

**Remarks**  
**Presented by NAITO Yasushi, Consul-General of Japan in Perth**  
**At the Farewell Function for the Adachi delegation hosted by City of Belmont**  
**On Wednesday August 7, 2024**

His Worship the Mayor Robert Rossi,  
Mr Shinobu KUDO, Deputy Mayor of Adachi ku,  
Mr Yu SUGIMOTO, Councillor of Adachi ku  
Mr Kenji YAMAZAKI, the Head of the delegation,  
and all visiting Adachi delegation members,  
Ms Madeleine Rennie,  
Councillor Sekulla,  
Ms Wendy Parsons, Chairperson, Belmont Sister City Association,  
Students from Adachi ku and host families,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am Yasushi NAITO, Consul General of Japan in Perth. I am honoured to join you today and witness the impressive success of the mission that has materialized after 6 years with the persistent efforts of both cities to overcome the obstacles caused by the pandemic.

在パース日本国総領事の内藤でございます。皆様の粘り強い努力でコロナを乗り越え6年越しに実現した工藤副区長をはじめとするミッションが感動的なものとなり、その場に立ち会えたことを光栄に思います。

I wish to congratulate you for the achievement of 40<sup>th</sup> year of sister city relations, which was signed in October 1984. The visit of the delegation of Adachi ku this time in this milestone year has once again affirmed a strong bond that has been built over the years.

ベルモントと足立区による姉妹都市締結40周年、誠におめでとうございます。40周年の祈念すべき年に、有意義なミッションとなり、長年にわたり培われた相互の友情を確かめ合うことができたことに心よりお喜び申し上げます。

I had the privilege of also being invited to the welcome dinner last week and I was so moved to see the reunion of the delegation with Ms Madeleine Rennie, who contributed to the start and development of the sister city relationship all along.

In 2018, the Government of Japan have presented the Order of Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, on behalf of His Majesty the Emperor, to Ms Madeleine Rennie in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and Australia through the sister city relationship.

I was also deeply impressed by the self-introduction of Adachi students and the warm welcome by host families, that shows the Belmont-Adachi relationship is that of true family, based on respect and compassion.

Just now I had conversation with one of the Adachi students and he was so inspired with his interaction with his host family that he has the desire to come back to Belmont or another part of Western Australia in the future to study and even work.

歓迎の席にもご招待を頂きましたが、マデレイン・レニーさんとの涙の再開には感動しました。マデレインさんは、姉妹都市関係の開始当初から発展において多大な貢献をされ、**2018** 年に日本政府により旭日双光章を授与されております。また、足立区を代表する学生の皆さんのはつらつとした自己紹介と温かいホストファミリーの出会いの場面にも立ち合い、家族の再開を想起させる雰囲気を見え、大変感銘を受けました。

本日、足立区の学生と会話をしたところ、ホストファミリーと過ごした数日間で深い示唆を受け、将来、ベルモントもしくは西豪州のその他の都市に再び留学したく、さらに職につけたら素晴らしいと述べてくれました。

The bilateral relationship between Japan and Western Australia, which the City of Belmont plays the role of gateway is at an all-time high. After the visit of Prime Minister Kishida to Perth in October 2022, Japanese investment to Australia in 2023 marked a record high.

53% of Japan's imported iron ore, 30% of LNG and 15% of wheat, just ideal for udon noodles, are from Western Australia. Substantial amounts of Japan's imported sugar, beef and canola oil are also from Australia. Australia is everywhere in our life in Japan, with 8 hours of Japan's electricity owed to energy imported from Australia.

おかげさまでベルモントが空の玄関口をつとめる西豪州全体と日本との関係はかつてないほど強化されています。2022年10月に岸田総理がパースを訪問され、2023年の対豪投資額は過去最高となりました。日本が輸入する鉄鉱石の4割、LNGの3割、小麦の15%は西豪州産です。さとう、牛肉、カノーラ・オイルを含め日本の日常生活には豪州の産品で溢れており、日本で稼働する1日の電力の8時間分はオーストラリアからのエネルギー(石炭とLNG等)で支えられています。

During the difficult time soon after World War II, leaders in WA such as Sir Charles Court moved to make Australia sign a commerce agreement with Japan, and the partnership enabled to development of the iron ore industry and later LNG, which led to the remarkable development of Japan and Australia and contributed to the world economy on a massive scale. Economists say this is a rare success model in modern history. This

relation is supported by human bond based on mutual trust and broadly supported by people-to-people relations including sister city relationships.

戦後の難しい時代にチャールズ・コート元西豪州首相をはじめとする西豪州の方々が中心となって日本と通商条約が締結され、両国のパートナーシップで鉄鉱石、後のLNGといった豪州の資源エネルギー産業が発展し、両国のめざましい経済発展を実現するのみならず、世界経済に大きく貢献しました。これは世界的にも稀有な成功モデルと言われています。そして、この関係を支えているのが相互の信頼に基づく人間関係です。幅広い草の根レベルでの友情に支えられています。

The direct flight by ANA Perth to Narita was resumed in October last year and the impact in the seven months was beyond our expectations. Japan is now one of most popular holiday destinations for Australians. Although the direct is now on a technical pause due to Boeing engine maintenance, it is starting again with three flights per week as of the 14<sup>th</sup> of October, expecting further expansion of human interactions.

昨年3年半ぶりに再開したANA直行便の成果は予想にはるかに越え、日本はオーストラリア人にとり最も人気の高い観光地となりました。4月以降、一時的に停止していますが、10月14日から再び週3便で運行する予定です。

I have had the privilege of having close interactions with the City of Belmont since my arrival. I noted that production of a picture book, "The Adventures of the Belmonster" in both Japanese and English, has been distributed to many schools in Belmont and Adachi ku, which is a testament of the strong love for exchanges with Japan and this creative idea for sustaining meaningful activities even under pandemic was awarded by Sister Cities Association of Australia. This has become a model for the 109 sister cities relationships Japanese cities have with cities in Australia.

着任直後からベルモント市の皆様とは親しくお付き合いをさせて頂いておりますが、コロナの時代であっても、日本語と英語でベルモンの冒険という絵本を制作・配布することで、いつか再開する交流への夢を広げるなどの活動は、全豪の姉妹都市協会でも高く評価され、表彰されています。スワン川沿いの美しい足立パークにも日本への強い思いが詰まっております。

In conclusion, I wish the planned visit of the Belmont delegation next January, to formally renew the sister city agreement in January, as well as all the exchange activities will also be successful and sincerely hope for the further development of the friendship between City of Belmont and Adachi ku in the decades to come.

Thank you for your attention.

来年1月にロッシ市長はじめとするベルモント代表団が足立区を訪問され、姉妹都市40周年と姉妹都市関係の更新を正式な形で署名されるとうかがっておりますが、ベルモントと足立区の友情が、今後もさらに長きにわたり発展していくことを心より祈念しております。

長くなりましたが、私の挨拶とさせていただきます。

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