

皆さんの留学期間には、3月23日(土)にパース日本祭があります。昨年は1万6000人が参加しました。ボランティアも募集していますが、参加できる方は是非楽しんで下さい。きっと忘れられない良い経験になると思います。

パースは安全で暮らしやすい街ですが、やはり外国ですので十分注意して下さい。くれぐれ

も健康には留意され、旅券等紛失しないよう、また犯罪に合うリスクが高まるような行動をしないよう心掛けてください。具体的には総領事館の担当者より注意がありますので、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頂ければと思います。

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実りのあるものになることを願っております。ありがとうございました。

Thank you for your attention.

End.