

For Immediate Release

**The Australian and New Zealand Chamber of Commerce (ANZCCJ) to Host Reception
Welcoming Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (JAEPA)**

14 January 2014

The Australian and New Zealand Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ANZCCJ) welcomes the implementation of the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (JAEPA) entering into force on 15 January 2015. The agreement provides two rounds of tariff cuts: one on entry into force and the other on 1 April 2015, with further phased tariff reductions on 1 April in subsequent years.

To celebrate this important milestone in Australia-Japan relations, the ANZCCJ will host a reception on Thursday, January 15, 2015 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Australian Embassy in Tokyo. The event will feature a keynote speaker: Yorihiro Kojima from Mitsubishi Corporation with guests from the ANZCCJ as well as the Australian and New Zealand Embassy.

Melanie Brock, Chair of the ANZCCJ, shares the positive sentiment expressed by the Australian business community in Japan. "This is a significant development for Australia-Japan bilateral relations. Our members appreciate the work undertaken by both governments to ensure business conditions improve and that trade and investment between our two countries increases. It is a great day for the Australian business community in Japan and we are all looking forward to moving things to the next stage."

Upon the implementation of the JAEPA, Australian Ambassador to Japan Bruce Miller states, "The story of cooperation does not end with entry-into-force. We will continue to work with business and with the Japanese government to ensure that the agreement is implemented smoothly and in a way that facilitates trade and investment in the coming months and years."

Since its establishment in 1972, the ANZCCJ has been a strong advocate for promoting bilateral trade and economic relations between Australia and Japan. ANZCCJ members have worked with both the Australian and Japanese governments to realise the benefits under the JAEPA.

JAEPA was signed in Canberra on 8 July 2014 during Prime Minister Abe's visit to Australia. Further detailed information can be found at: <http://www.dfat.gov.au/fta/jaepa/>

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About the ANZCCJ

The Australian and New Zealand Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ANZCCJ) was established in 1972 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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