

Thank you for inviting me to make some opening remarks at this National Hydrogen Strategies Conference. I would like to acknowledge Dr. Gerry Groot from The University of Adelaide for his hard work in bringing the conference together, and the Australian Institute of International Affairs in South Australia for its support.

As Consul-General of Japan for Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, I make frequent visits to Adelaide and I am very pleased to be back again.

I am delighted that the relationship between Australia and Japan in the field of renewable energy is developing at such a fast rate and it is exciting that there are so many hydrogen-related projects taking place around the country.

For such large projects to be successful, it is important for companies and individuals to use their initiative, and overcome challenges through the sharing of ideas. There are many ways to foster mutual trust through the deepening of face-to-face communication, such as holding conferences like this and making project site visits. It is this trust between our two countries that will see us prosper in our endeavours.

By strengthening our communication, we can overcome any difficulties. A strong relationship between government and the private sector is very important, which I am pleased to have witnessed first-hand in South Australia on many occasions.

Earlier this month, I was delighted to be in Adelaide for the Toyota Hydrogen Showcase, which demonstrated Hydrogen Fuel Cell Technology to attendees. Toyota used this event to bring over its new Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus, its Hiace Kitchen Car, and its EODEV Hydrogen Generator for guests to interact with.

The South Australian government is investing more than half a billion dollars in hydrogen projects, infrastructure, and tools, and its engagement with key players around the world has led to its success in this sector so far.

Japanese involvement in these projects is significant, following Statements of Cooperation signed between the South Australian government and individual companies including Mitsubishi Heavy

Industries, Kawasaki Heavy Industries, and Marubeni during a visit by Premier Malinauskas to Tokyo in October of last year. In 2021, the Japanese Ministry of the Environment selected Marubeni Corporation's hydrogen production project in South Australia as a pilot project to export green hydrogen to the Indo-Pacific region.

As you may also know, the Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain, or HESC, project in Victoria successfully completed its Pilot stage in February of last year, with the arrival of the Suiso Frontier in Kobe carrying liquefied hydrogen extracted from brown coal in the Latrobe Valley.

In March of this year, it was announced that Japan Suiso Energy will allocate the Japanese Government's Green Innovation Fund grant of 220 billion yen, or \$2.35 billion Australian dollars, to the commercial demonstration phase of the HESC project. The HESC project has the potential to reduce global CO₂ emissions by 1.8 million tonnes a year in the future, which is the equivalent of taking 350,000 petrol cars off the road. This project is critical to the Japanese economy and Japan's future energy demands.

The Japanese government is seeking to achieve global carbon neutrality by 2030 and I am looking forward to seeing this realised through the above and many other exciting projects taking place around Australia.

I hope to meet with many of you throughout the day today and I look forward to seeing the outcomes of the upcoming conversations.

Thank you.