

Welcome remarks
Presented by NAITO Yasushi, Consul-General of Japan in Perth
On the occasion of the Japanese Choir Sakura's Special Concert
Celebrating 35 Years of Harmony
Saturday October 19, 2024

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to start by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land on which we are meeting this afternoon, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation, and pay my respects to their Elders, past, present, and emerging.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to this special concert of the Japanese Choir Sakura. It is a private choir group comprised of music-loving residents of the Japanese community in Perth that started their activity 35 years ago in 1989.

For the past 35 years, they have been encouraging people in need by offering harmony of Japanese songs as well as Australian and other international songs by visiting various facilities.

The Consulate-General of Japan has the pleasure of working with the Choir Sakura who presented the National Anthems at the Emperor's Birthday Celebration this year, also joined in the Perth Japan Festival that attracted 20,000 people and at events to remember those who lost their lives in natural disasters.

We are fortunate to have the Japanese Choir Sakura in our community, whose beautiful voice and caring smile and harmony lit a flame of friendship that bridged Japan and Western Australia. To me, and to other Japanese expats, their songs evoke nostalgic feelings and memories away from home.

Congratulation on your 35th anniversary.

I wish also take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to Father Thomas and the Chapel to honour Our Lady, Queen of Poland to make this beautiful chapel hall available to the Japanese Choir group.

Today, Japanese Choir Sakura is singing in appreciation of all the supports they received in the 35 years.

Let us all enjoy.

End.