

Emeritus Professor Purnendra Jain of the University of Adelaide

Today I would like to introduce Emeritus Professor Purnendra Jain of the University of Adelaide, a leading scholar of Japanese Studies in Adelaide, South Australia. As Consul-General of Japan in Melbourne, one of the official events that took place immediately after my arrival in Melbourne was the conferral ceremony of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon to Professor Jain in Adelaide. The medal and certificate I presented to Professor Jain at the ceremony were the ones I brought with me when I came to Melbourne on assignment. The ceremony became an unforgettable and valuable experience for me.



Since then, we have been in contact with each other, both officially and privately. Professor Jain is not only a specialist in Japanese domestic policy, but also has deep insights into Japan's foreign policy. We have also been exchanging views on the future prospects of QUAD as well.

Last year in 2022, a liaison council which consists of ten (currently nine) organisations involved in Japan-Australia relations was established in Adelaide. When it came to deciding who would be the chairperson of the council, the first person that came to my mind was Professor Jain, who is well respected and trusted by all of the organisations. Although Professor Jain was reluctant at first as he specialises in political science and is not so familiar with local affairs in Adelaide, he has successfully chaired five meetings so far. As a result, collaboration and cooperation between these organisations has increased significantly.

This year, I have had many opportunities to work with Professor Jain at seminars. Only recently, Professor Jain and his wife visited Melbourne for the first time in many years and stayed overnight at the official residence. Professor Jain, who is an Australian of Indian heritage, is also a master of the Bansuri, an ancient Indian transverse flute. A few years ago, he played Bansuri at the 'Kodomo no Hi (Children's Day) Japan Festival' in Adelaide. After enjoying an authentic Japanese meal on the night of his stay at the official residence, Professor Jain kindly played some relaxing Indian music on his Bansuri for us. We spent a luxurious time while the fireplace was lit.

