

The Japan-Australia Business Co-operation Committee

Background to establishment

In March 1961, the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) sent a trade goodwill mission to Australia, led by TCCI Vice Chairman Mr Shigeo Nagano, who was also the president of Fuji Steel Corporation. During their visit to Canberra, Mr Nagano proposed the establishment of a business co-operation committee with the aim of contributing to the development of Japan-Australia economic relations by promoting mutual understanding and cooperation between the two countries' business communities.

In response to this proposal, the Japan-Australia Business Co-operation Committee (JABCC) was established in February 1963 on the Japanese side under the leadership of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI), Keidanren (the Japan Business Federation), the Japan Foreign Trade Council (JFTC), and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO). Meanwhile, on the Australian side, the Australia-Japan Business Co-operation Committee (AJBCC) was established in August 1962 by the Associated Chamber of Manufactures of Australia (ACMA) and the Associated Chamber of Commerce of Australia (ACCA). In May 1963, the first Japan-Australia Joint Business Conference was held in Tokyo.

About the JABCC

Name of Organization: The Japan-Australia Business Co-operation Committee (the JABCC)

Secretariat:

International Division, Japan & Tokyo Chambers of Commerce and Industry (JCCI/TCCI)

Representatives:

Chairman: Mr Michiaki Hirose (Director, Chairperson of the Board, Tokyo Gas Co.,Ltd.)

Vice-Chairman: Mr Masami Iijima (Counsellor, Mitsui & Co., Ltd.)

Advisors: Mr Ken Kobayashi (Chairman, JCCI/TCCI)

Mr Masakazu Tokura (Chairman, Nippon Keidanren)

Mr Fumiya Kokubu (Chairman, Japan Foreign Trade Council, Inc.)

Special Advisor: Dr Akio Mimura AC (Honorary Chairman, JCCI/TCCI)

Number of Members: 103

About the AJBCC

Name of Organization: The Australia-Japan Business Co-operation Committee (the AJBCC)

President: Mr Peter Grey (Independent Non-Executive Chairman, MLC Life Insurance)

Vice Presidents: Mr Ian Williams (Chair, NXT Building Group)

Mr Bob Seidler AM (Principal, Kokusai Business Advisory)

Ms Debra Hazelton (Chair, AMP Limited)

Secretariat: Mr Richard Andrews (CEO, the AJBCC)

(1) Major Activities of the JABCC

Japan-Australia Joint Business Conference

The conference brings together the top business leaders and government officials from both countries to discuss a wide range of topics focused on trade and investment that are fitted to the times, and to make recommendations to the governments of both countries as necessary. The conference is held alternately every year in the two countries.

The conference has made requests to the governments to improve issues related to the business environment, and has achieved significant results. Examples include actions on sugar issues and iron ore issues, the opening of the Perth Consulate-General, the implementation of the Australia-Japan EPA/TPP, and improvement of work visa requirements in Australia.

9–11 October 2022

The 59th Japan-Australia Joint Business Committee was held in Tokyo. This was the first face-to-face meeting of the Committee in three years. The hosts, Dr. Mimura AC, Chairman of the JABCC, and Mr. Grey, President of the AJBCC, welcomed guests including Mr. Yasutoshi Nishimura, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry; the Hon Ms Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria; Senator the Hon Don Farrell, Minister for Trade and Tourism, Special Minister of State; and the Hon Peter Malinauskas MP, Premier of South Australia. A total of 406 people attended, including 207 from Japan, 180 from Australia, and 19 accompanying guests from Japan and Australia.



Steering Committee

This committee considers issues that have medium- to long-term impacts on the bilateral commercial relationship, and also examines global issues. Meetings are usually held in October and March. The meeting in October is held on the day before the opening ceremony of the Joint Business Conference. The meetings in March are held via teleconference. (The committee consists of 18 Executive members, one Chairman, one Vice Chairman, 14 Committee members, and two Advisors.)

JABCC Committee on the Promotion of EPA Utilization

Further to the Japanese and Australian Government's joint establishment of the "Sub-committee on Promotion of a Closer Economic Relationship," the JAEPA Implementation Sub-committee was established in June 2015 in order to provide the industry with a forum for exchanging views and examining new business opportunities as a result of the entry into force of the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (JAEPA).

FLP: Future Leaders Program

This program is designed to develop future business leaders in the two countries. Members of the program include young business people and others active in cultural affairs. The program supports the Australian government's New Colombo Plan (which includes an internship program for Australian university students in Japan), organizes personnel exchanges and seminars, participates in joint conferences, and publishes a booklet on Japan-Australia business.



October 2022:

Published a booklet titled *Australia & Japan: Beyond the Bilateral – Investing in infrastructure projects across the Indo-Pacific*, which identifies issues and proposes solutions for collaboration between the two countries in infrastructure projects.

(2) Visits by Australian federal government leaders

When Australian government leaders, business leaders, and other dignitaries visit Japan, the JABCC seeks to set up meetings with the Chairman and other leading members of the JABCC to discuss various economic issues between Japan and Australia, thereby contributing to the development of the bilateral relationship.

Notable events

10 October 2022: Meeting between Senator the Hon Don Farrell, Minister for Trade and Tourism, Special Minister of State

Minister Farrell and key members of the JABCC held a roundtable discussion on energy policy with a focus on hydrogen.



- 15 July 2021 Meeting between the Hon Dan Tehan MP, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment and Dr Mimura AC
- 17 Nov. 2020 Meeting between the Hon Prime Minister Scott Morrison MP and Dr Mimura AC
- 8 Sep. 2020 Lecture meeting by the Hon Ambassador-Designate to Japan, Richard Court AC
- 18 Jan. 2018 Welcome luncheon for the Hon Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull
- 18 Dec. 2015 Welcome luncheon for the Hon Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull
- 7 April 2014 Welcome luncheon for the Hon Prime Minister Tony Abbott
- 18 Nov. 2013 Meeting between the Hon Minister for Trade and Investment Andrew Robb AO and Dr Mimura AC
- 31 May 2012 Welcome luncheon for the Hon Dr Craig Emerson, Minister for Trade and Competitiveness
- 21 April 2011 Welcome luncheon for the Hon Prime Minister Julia Gillard

(3) Other Recent Activities

2022

25 March: Donation for Flood Damage in New South Wales and Queensland

On 25 March, the JABCC donated to BizRebuild to counter flood damage caused by the heavy rains that fell in New South Wales and Queensland in February and March.

Later, on 30 March, JABCC Chairman Dr Mimura visited the Australian Embassy in Japan and presented a certificate to Jan Adams AO PSM, Ambassador to Japan. She expressed her gratitude for the generosity of the JABCC.



2020

January: Donation for large-scale forest fires in Australia

Meeting with Prime Minister Scott Morrison

On 1–8 February, as Chairman of JCCI, JABCC Chairman Mimura sent a mission to Australia. This mission consisted of 89 Japanese members who visited Canberra and Sydney to learn about future business opportunities in Australia, and reconfirmed the partnership between Australia and Japan.

In Canberra, they met with Federal Prime Minister Scott Morrison and four other key ministers.



2017

14 January: Prime Minister Abe and accompanying Business Mission to Australia

One element of former Prime Minister Abe's four country tour of Asia and Oceania was a visit to Australia. Dr Mimura was part of the accompanying mission to Australia, which consisted of representatives from business, academia and local governments. The JABCC and AJBCC hosted an evening reception. High-level politicians including the Foreign Minister, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, Cabinet Secretary and Senator, the Hon Arthur Sinodinos AO,



Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary, Mr Koichi Hagiuda, and important members of the business world participated from both countries and strengthened their friendships.