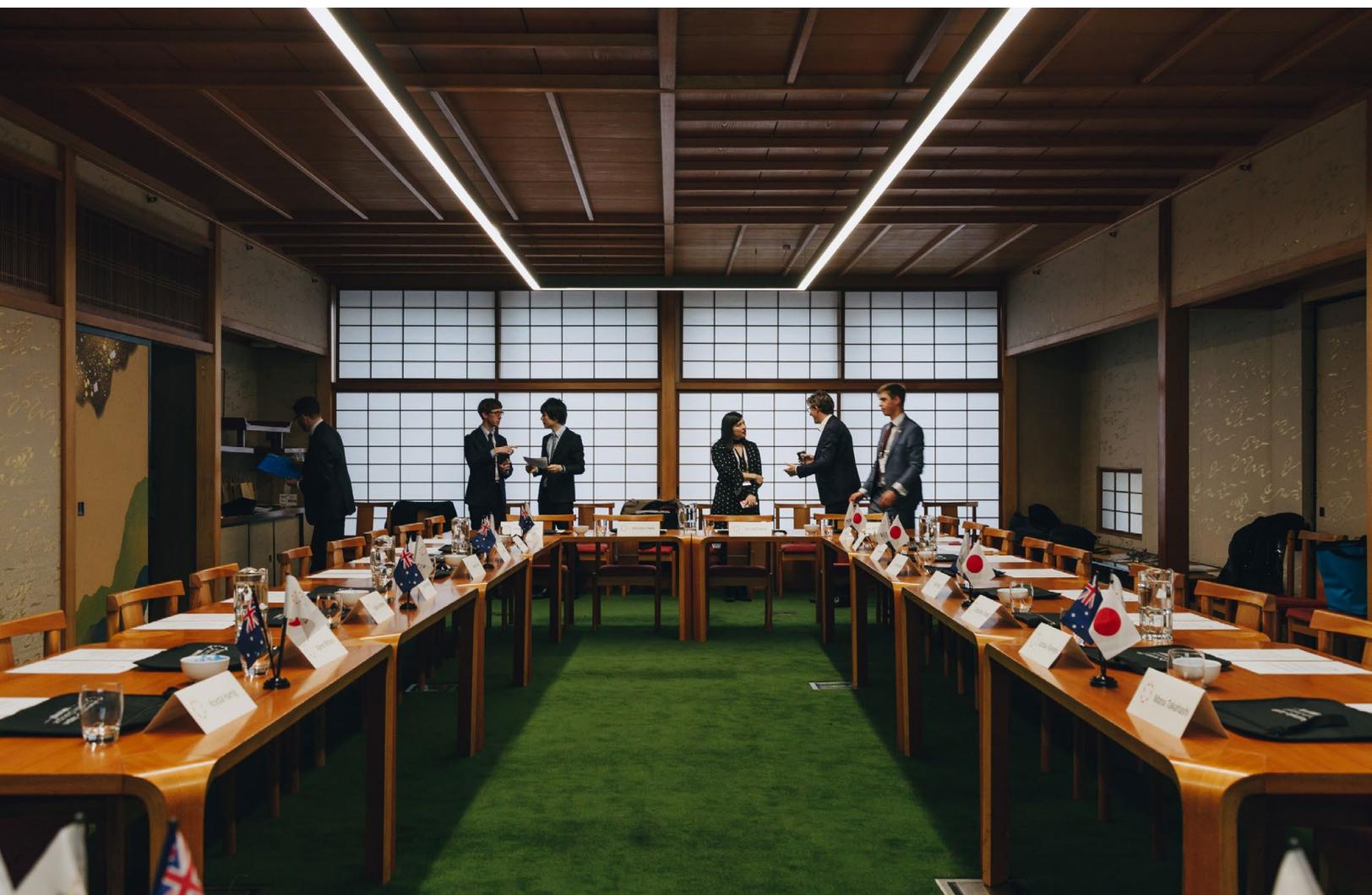


Australia-Japan Youth Dialogue

— 日豪若手対話 —



Australia and Japan share a range of core liberal-democratic values and an interest in a strong rules-based global order. We regularly work together to meet strategic challenges in the Asia-Pacific and around the world in support of peace, security, stability and openness. Our relationship has never been stronger, closer or more consequential than it is today.

Fostering new cooperation and collaboration between Australia and Japan over the coming years will be crucial to bring our countries closer together and enhance mutual understanding. Progressing a shared agenda will allow us to realise a broader array of strategic, economic, social and cultural benefits for our countries.

We must deepen connections at all levels across a range of fields and sectors, and ensure that we invest in the next generation of Australian and Japanese leaders so that they have the skills, knowledge and networks needed to support the relationship into the future.

The Australia-Japan Youth Dialogue is an independent, non-partisan initiative dedicated to strengthening the future leadership of the bilateral relationship.

The inaugural Australia-Japan Youth Dialogue took place over four days in Melbourne in July 2017, bringing together 20 of the best and brightest young Australian and Japanese professionals for an engaging policy and ideas exchange, cultural activities and social occasions.

