

Good afternoon everyone,

It is my great pleasure to be invited to today's ceremony to mark the opening of J-Air's Pilot Training Facility.

I would like to offer my congratulations to all instructors and incoming students on the opening of your training course. I must admit I am very envious of you all. When I was younger, it was my dream to be a pilot. I am very glad that you are all here to realise your dream.

I recently met with The Honourable Zoe Bettison, the new South Australian Minister for Tourism and Multicultural Affairs. Zoe very much wanted to be here today, but being a sitting day she is required in parliament. She told me she is looking forward to meeting you all and that she would like to arrange some site visits in Adelaide during your time here so you can share your experiences about South Australia in Japan after you have graduated.

I am sure you are going to enjoy your time in Adelaide and become fans of South Australia. I arrived in Melbourne in January last year, and have since made fourteen visits to South Australia. It is a state that is growing quickly across important sectors such as space, aerospace, defence, agriculture, med-tech and renewable energy thanks to the hard work of the state government and business leaders. Japan is a very important market for South Australia and I am looking forward to seeing the further growth of two-way trade and investment. I am also looking forward to seeing more tourists visit South Australia from Japan once our borders are fully open. There is almost no time difference so we don't need to worry about jet lag.

I wish you all the best of luck throughout your course, and I am looking forward to coming back for your graduation in 12 months where I'm sure you will have all changed! I hope to one day be your passenger on a Japan Airlines flight somewhere in the world!

Thank you.