

Ed

END



PRIME MINISTER

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING, MP OPENING OF THE NAGOYA CONSULATE

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to the opening of the Australian Consulate in Nagoya.

The Consulate is a result of our decision to increase "on the ground" resources in the regional economies of Japan.

By the end of 1992, in addition to Tokyo, Australia will have representation in Sapporo, Sendai, Osaka, Fukuoka and here in Nagoya.

This new office demonstrates the significance the Australian Government accords the Chubu region as a keystone for the development of the Australia-Japan relationship.

It is a very close relationship, built primarily in those decades when Australia supplied much of the raw material for Japan's industrial expansion.

Our destinies in the modern era have been inextricably linked.

The partnership is continuing to grow - and diversify.

We remain suppliers of raw materials and primary produce, but the composition of our exports is changing.

For the last four years Australia has been the tenth largest supplier of manufactured goods to Japan - well ahead of many other industrialised countries.

We are determined that this trend towards manufactures will continue.

We are determined to do business with the world on a much broader basis than before.

We are determined on our integration in the Asia Pacific region - the most important part of the world, as we see it.

0N3

2

Japan is central to this view of ours, and will remain so.

Strong strategic alliances have already been forged between Chubu and Australia.

There is no better example than Toyota, which has recently decided to build a new car plant in Victoria, to invest in a parts warehouse and distribution centre, and establish a training centre in New South Wales.

We are well aware of Chubu region's pre-eminence in advanced technologies, such as industrial ceramics, and we look forward to stronger exchanges in such areas.

This Consulate will help that process. It will be staffed by a bilingual Australian and Japanese team with extensive business and cultural experience in both countries.

We are sure that with their efforts we can expand our relationship in unprecedented ways.

Ladies and gentlemen, our economic relationship is dependent on the depth of our cultural understanding.

Significant cultural links between Chubu region and Australia already exist, particularly through the Sister City and Sister Port relationships.

Mayor Nishio has, I know, visited Australia, and Governor Suzuki has made two visits.

There have been many cultural exchanges, including, I understand, the presentation of koalas, kookaburras and eucalyptus trees to the city of Nagoya.

Like the Japanese people, we are very fond of our native fauna and flora - they are symbolic of the unique splendour of our natural environment.

This Consulate is also symbolic - of our desire to deepen our relationship with Japan, and Chubu in particular.

Fond as we are of koalas, we are fond of business too. And culture. Very fond of them.

And fond of Nagoya and the Chubu region.

So I ask you to join me in celebrating the opening of Australia's Nagoya Consulate - and our friendship and our mutual aspirations which it will symbolise and serve.

Thank you.

NAGOYA - 23 September 1992