

Award to Sam Walsh AO - Order of the Rising Sun

I write to congratulate Sam Walsh AO, on the occasion of the conferment of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, for his contributions to economic relations between Australia and Japan. I am sorry that I am unable to attend the ceremony in person.

This is a richly deserved award. In a lifetime of service, Mr Walsh has made an outstanding contribution to the Australia-Japan business relationship, and to the bilateral relationship more broadly. He played a pivotal role in the development of the relationship between Australia and the Japanese steel industry, both as a purchaser of Japanese steel in his early years, and as a supplier of high-quality iron ore to Japanese steel producers. He first visited Japan in 1984 as purchasing manager of General Motors Holden Pty Ltd, and in the years since, has returned more than one hundred and thirty times. The esteem in which he is held, and the networks of trusted contacts he enjoys there, are second to none, and extend to the highest levels, including hosting then Prime Minister Abe Shinzo on a visit to the Pilbara in July 2014, and being present for the signing of the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (JAEPA).

Mr Walsh's contribution to the Australia Japan Business Co-operation Committee (AJBCC) exemplifies his service to the Australia-Japan economic relationship. First elected to the Executive Committee in 2005, his knowledge and experience of Japan hugely benefited the AJBCC. He served as our Vice-President from 2008-2013. In 2021 he was appointed an Honorary Life member of the AJBCC, and in October 2022 he was named as an inaugural member of the AJBCC's newly formed Advisory Council. I thank him for his ongoing contribution and congratulate him on his receipt of this prestigious award.



Peter Grey
President
Australia Japan Business Co-operation Committee

8 November 2022