The second Australia-Japan Youth Dialogue will take place in Tokyo in November 2019. As the Dialogue is held each year, the AJYD alumni group will expand into a cross-sectoral next-generation network of key people engaged in the relationship and invested in its future.



From top to bottom: Delegates participate in a panel on media and governance featuring top journalists from Australian, Japanese and British media outlets; Copies of the AJYD 2017 delegate program; and Delegates are hosted for a welcome reception by the Hon. Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria.





From top to bottom: Experts from Australia and Japan (including Delegate Dr Tomohiko Satake) participate in a session on the Australia-Japan strategic partnership; Delegates enjoy the fire display at Crown Melbourne while hosted by Melanie Brock, Chair Emeritus of the ANZCCJ; and Delegate Kohei Tamura introduces experts at the commencement of the innovation and entrepreneurship panel (including Delegate Joshua Flannery).

"I firmly believe this Dialogue will further promote our intellectual exchange and mutual understanding, pave the way for your bright future and lead up to reinforcing our ever-growing relationship between Japan and Australia."

Shinzo Abe
Prime Minister of Japan



PRIME MINISTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

AUSTRALIA-JAPAN YOUTH DIALOGUE

Australia and Japan are close friends and partners, standing together as advocates of open trade, growth that supports inclusive economic opportunity, and innovation to drive prosperity and better living standards.

Our commitment to regional stability and international good citizenship is a fundamental part of our relationship, and one of the many reasons we work together so well.

As an opportunity to forge even stronger ties between our nations, the Australia-Japan Youth Dialogue is a wonderful forum for our brightest young leaders to collaborate and exchange ideas and perspectives.

It is a chance to consider issues of significance to the Australia-Japan relationship and to renew our enthusiasm and commitment for the task of cooperation.

Australia and Japan's future growth and prosperity depends on the passion, energy and fresh approach of young people like you.

New ideas and input help rejuvenate and refresh our societies and economies, ensuring that we continue to progress and adapt to a rapidly changing world.

I trust you will enjoy the program, and that your discussions are not only productive, but strengthen your idealism and faith in the value of friendship and cooperation between our peoples.

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP
Prime Minister of Australia

**A message from Mr Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan
to the Australia-Japan Youth Dialogue Participants**

Japan and Australia are 'Special Strategic Partners' that share fundamental values and strategic interests, and our bilateral relations are only growing closer. This January, together with the Hon Malcolm Turnbull, Prime Minister of Australia, I underlined the importance of deepening this 'Special Strategic Partnership' with a vision to shoulder responsibility for the peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region and the international community.

This year marks the sixtieth anniversary since the signing of the Agreement on Commerce between Japan and the Commonwealth of Australia, as well as the tenth anniversary of the Japan-Australia Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation. I am confident that our bilateral economic and security ties will be further strengthened for the years to come.

You all are representatives of the younger generation who are actively engaged in various fields and are expected to play important roles for the future of our two countries. This Australia-Japan Youth Dialogue has great significance in that it provides a valuable opportunity for you to share and exchange views on the common challenges faced by our two countries as well as to build and expand your network of contacts.

I sincerely hope that each of you will fully utilise your insights and share your diverse knowledge and values in your active and robust discussions on a range of topics, including governance, security, trade and innovation.

Personal ties between our people shape the future of our two countries. I firmly believe this Dialogue will further promote our intellectual exchange and mutual understanding, pave the way for your bright future and lead up to reinforcing our ever-growing relationship between Japan and Australia.

Shinzo Abe
Prime Minister of Japan

July 2017

"...the Australia-Japan Youth Dialogue is a wonderful forum for our brightest young leaders to collaborate and exchange ideas and perspectives."

Malcolm Turnbull
29th Prime Minister of Australia

Hear from our delegates

'The AJYD provided me with an incredible opportunity to network and befriend a diverse range of young professionals with the same goal – to strengthen and grow the Australia-Japan relationship and the ties between our two countries.'

'I hope the AJYD will continue for many years – it is an initiative that will definitely strengthen our relationship over time.'



'The AJYD is a great opportunity for young Australian and Japanese leaders to realise the importance of our bilateral relationship and to understand what our countries can do together.'

'The relevant topics covered allowed me to learn more about the depth and breadth of our important relationship. Congratulations to the organising committee and sponsors on a very well-run inaugural AJYD.'

'It was a fabulous experience for me to know all delegates and team, and to learn there are many potential fields for cooperation between our two countries.'



From top to bottom: Photo of attendees at AJYD 2017; Delegate Manabu Sawa at AJYD 2017; and Delegate Gentaro Habu asks a question at AJYD 2017.

Opposite page: Mr Tom Switzer, Executive Director of the Centre for Independent Studies, offers delegates his analysis of the Trump Administration over dinner at Cutler and Co.





From top to bottom:
Delegates Kylie Pinder and Dr Nobuhiko Tamaki at AJYD 2017; Delegates Cristina Merino, Penny Alexander and Jarrod Clague pose with DFAT's Liza Watts; and Delegates meet for the first time at the induction session led by Melissa Conley Tyler, Executive Director of the Australian Institute of International Affairs.



