

**Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's successful visit to Australia and New Zealand
enhances cooperation and partnership**

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The Australian and New Zealand Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ANZCCJ) welcomes the enhanced cooperation and partnership achieved by the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to Australia and New Zealand, which took place from 6 to 9 July.

Prime Minister Abe received a warm welcome by the New Zealand Prime Minister Rt. Hon John Key in Auckland on 7 July. The two leaders acknowledged the success and maturity of the New Zealand-Japan bilateral relations over many years. In addition to expressing their commitment to concluding a Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement, Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Key welcomed increased bilateral cooperation in sport, particularly for Japan's hosting of the Rugby World Cup in 2019. Both leaders participated in the launch of "Game On English," an education programme offered by New Zealand to provide intensive English language courses with sports training. Prime Minister Abe's stay in New Zealand was concluded by his visit to Christchurch where he paid tribute to the victims of the 2011 earthquake.

Prime Minister Abe was formally welcomed to Canberra by the Australian Prime Minister Hon Tony Abbott on 8 July and addressed the Parliament to acknowledge Japan's friendship and regard for Australia. Both leaders signed the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) for free trade and investment and concluded a deal on the joint development of defense equipment. Prime Minister Abe said stronger and "special" Japan-Australia ties built on common values and strategic interests will contribute to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. On 9 July, Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Abbott travelled to the Pilbara region of Western Australia and visited Rio Tinto's West Angelas mine, an Australian-Japanese joint venture operation, to see Rio's world-leading next-generation technology mining equipment.

The ANZCCJ Chair Melanie Brock was in Australia for the visit and states, "Prime Minister Abe's visit to Australia and New Zealand was an important milestone for the bilateral relations between Japan and Australia/New Zealand. It will enhance an already strong trading relationship, promote closer regional security and create further opportunities for the business community in the three countries. "

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About the ANZCCJ

The Australian and New Zealand Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ANZCCJ) was established in 1991 to promote the development of commerce between Australia and Japan, and New Zealand and Japan. It is a non-profit organization with approximately 600 members. ANZCCJ's mission is to play a constructive and meaningful role in developing Australia/New Zealand-Japan business by providing members with an effective source of information, representation and commercial connections.

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