

Japan New Zealand Business Council 44th Annual Conference

Joint Statement

The Japan and New Zealand Committees of the Japan New Zealand Business Council met for their 44th Annual Joint Conference over three days on 20-22 November 2017 in Osaka, Japan, with more than 130 participants.

Under the theme for the conference of "Japan and New Zealand: Partners in Sustainable Growth" discussion focussed on the current economic outlook for both countries and CPTPP; infrastructure and investment; manufacturing; food and agriculture; science and technology; and sports diplomacy, recognising the importance that Japan will host the Rugby World Cup in 2019, the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020, the Kansai World Masters Games in 2021, and Osaka's candidature for the international exposition in 2025.

In underlining the importance of the trade and economic relationship, and the potential for growth in a number of fields, the Conference welcomed the outcome of the Trade Ministers meetings on November 8-10 in Da Nang, Vietnam, in agreeing in principle on the core elements of a ground-breaking new regional trade agreement, previously called "TPP11" renamed the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). Both Committees resolved to urge their respective Governments to redouble their efforts, jointly and together with other CPTPP partners, to achieve a speedy resolution of outstanding issues and implementation of the agreement.

Importantly also, as a new initiative, delegates were invited to attend an MSME Seminar sponsored

by JETRO, together with both Committees, timed to coincide with the Conference to highlight the opportunities for value-added collaboration open to micro, small and medium sized businesses, especially in the area of innovation, services and technology-based businesses. This topic, which was amplified this year during APEC discussions, features significantly in the CPTPP with a focus on: expanding MSME presence through digital and e-commerce, fostering innovative business models, fortifying linkages between MSMEs and large enterprises, expanding MSME access to finance, and enhancing women's economic empowerment. The Conference noted the relevance of these issues to its "Partners in Sustainable Growth" theme with a view to augmenting bilateral relationships for micro, small and medium sized businesses.

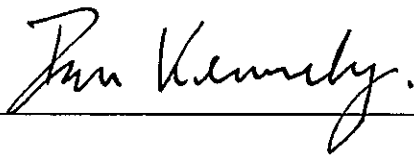
There was mutual acknowledgement of the importance of ongoing regular dialogue at a business level to take forward the exchange of information and ideas discussed at the Conference, especially in the area of infrastructure, innovation, climate change and the link to renewable energies, taking full advantage of the increased opportunities for win/win growth in trade and investment to become available through CPTPP.

Recognising the important role that sport can play in bringing decision-makers together for business networking, the Conference welcomed the Memorandum of Cooperation signed in May this year between the Japan Sports Agency and Sport NZ. The two Committees noted also the important contribution that Japanese corporates are making to the success of the NZ Open, and planning by NZ Rugby for visits by the All Blacks and the NZ mens and womens sevens teams to promote support for the game leading into Japan's hosting of the Rugby World Cup and the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Both Committees resolved to engage with their respective Governments on specific steps to advance the relationship in the above priority areas, especially speedy implementation of CPTPP and the development of new business linkages, including MSMEs, with a view to achieving concrete progress by the time of the next Annual Joint Conference in November 2018.

Osaka

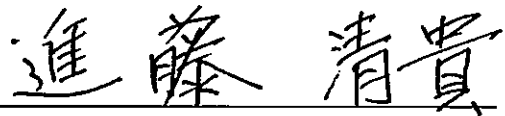
22 November, 2017



Ian Kennedy

Japan New Zealand Business Council

New Zealand Chair



Kiyotaka Shindo

Japan New Zealand Business Council

Japan Chair