



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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INVITATION FOR JAPANESE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO VISIT AUSTRALIA

The Prime Minister, Mr. Fraser, announced today his intention to issue an invitation to the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Masayoshi Ohira, for members of the Japanese Diet to visit Australia each year.

The invitation is designed to reciprocate a similar scheme hosted by the Japanese Government in which members of the Australian Government Parties and Opposition, in separate delegations, have visited Japan each year.

The proposed new scheme would be administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Fraser said this scheme would be a valuable addition to the two existing arrangements under which Japanese Diet members are invited to visit Australia. Under the first scheme the Australian Parliament invites a mixed group of eight Japanese Diet members to Australia for 14 days every two years. The Japanese Diet reciprocates in the alternate years.

Under the second scheme, the Government each year invites two foreign Parliamentary delegations of eight members to visit Australia for 10 to 14 days. Each country's turn to send a delegation occurs only infrequently because of the large number of countries covered by the scheme.

Background

The regular exchange of Parliamentary delegations is important in fostering a better first hand understanding amongst Japanese legislators of Australian conditions, problems, and policies. The Government places particular emphasis on relations with Japan which will play a crucial part in preserving the future stability and development in our region.

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