

Remarks

**Presented by NAITO Yasushi, Consul-General of Japan in Perth
At JCCIP Seminar on Yanchep Two Rocks project and Shark Bay Salt project on
Thursday 14 November, 2024**

(Acknowledgments and welcome)

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

The Hon John Quigley MLA, Attorney General and Minister for Electoral Affairs,
The Hon Tracy Roberts MP and Mr Peter Roberts,
Ms Lorna Clark, Labour candidate for Butler,
Mr Gin Wah Ang, CEO of Yanchep Beach Joint Venture, as well as Managing Director of Yanchep Suncity and Tokyu Corporation Australia,
Mr Hidetaka Honda, CEO and Managing Director of Shark Bay Salt Australia,
Ladies and Gentleman,

Welcome to this Seminar co-hosted by the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Perth and the Japanese Consulate. Welcome again to the Official Japanese Residence, a Heritage building of Western Australia, 'Minawara', built by the 5th Premier Sir Walter James in 1900, and leased indefinitely to the Japanese Government 50 years ago.

(Yanchep and Two Rocks projects)

That same year, 1974, was also the year that Tokyu made an investment in Yanchep. I wish to express my sincere congratulations to Tokyu Corporation and Joint Venture Partners for the 50 year anniversary of the Yanchep Two Rocks Project and the achievements you made.

As you can see, the flowers today arranged by my wife are done with the inspiration of the Yanchep Indigenous Botanical Garden.

In September, I had the honour of welcoming Chairman Nomoto and President Horie of Tokyu Corporation to celebrate the 50th year celebration of the project.

The vision of a “Clean Green Sustainable City” resonates with many people in Western Australia.

The Yanchep Two Rocks Project became a symbol of friendship between Japan and Western Australia. At the University of Western Australia campus, we find a plaque at the Japanese Garden donated and opened by Mr Noboru Goto, then-President of Tokyu Corporation, opened soon after the investment in Yanchep. The plaque says the garden is “for promoting mutual understanding and goodwill between Japan and Australia”.

The dream was sustained for decades by Tokyu and was enhanced by Mr Nomoto. The “Clean Green Sustainable City” was envisioned by Mr Gin and his father 17 years ago, which led to the achievement of today.

Thanks to the Government of Western Australia, the METRONET rail to Yanchep was connected, so dramatically in the year of the 50th year celebration. It has opened a new chapter of the development.

We are happy to have this opportunity to know the story of Yanchep Two Rocks development and its further journey ahead.

(Shark Bay Salt)

The other presentation is about Shark Bay Salt project of Mitsui & Co. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to listen to the presentation by Mr Hidetaka Honda who has been working here for more than 6 and half years.

Toward the resumption of ANA Perth to Narita flight last year in October, we tried to bring someone iconic and famous from Japan to Perth, and thought about bringing in Takakeisho, a popular Sumo champion, who retired just 2 months ago. The plan to bring him to Perth was not only because former Premier Mark McGowan liked Sumo very much, but also because Takakeisho used Shark Bay Salt at the Osaka basho, sprinkling the salt every time he stepped up to the Dohyo, the sumo wrestling ring as a traditional ritual for purification of the sacred space for wrestling. We look forward to an interesting story on Salt that bridges Japan and WA.

(2025 the year of opportunity for WA Japan relations)

We see a big opportunity in Western Australia, as AJBCC/JABCC joint business conference

will be held in Perth 5-7 October next year. The ANA Perth-Tokyo direct flight resumed again last month, this time operating all year round. 830,000 Australians visited Japan in the past year including the Lord Mayor of Perth this month and the Governor of Western Australia last month.

We also see developments around the Australian Future Frigate program, opportunity of further security cooperation in Western Australia, and Japan hosting the APRSAF space conference at the end of this month.

The level of human interactions will increase to a greater level, as we already see many delegations from Japan pouring into Western Australia. And with the Osaka Kansai Expo in April to October next year, one million Australians are expected to visit Japan in the year ahead.

The Japan Australia relationship on economic and political fronts are stronger than ever and will be even more important in the difficult international situations ahead, and especially so after the US presidential election including critical alliance management.

We see big opportunity ahead as an important part of Japan Australia relations are happening here in Western Australia.

I hope we can maximize the opportunity by showing the hidden jewel such as Yanchep Two Rocks and Shark Bay Salt to promote WA Japan relations.

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