

Good afternoon everyone,

I would like to sincerely thank you all for being here today to celebrate the opening of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Adelaide.

I am sure you will agree with me that this wonderful show of support is indicative of the growing strength of the South Australia-Japan relationship. I am truly grateful to all of you. It is certainly true that Japanese interest in South Australia is on the rise.

In terms of the economy, many Japanese companies have entered the market and cooperation between the South Australia government and Japanese companies is being promoted, including the promotion of Hydrogen through investment in South Australia's H2U project. The Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Adelaide was officially launched in May to symbolize this growing presence.

In addition, the headquarters of the Australian Space Agency is located in South Australia, the state where the Hayabusa2 capsule was collected. I am delighted to see space cooperation between South Australia and JAXA, as well as growth in defence, and I am looking forward to seeing the continued development of these industries.

The Government of Japan will need to work even more closely with South Australia into the future, whether the leaders are red or blue, Port Power or Adelaide Crows.

Today we have present many South Australian government officials, Japanese companies, Japanese people doing business with Adelaide, and Australia-Japan-related organisations. I hope you will make the most of the wonderful networking opportunities available.

I am based in Melbourne but my passion for visiting Adelaide is stronger than ever - our office accountant would perhaps argue 'too strong'! In the future, I would like to enhance the Japanese government's presence in Adelaide even further and I look forward to seeing the growth of JCCI Adelaide in cooperation with the Government of South Australia.

I hope you will all have a wonderful afternoon and have the chance to make some new friends and I look forward to working with you all.

Thank you.