



## **6<sup>TH</sup> Australia-Japan High Level Policy Dialogue on Education**

### **JOINT SUMMARY**

**Canberra Australia, 8 July 2022**

1. The 6<sup>th</sup> Australia-Japan High Level Policy Dialogue on Education was held on 8 July 2022 in Canberra, Australia, in accordance with the *Memorandum of Cooperation in Education* between the Australian Government Department of Education (DE) and the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), originally signed in 2007 and renewed on 4 December 2018.
2. Our two countries decided at the Japan-Australia Leaders Meeting held on 24 May 2022, to strengthen the *Special Strategic Partnership* between Japan and Australia and realise a free and open Indo-Pacific. Promotion of both inter-university and research organisation exchange and student/researcher exchange, in accordance with the discussion in the Dialogue, will further strengthen the Japan-Australia relationship.
3. The Dialogue was co-chaired by Ms Karen Sandercock, First Assistant Secretary of International Division, DE, and Ms OKAMURA Naoko, Director-General for International Affairs, MEXT. Japan's delegation included representatives of the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) and the Japanese Embassy in Australia. Australia's delegation included representatives of DE, the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR), the Australian Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA), the Australian Research Council (ARC) and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). A list of participants is at Attachment A.
4. The Dialogue focused on initiatives to build on the already substantial education and research relationship between Australia and Japan. Participants reaffirmed this deep and long-standing relationship and recognised its enduring social, cultural and economic benefits for both countries.
5. Officials exchanged notes on pandemic-related challenges affecting education and research, and on their experience with recovery strategies surrounding the reopening of international borders. A key focus was emerging priorities and post-pandemic opportunities for improving international education, including by expanding international partnerships. Officials specifically discussed online quality assurance, post-pandemic international strategies in both countries, and also deepened understanding of the mutual challenges both countries confront.
6. Acknowledging the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the international education sector over the preceding three years, officials were pleased to have been able to meet in person to share experiences and plan for future engagement. Officials shared expectations that

outcomes from the Dialogue promote exchange among universities, students and relevant education organisations in both countries, which was disrupted during the pandemic.

7. Officials affirmed the significance of the QUAD fellowship and shared a common understanding of the importance of encouraging mutual exchange through the QUAD fellowship.
8. Officials discussed research security and integrity, sharing information on relevant domestic measures and acknowledging challenges.
9. Officials committed to a series of education and research thematic roundtable events which would be supported by Australian and Japanese government agencies, to connect universities and industry representatives of both countries.
10. Officials discussed research collaboration arrangements, including Japan's Strategic International Collaborative Research Program (SICORP), currently in place with several other countries. Officials noted that great potential exists for further research collaboration in shared priority research areas. Identifying some specific examples of existing collaboration, participants also discussed how to promote more of this valuable form of cooperation. The Dialogue also saw a fruitful discussion of industry-academia collaboration.
11. Officials acknowledged the importance of the bilateral education and research relationship and shared a common understanding of the necessity for a plan for further work between MEXT and DE. In doing so, officials acknowledged the long-term value of the Australia Japan Education staff exchange program. DE welcomed MEXT's proposal to send an official to DE when safe to do so.
12. Officials agreed to hold the next High Level Policy Dialogue meeting in a timely and appropriate manner in light of the rapidly changing world and the importance of international education, utilising online meeting tools where convenient.
13. Japan will host the next High Level Policy Dialogue meeting at a time to be mutually determined.

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**Ms Karen SANDERCOCK**

First Assistant Secretary International Division  
Australian Government Department of  
Education

8 July 2022

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**Ms OKAMURA Naoko**

Director-General for International Affairs  
Japanese Government Ministry of Education,  
Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

8 July 2022

Attachment A

## Participants List Australia-Japan High Level Policy Dialogue on Education

### Japan

#### Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

Ms. OKAMURA Naoko, Director-General for International Affairs  
Mr. MATSUBARA Taro, Director, Office for International Cooperation, International Affairs Division, Minister's Secretariat  
Mr. TAKAHASHI Ichiro, Director, Office for Student Exchange, Student Support and Exchange Division, Higher Education Bureau  
Mr. HARA Masashi, Director for International Cooperation, Science and Technology Policy Bureau  
Ms. USUBA Yoko, Unit chief, International Affairs Division, Minister's Secretariat  
Ms. ONISHI Yuriko, Unit Chief, Office for International Planning, Higher Education Bureau  
Mr. SUZUKI Ryotaro, Unit Chief, Student Support and Exchange Division, Higher Education Bureau

#### Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

Ms. KANEKO Emi, Director, Singapore Office  
Ms. IMAZU Sugiko, Deputy Manager, Department of International Affairs  
Mr. TAKEI Kenta, Staff, Department of International Affairs

#### Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)

Dr. OGASAKA Yasushi, Managing Director, Department of International Strategy  
Dr. KUSAMA Makiko, Director, Office of International Collaboration, Division of International Strategy, Department of International Strategy  
Dr. KOJIMA Naoko, Deputy Manager, Office of International Collaboration, Division of International Strategy, Department of International Strategy

#### Embassy of Japan, Australia

Mr. SAKURAI Yasuhito, Counsellor Education, Sports and Science, Embassy of Japan, Australia  
Mr. IKEDA Shunichi, Interpreter, Embassy of Japan, Australia

## **Australia**

### Department of Education

Ms. Karen SANDERCOCK, First Assistant Secretary, International Division

Mr. Simon MOORE, Assistant Secretary, International Policy Branch, International Division

Mr. Simon PUCKETT, Assistant Secretary, National Security Branch, International Division

Dan DONEGAN, Assistant Secretary, Research Policy and Programs, Research Division

Ms. Janine PITT, Counsellor (Education and Research), Australian Embassy, Tokyo and Seoul

Ms. Kumiko TSUKAMOTO, Senior Manager (Education and Research), Australian Embassy, Tokyo

Mr. Craig JOHNSON, Director, North Asia, International Division

Ms. Jane AZURIN, Director, Qualifications Recognition Policy, International Division

Mr. Asher GENTLE, Director, Research Commercialisation Enabling Team, Research Division

### Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR)

Mr. James PITMAN, Director, International Science Engagement

### National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

Dr. Adam CHAPMAN, Director, Priorities and International Engagement

### Australian Research Council (ARC)

Mr. Justin WITHERS, Director, Access International and Integrity

### Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA)

Dr. Mary RUSSELL, Executive Director, Regulatory Operations

Ms. Katrina QUINN, Director, Policy Research and Engagement

Dr. Lenka UCNIK, Assistant Director, Higher Education Integrity Unit

### Innovative Research Universities (IRU)

Mr. Paul HARRIS, Executive Director