

## **Japan New Zealand Business Council 45th Annual Conference**

### **Joint Statement**

The New Zealand and Japan Committees of the Japan New Zealand Business Council met for their 45th Annual Joint Conference over three days on 19-21 November 2018 at the Pullman Hotel, Auckland, New Zealand, with some 200 participants.

Under the conference theme of "Japan and New Zealand: Partners in Progress" discussion focussed on the current economic situation and outlook for international trade, especially CPTPP and RCEP; infrastructure and investment; food and agriculture; renewable energies - joint opportunities in geothermal; forestry and tourism.

Discussion on the "Current situation and Outlook for International Trade, especially CPTPP and RCEP" underlined the importance of plurilateral approaches to promote supply chain connectivity. The meeting welcomed ratification of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) by New Zealand, Japan, Mexico, Singapore, Canada, Australia and Viet Nam, bringing the agreement into force on 30 December, 2018. The two Committees looked forward to the remaining CPTPP partners completing their applicable domestic procedures and to others joining the agreement to give effect to improved trading conditions and reduced transaction costs among the member countries. They also encouraged both governments to continue their efforts to reach agreement on RCEP within the next year.

The "Infrastructure & Investment" session high-lighted the urgent need for increased investment in infrastructure in New Zealand, and the opportunities for Japanese companies to bring capital, construction expertise and innovation particularly to the transport and housing sectors.

The “Food & Agriculture” session highlighted the application of science and innovative technologies in automation and food quality along with collaboration and partnership to achieve production efficiencies and address major issues resulting from labour shortages, especially in horticulture, and increasing consumer demand for nutritional fresh food.

In the “Renewable Energies” session, reflecting the priority accorded by both governments to action on climate change to reduce greenhouse gases, the Conference welcomed the Memorandum of Cooperation signed in October this year between the Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and New Zealand's Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment for exchange of information to enhance hydrogen development as a next generation fuel. Discussion on renewable energy focused also on opportunities in geothermal, in particular the scope for partnership to build on past achievements to ensure future success in transitioning to low emissions economies, especially in the energy and transport sectors.

The environment and sustainable development were major themes also in the “Forestry” session. Discussion focussed on the New Zealand government's policy settings for the sector, including the Billion Tree programme, formation of Te Uru Rākau and CarbonZero 2050 goals. The meeting highlighted opportunities for on-going strategic co-operation in areas of significant mutual economic potential for New Zealand and Japan, especially environmentally friendly pulp and paper-based solutions: biobased adhesives, biobased plastics, bioenergy and a range of advanced construction materials, leading to more sustainable products for a more sustainable world.

Discussion on “Tourism” recognised the important role that art, culture and sport can play in advancing

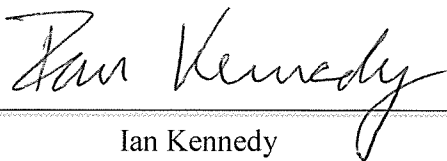
friendship and international understanding leading to increased two-way tourism. In particular, the Conference welcomed advice that the Tuku Iho | Living Legacy exhibition of time-honoured Māori artworks will travel to Japan in 2019 as part of the lead up to the Rugby World Cup. Discussion on tourism focused also on the 2020 Tokyo Olympic & Paralympic Games, and the 2021 Americas Cup challenge to be staged in Auckland as major international events that will to bring people together, capture the imagination of the public, and showcase the innovation and creativity of both countries.

In light of the above discussions, there was mutual agreement on the importance of ongoing regular dialogue at a business level to take forward the exchange of information and ideas within the Council, especially in the areas of infrastructure, automation, forestry, climate change and the link to renewable energies, taking full advantage of the increased opportunities for win/win growth in trade and investment becoming available through CPTPP.

Both Committees resolved to engage with their respective Governments on specific steps to advance the relationship in the above priority areas with a view to achieving concrete progress by the time of the 2019 Annual Joint Conference in Japan.

Auckland

21 November, 2018



Ian Kennedy

Japan New Zealand Business Council

New Zealand Chair



Kiyotaka Shindo

Japan New Zealand Business Council

Japan Chair