

## **Remarks**

**Presented by NAITO Yasushi, Consul-General of Japan in Perth  
On the occasion of a visit from students of Kanto Daiichi High School (Kanto Ichiko)  
At the Official Residence of the Consul-General of Japan  
On Friday March 15, 2024**

Good Morning. Welcome to Perth, one of the most beautiful cities in the world. I am impressed with the English presentations by students on their impression of the 'Study Abroad' tour to Perth this time. I will reciprocate by speaking in English.

Kanto Ichiko (Kanto Daiichi High School) is famous for Koshien baseball, brass band and other extracurricular activities, and it is a dream high school to enjoy your youth time with passion. It is also famous for promoting education in English and I am impressed with your presentations conducted in English.

As you must have realized through this visit, Perth is special place with brilliant climate, safety and very warm people. On top of that, many people are friendly to Japan. Japan and Western Australia have developed strong people-to-people bonds over a long period of time that led to remarkable economic development of the two countries. As a result, we are fortunate to find so many Australians and Japanese who are willing to bridge the two countries. Japanese language is taught in the school education system and is very popular as a foreign language.

Curtin University you visited is one of the world top universities in the area of mining engineering and there are lot of interactions with Japanese universities. Curtin University will establish the Japan Center for Engagement this year. Likewise, we have a very high standard for universities and educational institutions in Western Australia.

We are grateful that the visit of Prime Minister Kishida to Perth one and a half years ago, as well as the resumption of the Perth-Narita direct flight last year has expanded the human-to-human interactions in a big scale.

As one of you have just mentioned, you have learned the magic of intercultural communication through sharing and resonating of your thoughts where English skills play a role but not everything. Through interactions, you must have also found yourself playing a role of a cultural ambassador of Japan through you. These discoveries are precious and they will motivate you to learn even more through intercultural interactions.

I was surprised to hear that the mother-in-law of Vice-Consul Hara present here used to be a teacher of Kanto Ichiko and is the very person who designed the official uniform of Kanto Ichiko that you are wearing right now. And one of our consulate staff is a graduate of Ocean Reef Senior High, your partnership school.

I sincerely hope that this short visit is a useful one for your future learning and career.  
We are looking forward to welcoming you again in Perth.

Thank you for your attention.

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