

Harmony of the “Melbourne QUAD Quartet”

Today, I would like to introduce a musical ensemble “Melbourne QUAD Quartet”.

The term ‘QUAD’ refers to a diplomatic network among the four countries of Japan, Australia, the United States and India. In order to express this wonderful cooperation in the form of musical harmony and to help more people understand about QUAD, I have decided to ask four Melbourne-based professional musicians to play an instrument from each of the country. Japanese koto player Mr Brandon Lee, Indian sitarist Dr Sarita McHarg, American guitar and harmonica player Mr George Kamikawa, and finally Australian percussionist Mr Matt Stonehouse joined for a rehearsal/performance night in May. The theme of the song was “Free and Open Ocean”, and the audience was captivated by the beautiful harmony which symbolise the cooperation that the four QUAD countries strive for.



<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1leuFVVE5hWlvzdE4r1wkc3kNbVMSd0eN/view>

In early June, the Melbourne QUAD Quartet had the opportunity to perform at the welcome reception for the “QUAD Fellowship Program”, which brought together 25 young people from each of the four QUAD countries, at the official residence of the Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC CVO. I was delighted to hear from the participants, who listened to the performance intently, that the performance is in tune with the harmony that the four countries are aiming for.

The performance received high praise from the organiser, Governor Linda Dessau, who described it as a wonderful experiment, and from Mr Tim Pallas MP, Treasurer of Victoria

and Minister for Trade and Investment, who commented that it was a groundbreaking performance – perhaps the first of its kind in the world.

I would like to thank the four musicians who took time out of their busy schedules to attempt on this brilliant session. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to Governor Linda Dessau, the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the Victorian Government, the U.S. Consulate-General, the Consulate-General of India, and all others involved for making this possible.

