

**Remarks**  
**Presented by NAITO Yasushi, Consul-General of Japan in Perth**  
**On the occasion of the TAP Welcoming Ceremony for TCU students**  
**at the Murdoch University**  
**Thursday February 15, 2024**

Mr Kelly Smith, Pro Vice Chancellor International, Murdoch University,  
Ms Diane Rimmer, TAP Program Coordinator,  
Nagatomo-Sensei from Tokyo City University,  
Professors and staff of Murdoch University and Murdoch College,  
Students of Tokyo City University and TAP Program Buddies,

*(Words of Welcome)*

I wish to welcome 108 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 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, excellent quality for udon noodles, are all from Western Australia. Western Australia is everywhere in our everyday life in Japan.

*(Expanding people-to-people exchanges)*

Last year we saw a big expansion of people-to-people exchanges. It was like the blossoming of wildflowers 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.

Since then, more people from WA have been visiting Japan, with Tokyo overtaking Bali in December as Australian's favourite holiday destination. And from Japan, delegations have been pouring into Perth, including Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Komura Masahiro visiting Perth just last week to attend the Indian Ocean Conference.

*(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 an amazing level of understanding of Japan among the people around you. The mutual trust built over the years

through personal human interactions 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.

*(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.

The festival this year will also celebrate 50th year anniversary of the Perth-Kagoshima sister city relationship, with the Lord Mayor of Perth in attendance, and will have distinguished traditional music performers from Kagoshima and a showcasing of Japanese culture throughout the day.

*(Words of Appreciations)*

I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the professors and staff of Murdoch University for supporting this excellent program and the students of TCU, and for promoting exchange between Japan and Australia.

I am looking forward to welcoming President of Tokyo City University, Professor Yashiro to Perth at the end of March. Prof Yashiro is the successor of President Miki, who made historic contributions to the foundation of the TAP program, and to whom we all have deep appreciation.

Let me add to share one thing. This year marks another milestone, the 50 years since investment of Tokyu Group to Yanchep's green and sustainable city development, 50km north of Perth. The founding family of Tokyu who contributed to the foundation of Tokyo City University, has deep attachment to the beauty of the land of Western Australia. I understand that President Yashiro plans also to visit Yanchep during his stay to see the development as the train station is finally near completion.

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

東京都市大学の皆さん、世界で最も美しい街パースへようこそ。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でしょう。

皆さんの留学期間には、3月23日(土)にパース日本祭りがあります。去年は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。当地は連日快晴で、時に今日のように40度を越える日もあります。くれぐれも体調には注意され、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。

今回の留学経験が、皆さんの将来にとり実りのあるものになることを心から願っております。ありがとうございました。

Thank you for your attention.

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