Our partners

The Australia-Japan Youth Dialogue is only possible thanks to generous support from governments, companies, think tanks, universities and non-profit organisations which share our vision. We thank our 2017 partners and supporters, listed below.

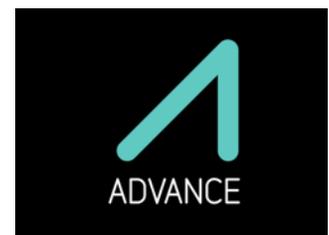
Establishment partner

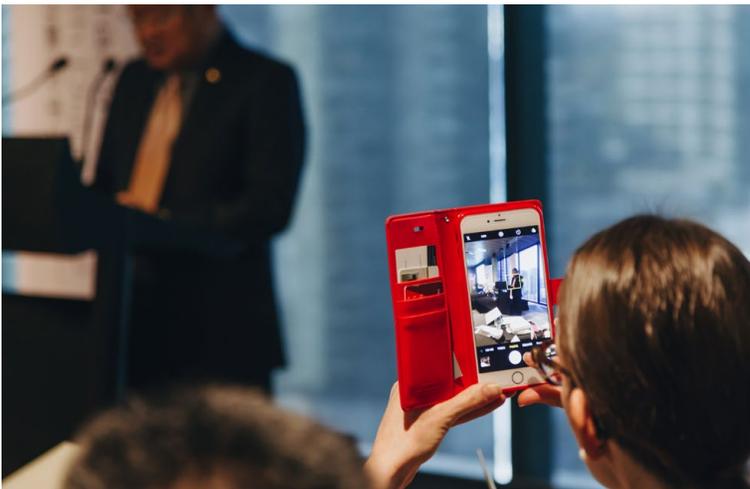


Major partners



Strategic partners





From top to bottom: Delegates at the conclusion of their visit to the Hokusai exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria; Delegate Heather Chai takes a photo of Hong Lim MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Asian Engagement in the Victorian Government.



From top to bottom: Delegates tour the Governor of Victoria's residence; Experts convene for the business, trade and investment panel at AJYD 2017; and Delegates participate in a session on Australia-Japan 'special strategic partnership'.



Our team

The AJYD is run by a group of dedicated volunteers based in Australia and Japan.

David Lang is the Founding Director of the Australia-Japan Youth Dialogue. Between 2017 and 2018 he served as an adviser to the former Foreign Minister of Australia, the Hon Julie Bishop MP. He previously worked as an analyst and managing editor of *The Strategist* at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

Cristina Merino is the Japan Lead for the Australia-Japan Youth Dialogue. She currently serves as Head of Customer Relations for Rugby World Cup 2019, Official Hospitality Programme, and was previously Executive Director of the Australian and New Zealand Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ANZCCJ).

Kevin Placek joined the AJYD in 2016 and is a policy graduate at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in Canberra, Australia. He was previously a senior program assistant at the Social Science Research Council in Tokyo and has interned for both Kono Taro and Dr Michael Green.

Erin McCullagh currently works on regional revitalisation projects in Awajishima, Hyogo Prefecture. She previously worked in the Australian Public Service and served as President of the Za Kabuki Club while studying at the Australian National University.

D’Arcy Butler is employed by the City of Melbourne, having previously worked at the Consulate-General of Japan in Melbourne for six years. He is the Co-Vice-President of the Australia Japan Society of Victoria and a committee member of the National Federation of Australia Japan Societies.

Eve Bentley works as a paralegal at an international law firm in Tokyo. She has previously interned at the ANZCCJ and the British Embassy, and has served in the Public Diplomacy team at the Australian Embassy in Tokyo. In January 2018 Eve co-founded ANZCCJ’s Youth Empowerment Programme.

David Hiroyuki Murakami recently completed a Master of Economics at Keio University. He has previously been employed by Western Australia’s Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and spent three months working in Japan’s Diet as part of the inaugural National Parliamentary Fellowships Program facilitated by the ANU’s Crawford School of Public Policy.

Jesse Tucek is studying a double degree in chemistry and Japanese at Curtin University. In 2017 Jesse travelled to Japan under DFAT’s New Colombo Plan Scholarship, where he interned with Mitsubishi Corporation, JR Central, and the ANZCCJ. He was recently selected as the New Colombo Plan Alumni Ambassador for Curtin University.



From top to bottom:
Delegates Dr Mana Takahashi, Gentaro Habu and Aya Haruyama at AJYD 2017; Delegate Nathan Herman looks at materials during the official Welcome to Country on Day One of AJYD 2017; and Delegates listen to Mr Wayne Crothers, Curator of Asian Art and the Hokusai exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria.



From top to bottom:
 Delegates Kanna Mihara and Joshua Flannery during a simulation exercise led by Admiral Chris Barrie AC, former Chief of the Australian Defence Force; Vegemite sandwiches await delegates at the reception hosted by Melanie Brock at Crown Melbourne; and PwC's Jason Hayes delivers a session on cultural alignment between Australia and Japan.





From top to bottom: Australian Ambassador to Japan Richard Court AC wishes delegates well via video from Tokyo; Experts convene for the energy and climate change session; and Ayako Mie asks a question at AJYD 2017.



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