CONSULATE UPDATES

Message from Consul-General NAGAYOSHI Shoichi



I am NAGAYOSHI Shoichi, and I have recently taken up my appointment as the Consul-General of Japan in Brisbane.

This year marks a succession of highly significant milestones: the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Basic Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Japan and Australia; the 130th anniversary of the establishment of Australia's first Japanese consulate in Townsville, Queensland; and the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Japanese consulate (as it was then) in the state capital of Brisbane. I am profoundly honoured to assume my office as Consul-General in Brisbane during such a historic year, and to have the privilege of contributing to the further advancement of relations between Japan and Queensland.

My initial impression of Queensland was of a land of breathtaking natural beauty, epitomised by the Gold Coast and the Great Barrier Reef. Upon commencing my tenure, however, I have come to appreciate that the state is also the very cradle of Japan-Australia relations. This relationship began in the early Meiji period, when many Japanese pioneers settled in Queensland to engage in pearl shelling and sugarcane cultivation. I reflect with deep respect and gratitude on the foundations laid by our predecessors throughout this long history.

This region, bound to Japan by profound historical ties, remains an indispensable partner and a steadfast supplier of energy resources such as coal, alongside key agricultural commodities including beef and sugar. Looking ahead, we anticipate further progress in our cooperation within emerging sectors, most notably renewable energy and hydrogen production. Furthermore, against the backdrop of a deepening and strengthening partnership between Japan and Australia, as well as within the QUAD framework (comprising Australia, the United States, India, and Japan), our security ties are of growing importance. This is demonstrated by the participation of the Japan Self-Defence Forces since 2015 in Exercise "Talisman Sabre"—the major joint military exercise hosted in Queensland by the United States and Australia.

The robust and flourishing relationship that exists today between Japan and Australia, and indeed between Japan and Queensland, is sustained by grassroots, people-to-people connections and deep mutual understanding. I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation and respect to all those who dedicatedly foster these invaluable exchanges on a daily basis. The Consulate-General remains committed to supporting the endeavours of Japan-related organisations and businesses, as well as promoting grassroots exchanges across diverse fields, including inter-governmental, academic, and youth initiatives. We look forward to working in close partnership with you all.

In 2032, Brisbane will host the Olympic and Paralympic Games. I look forward with great anticipation to the wealth of opportunities this will bring to expand our exchanges, not least in the field of sport. I am determined to make every effort to further nurture and elevate the exceptional relationship that has been forged between Japan and Queensland.

Finally, the safety, security, and peace of mind of the more than 30,000 Japanese residents in Queensland, as well as those visiting for tourism, study, business, or other purposes, remain the utmost priority of this Consulate-General. By listening closely to your candid feedback, we will strive to ensure our consular services are as accessible, convenient, and responsive as possible. Should you have any suggestions, or if there is any way in which the Consulate-General can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

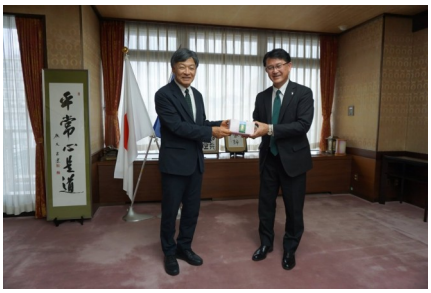
I look forward to working together with you all.

NAGAYOSHI Shoichi
Consul-General of Japan in Brisbane

CONSULATE UPDATES

Visit to Mayor of Shizuoka City

On 19 October, Consul-General Nagayoshi visited Mayor Namba of Shizuoka City to exchange views on Shizuoka's presence in Queensland. Shizuoka City is expanding its economic, cultural and various other exchanges with City of Moreton Bay in Queensland. There is a vibrant history of such exchanges between regional cities in Japan and Queensland, and it is these city-to-city and people-to-people connections that have deepened the relationship between Japan and Queensland over the years. The Consulate-General will continue to give its full support to inter-municipal cooperation.



Farewell to CG Ishikawa

On 21 October, a reception was held at the Official Residence to bid farewell to Consul-General ISHIKAWA Katsutoshi, who concluded his posting as Consul-General of Japan in Brisbane after almost 2 years in the role. There were musical performances by Ijyushin Tate (David Shield), Phil Faardilah and Queensland Symphony Orchestra Concertmaster Natsuko Yoshimoto. Consul-General Ishikawa expressed his heartfelt gratitude as he reflected on his time in Brisbane since December 2024.



Abbey History Festival

On 26 September, Consul-General Ishikawa officially opened the Echoes of the Rising Sun Japanese cultural precinct at the inaugural Abbey History Festival. The festival featured historical costumes, armor, traditions and music all vividly brought to life through re-enactments and performances. Japanese culture was on display, with Awa Odori and Yosakoi dancing, Taiko drumming, and Japanese calligraphy.



What's On

Transnational Art Flows: Japanese Visual Culture in Australia

Fri 13 November, UQ St Lucia

Bringing together scholars, curators, and artists, the symposium explores encounters and exchanges between Japan and Australia in the visual arts, from the late nineteenth century to the present.

Register now



Brisbane Taiko Fest

6:30pm Tues 15 December, Seven Hills Hub

Join Brisbane Taiko for its annual evening of powerful Taiko drumming, traditional dance and lively cultural entertainment at Brisbane Taiko Fest 2026.

More information



Japanese Film Festival

November, Palace Barracks

The 30th Japanese Film Festival - Australia returns to cinemas soon, and the full film program is out NOW! From festival favourites to samurai epics, animated masterpieces and more, there's plenty to discover in this stacked film program.

More information

JET Programme

On 13 October, Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme participants visited the Consulate-General of Japan in Brisbane to meet with Consul-General Ishikawa prior to their departure for Japan. There was an enjoyable discussion about Japan, and it's clear that our new JETs are looking forward to experiencing life in their placement areas and teaching at local schools. The Consulate-General of Japan in Brisbane would like to wish our new JETs every success in their new roles and sincerely hope they have a wonderful experience in Japan.



2027 Softball World Cup announcement

On 6 October, Deputy Consul-General Iwamori attended an announcement of qualifying nations and trophy reveal event for the 2027 Women's Softball World Cup at Kayo Stadium. Australia is one of the host nations for the 2027 World Cup, so we are looking forward to seeing Japan compete in the finals in April next year in Redcliffe. We thank the organisers of this event for the invitation and for continuing to build sporting connections between Australia and Japan.

