

**Approved by Acclamation**

October 14, 2014  
Darwin, Australia

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

**52<sup>nd</sup> Australia-Japan Joint Business Conference  
Conference Statement**

The AJBCC and JABCC welcomed the signing of the Japan Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (JAPEPA) by Prime Ministers Tony Abbott and Shinzo Abe on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2014 in Canberra. Both committees have advocated for this outcome since 2002.

In their Joint Statement, issued at the time of the signing, both Prime Ministers emphasized the importance of the JAPEPA as follows:

*“The JAPEPA will underpin the expansion of bilateral trade and investment for decades to come, taking bilateral economic relations to a new level ..... the two countries will seek to bring the JAPEPA into force as early as possible.”*

At the 52<sup>nd</sup> Australia-Japan Joint Business Conference held in Darwin, Australia from October 12<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup> 2014, Delegates affirmed the value of the JAPEPA for enhancing the integration of both economies bilaterally, and through their collaboration, with the broader Asian economy.

Delegates called upon the Parliaments of Australia and Japan to conclude the ratification of the JAPEPA at the earliest possible date and also set the earliest possible ‘Entry into Force’ date.