

**October 11, 2011**  
**Kyoto, Japan**

**49th Australia-Japan Joint Business Conference**  
**Joint Statement**

**Australia-Japan Business Cooperation Committee (AJBCC)**  
**Japan-Australia Business Cooperation Committee (JABCC)**

The AJBCC and JABCC have advocated the need for a Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA/FTA) since 2002, in the hope of further strengthening our bilateral economic ties. Both countries' governments, aiming toward the conclusion of the Japan-Australia EPA/FTA, have held twelve official negotiating rounds since April 2007, but we have yet to see substantial progress in negotiations. The negotiating rounds, however, have been suspended because of the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake of March.

The AJBCC and JABCC have again confirmed that signing of the Australia-Japan EPA/FTA is essential and indispensable for both countries to promote and broaden the bilateral economic relations at the 49<sup>th</sup> Australia-Japan Joint Business Conference held in Kyoto, Japan from October 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup>

Prime Minister Noda agreed with Prime Minister Gillard, through their teleconference on September 13<sup>th</sup>, that both countries' governments would resume the official negotiating rounds as soon as possible. Both Committees welcome their agreements and request both governments to achieve a conclusion of the Australia-Japan EPA/FTA as rapidly as possible.