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The Perth Express 読者の皆様、あけましておめでとうございます。在パース日本国総領事館を代表して、新年のご挨拶を申し上げます。

西豪州から日本に鉄鉱石や LNG、小麦等の多くの鉱物・エネルギー資源、食料がもたらされています。一方で、日本からは、自動車、建設機械を輸出しているほか多くの投資が西豪州の開発に向けられており、まさしく日本と西豪州は補完関係にあります。

昨年1月に日豪 EPA が発効し、10月には我が国や豪州も参加する環太平洋パートナーシップ (TPP) 交渉が大筋合意に至り、日・西豪州間のビジネス関係の更なる発展の推進力を与えることが期待されています。

今年は4月に「LNG18」という世界中から業界関係者が数千人規模で集まる大規模な会議がパースで開催されます。また、その他にも経済関係の大規模な会議がパースで開催されると承知しています。これまで日本が関わりの深かった資源・エネルギーや農業分野に加えて、豪州政府が力を入れているイノベーション分野等様々な分野で日・西豪州の経済関係が拡大していくものと期待しています。

さて、昨年の西豪州と我が国の関係を振り返りますと、日本の文化理解の促進のために様々なイベントが行われた年でもありました。3月に第2回パース日本祭りが開催され、規模、内容とも充実した同イベントは、15,000人以上の参加者も得て、成功裏に終わりました。日本文化発信の様々な機会を通じて、日本と西豪州の友好関係が深まったことを大変嬉しく思います。

今年は、兵庫県と西豪州、和歌山県太地町とブルーム町との姉妹都市締結 35 周年の佳節となります。2月27日に予定されている第3回パース日本祭りは、兵庫県と西豪州の35周年記念事業として開催されます。日本祭では、京都の舞妓さん、兵庫県の芸能団体による舞台公演を計画しています。更に、今年は、東京都市大学と ECU (エディスコリアン大学) の協力の下、東京都市大学の学生約 200 名が ECU に留学します。このような

豪日の若者の交流の機会を増やすべく、当館も JET 事業、留学生事業等を通じ取り組んでいきたいと思っています。

また、昨年には日・西豪州関係の深化に功績のあった2人の方が表彰を受けました。1人目は、パトリック・ホワイト氏で、これまで西豪州豪日協会会長として日本との友好・親善に尽力された功績に対する旭日小綬章受章です。2人目は、ケント・アンダーソン西豪州大学副学長で、豪州における日本語教育を通じて、日豪の相互理解の促進に尽力された功績に対する外務大臣表彰受賞です。

現在、国際情勢は大きく変わり、海外の邦人の安全をいかに図るかが日本政府の課題です。外務省の「在外邦人の安全対策強化に係る検討チーム」による提言がなされ、当館も在留邦人の皆様の安全確保に一層努めていく所存ですので、何卒ご協力の程よろしく願いいたします。

Let me begin by wishing *The Perth Express* readers a Happy New Year, before saying a few words of greeting for the New Year on behalf of the Consulate-General of Japan in Perth.

Western Australia is an important source of natural resources and agricultural products for Japan, including wheat, LNG and iron-ore, but it also enjoys the benefit of Japanese investment, vital to the development of the state, in addition to the import of various products such as vehicles and construction machinery. The relationship between Japan and Western Australia is a truly complementary one.

In January 2015, the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement came into effect, followed in October by in-principal agreement on the TPP negotiations. We look forward to seeing the increased impetus that this will bring to the growth of this business relationship between Japan and WA.

This coming April, Perth will host LNG18 - the 18th International Conference & Exhibition on Liquefied Natural Gas, expected to draw thousands of senior LNG officials from around the world. I understand that there will also be a number of other significant economic conferences taking place in Perth over the coming year. In addition to the traditionally strong ties in areas of natural resources, energy and agriculture, it is my expectation that the economic relationship between WA and Japan can only increase in scale in many other fields also, as the Australian Government concentrates its efforts on boosting innovation.

Taking a brief look back on the past year in the

WA-Japan friendship, there were a number of events held to promote a deeper appreciation of Japanese culture. The 2nd Japan Festival Matsuri in Perth took place in March, and was a highly successful event, attracting over 15,000 people. It greatly pleases me to see the way in which the friendship is being strengthened through events such as this and other opportunities which showcase the Japanese culture.

This year, the WA-Hyogo Sister State and the Broome-Taichi Sister City relationships will celebrate their 35th anniversaries. There will be a special celebration of the WA-Hyogo anniversary during the upcoming 3rd Japan Festival Matsuri in Perth on February 27. Plans are being made for stage performances by authentic Maiko from Kyoto, and a performance troupe from Hyogo Prefecture. This year will also see the start of a program to bring 200 university students each year from Tokyo City University to study in Perth in cooperation with Edith Cowan University. Such youth exchange must be encouraged, and we will promote and facilitate this wherever we can through opportunities such as the Japan Exchange Teaching Programme and study exchange programs and scholarships.

Of course, I should also take this opportunity to mention that two people were recognized here in WA last year for their efforts to foster a deeper and stronger relationship between Western Australia and Japan. The first, Mr Patrick D. Whight, received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, in recognition of his efforts to bring our two countries closer together as the former President of the Australia Japan Society of WA. The second was the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Community Engagement at UWA, Professor Kent Anderson, who was awarded the Foreign Minister's Commendation in recognition of his work to deepen the level of mutual understanding between Australia and Japan through Japanese language education.

In the current international climate, one of the challenges for the Japanese Government is ensuring the safety of Japanese nationals around the world. In line with the recommendations of the advisory committee to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on strengthening safety measures for Japanese expatriates, the Consulate-General of Japan will strive in the coming year to do this for all Japanese nationals living here in Western Australia. I would ask for your cooperation in this endeavour over the coming year, and to helping us make the Japan-WA friendship stronger than ever.