

# Celebrating the Dynamism & Vitality of the Australia-Japan Relationship



50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
SOUVENIR



AUSTRALIA - JAPAN  
BUSINESS CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

Design and Production by Monica Mosmondor  
Printed by TRENDSETTING PTY LIMITED, Canberra



### Cover Photographs

From the left:

Mr Nagano, second from the right, who in 1961 suggested that a formal link be established between Australian and Japan business organisations – see page 27

1963 – The First Australia/Japan Joint Meeting, Tokyo – see page 21

1964 – Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies meets some of the AJBCC and JABCC leadership in Canberra – see page 25

1964 – The Second Australia/Japan Joint Meeting, Canberra – see page 25

ABN 71 702 049 953

Australia Japan Business Business Co-Operation Committee

**Street Address:**

C/- Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Level 3, Commerce House  
24 Brisbane Avenue  
BARTON  
ACT 2600 Australia

**Postal Address:**

PO Box 6005  
KINGSTON  
ACT 2604 Australia

Telephone: +61 2 6270 8030

Facsimile: +61 2 6273 3196

Email: [ajbcc@acci.asn.au](mailto:ajbcc@acci.asn.au)

Web: [www.ajbcc.asn.au](http://www.ajbcc.asn.au)

© Australia Japan Business Business Co-operation Committee 2012  
This work is copyright. Reproduction is permitted, with direct attribution and notification to the Australia Japan Business Business Co-Operation Committee

Design and Production by Monica Mosmondor  
Printed by TRENDSETTING PTY LIMITED, Canberra

### The affiliations of the Australian Delegates to the First Joint Meeting, May 1963, Tokyo – see page 23

- Mr J.N. Walker (Leader)*  
President, AJBCC,  
Immediate Past President,  
Associated Chambers of Manufactures of  
Australia, Managing Director,  
Janzen Australia Ltd
- Mr H. G. Ensten (Deputy Leader)*  
Deputy President, AJBCC  
General Manager and President, The English  
Scottish and Australian Bank Ltd
- Mr R.J. Webster*  
Treasurer, AJBCC  
Managing Director, Bradford Cotton Mills Ltd  
Past President, Associated Chambers of  
Manufactures of Australia
- Mr L.B. Evans*  
Member of the Executive, AJBCC  
Managing Director, Makower McBeath &  
Co. Pty Ltd
- Mr T.M. Ramsay*  
President, Associated Chambers of  
Manufactures of Australia (A.C.M.A)  
Governing Director, Kiwi Polish Co., Ltd
- Mr W.E. Lee*  
Birt & Co., Ltd
- Mr G.R. May*  
Managing Director, Gollin & Co., Ltd
- Mr W.A. Ashton*  
Vice President, Associated Chambers of  
Manufactures of Australia  
Managing Director, Wesfarmers Cleanheat  
Gas Co., Ltd.
- Mr W.M. Morgan*  
Managing Director, Western Mining  
Corporation
- Mr J.S. Gale*  
Dalgety & New Zealand Loan  
Chairman, National Council of Wool Selling  
Brokers
- Mr R.W.C. Anderson*  
Executive Director General, AJBCC  
Federal Director, Associated Chambers of  
Manufactures of Australia



## FOREWORD



The 'Australia in the Asian Century' White Paper, commissioned by Prime Minister Gillard of Dr Ken Henry AC and handed to her in October 2012 is very clear in identifying Japan, together with China, India, Indonesia and

South Korea as the five key economies of the region. Australia does not have the same quality or breadth of relationship with the other four that matches the present relationship with Japan. This is understandable given the intensity of the contact that has occurred bilaterally over the past fifty years.

In March 1961, Mr Shigeo Nagano, a Vice Chairman of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce & Industry and President of Fuji Steel led a Goodwill and Trade Mission to Australia. In Canberra, when meeting with Australian Industry Associations, he proposed the establishment of a bilateral business co-operation committee with an aim to contribute to the development of the Japan-Australia economic relationship by promoting mutual understanding and cooperation between the two countries' business communities.

The Australia Japan Business Co-operation Committee (AJBCC) was established on 28th August 1962 and the counterpart JABCC on 6th February 1963. Fifty years later, Australian and Japanese businesses still celebrate the vision and courage of the politicians and bureaucrats in both countries who conceived and negotiated the Australia-Japan Agreement on Commerce of 1957. For most of the subsequent decades, Japan has been Australia's largest two way trade partner.

The strong bi-lateral relationship is based on deep-economic, political, security, cultural, educational, and people-to-people links.

This publication reproduces some of the pertinent historical documentation of the early years of the AJBCC. The early interaction with the JABCC is captured via the Minutes and Joint Statement of the first Joint Meeting (Conference) of May 1963 and the Communique and Joint Statement of the second and third Joint Meetings. From these early years, there was an awareness of the benefits that would arise from regional cooperation. Both the Co-operation Committees initiated the establishment of the Pacific Basin Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (PBEC).

The Basic Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation of 1976 and the cooperative activities such as the AJBCC-JABCC Exchange Scheme and the Australia Japan Business Forum (AJBF) of the 'middle years' are referenced. Since the beginning of the millennium, the AJBCC and JABCC have championed the cause of a comprehensive, WTO consistent Economic Partnership/Free Trade Agreement (EPA/FTA) and look forward to the eventual signing of that agreement.

The 'milestone' 50th anniversary year has been celebrated throughout the year and in both countries. The 50th Anniversary Australia-Japan Joint Business Conference held in October 2012 in Sydney was the highlight of the calendar of events. We were honoured by the presence of the Honorable Julia Gillard MP, Prime Minister of Australia, as the Guest of Honour and her delivery of the Australia Japan Foundation Address at the Conference Dinner.

There remains considerable scope for the further strengthening of the bilateral Australia-Japan relationship. This should happen alongside deeper regional integration as our two countries look to build on their Asia wide links.

**Sir Rod Eddington AO**  
President, AJBCC