

**MISSION TO JAPAN  
BY THE HON JOHN AJAKA MLC,  
MINISTER FOR AGEING, MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES,  
MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURALISM  
23-26 OCTOBER 2016  
POST MISSION REPORT**

**MISSION PURPOSE**

The NSW Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services and Minister for Multiculturalism, the Hon. John Ajaka MLC (the Minister) travelled to Japan in October 2016 to deliver a key-note address at the 2016 International Metropolis Conference and further strengthen economic and cultural ties in this NSW Government priority market.

International Metropolis Conferences are the largest annual gathering of experts (from academia, governments and the community) in the fields of migration, integration and diversity.

In his address, the Minister explained how NSW maintains a harmonious, multicultural state, outlined the NSW Government's commitment to multicultural principles, and detailed how it has benefited from migration and the diversity of its people. The Minister further highlighted NSW's excellent record on migrant and refugee resettlement and the importance of cultural cohesion.

During the Conference, the Minister announced that the International Metropolis Conference will be coming to Sydney in 2018 – to be held in the new International Convention Centre (ICC) at Darling Harbour. This is regarded as a major boon for the NSW Government economy as it will bring close to 1,000 visitors from around the world to Sydney and NSW.

The Minister was the first senior NSW Government representative to meet with the newly-elected Tokyo Metropolitan Government and at the meeting reinforced the importance of Sydney's "sister city" relationship with Tokyo, discussed the forthcoming Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympic Games and various other matters.

The Minister also briefed high-ranking government officials on disability reform and had met with Austrade to discuss NSW's trade position in the region. Japan presents significant, trade, export and investment opportunities for NSW particularly given the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (JAPEPA) which have the potential to facilitate significant trade and investment flows.

The mission provided an opportunity to reinforce NSW's status as a strong, stable and growing economy through meetings with government leaders.

During the mission, the Minister reinforced the importance placed by the NSW Government on its relationship with Japan. A key aspect to maintaining strong relationships with priority markets is to regularly visit the market, which demonstrates the importance and commitment to the relationship.

The key objectives of the Mission were to:

- Promote the 2018 International Metropolis Sydney conference, which will promote tourism to NSW.
- Further establish and strengthen links with institutions and participants likely to attend the Sydney conference.
- Gain useful intelligence and help ensure the success of the event.
- Reinforce the importance of the NSW-Japan relationship and strengthen this relationship by developing productive government-to-government links.
- Deepen market understanding and business, government relationships for the NSW Government.
- Highlight NSW's excellent record on integration of migrants and cultural diversity.
- Share and gain intelligence on disability services policy.
- Share and gain intelligence on ageing policy.

## **MISSION DESCRIPTION**

Minister Ajaka travelled to Tokyo and Nagoya, Japan over the three day mission to deliver a key note speech at the 2016 International Metropolis Conference, greet the newly-elected Tokyo Metropolitan Government, brief high-ranking government officials on disability reform, and have discussions on NSW's trade position.

## **MISSION BACKGROUND**

The NSW International Engagement Strategy (2013) identifies 10 priority markets and aims to have high level annual visits to each of these markets to promote trade and investment.

Regular engagement is central to the continued fostering of strong economic relationships with these key markets. While markets remain strong trading partners for NSW, there is potential for enhancement of these trading relationships.

### **Japanese Economy**

- Japan's economy is highly industrialised and the third-largest in the world (GDP at market exchange rates). Japan's well-educated, industrious work force and large, affluent population make it a large global consumer market.
- Manufacturing continues to be a key feature of the Japanese economy and exports, with motor vehicles the largest NSW import from Japan (\$2.9 billion in 2014/15). While some manufacturing has moved offshore to China and Korea, Japan's services sector, including financial services, is growing in importance, accounting for 75% of GDP.

- The Japanese economy faces ongoing challenges with energy (with few natural resources, mineral fuels are the largest import), an ageing working population and an uncertain European financial outlook. The Japanese government is encouraging overseas investment in natural resources, and liberalising industries to increase participation to manage some of these risks.
- The IMF forecasts Japan's economy to grow 0.46 per cent in 2016.

### **Japan-NSW Economic Relationship**

- NSW is the second largest exporter to Japan in Australia, behind only Western Australia. Exports are mostly made up of Fuels and Mining products (80%), most of that coal and iron ore. Australia is the third largest importer from Japan, with motor vehicles, refined petroleum and manufactured iron/steel all being significant imports.
- Growth merchandise exports to Japan are more diverse (than the largest exports), including power generating machinery and live animals. Reductions in tariffs from JAEPA are likely to continue this trend of diversified exports.
- JAEPA will boost Japan's diverse and growing investment in Australia. Japan is Australia's second largest source of direct foreign investment, accounting for 11.7% of total FDI, and continuing strong growth of 21% in 2015.
- While service exports as a whole to Japan from NSW have declined along with tourism, financial services exports have grown significantly (CAGR of 31.4% in 5 years), indicating that professional services may in time make up a greater part of the services export mix.
- Japanese international student enrolments have been growing slowly with Japan having the 12th most international student enrolments in NSW. This growth has been driven by English language schools, which account for (48%) and VET (29%).
- While Japanese tourism service exports have declined in recent years, Japan remains the 6th top source of international visitors to NSW.

### **Japan Mission**

During the mission, the Minister attended and addressed the 2016 International Metropolis Conference, met with a range of government leaders to further strengthen economic and cultural ties, promote NSW's strong economy and resilient multicultural communities.

In addition the Minister:

- was the first NSW Government Minister to meet with the newly-elected Vice Governor of Tokyo to enforce that NSW values its relationship with Japan, and its Sister State Relationship with Tokyo in particular.
- met with the State Foreign Minister of Japan to promote relations and encourage collaboration in the portfolio of multiculturalism.

- met with with Special Advisor to the Prime Minister, also Chairman for Parliamentary League Promoting the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; Chairman for LDP Special Committee on Persons with Disabilities, to discuss and share knowledge on disability services policy.
- met with the outgoing and incoming Consuls-General of Japan to Sydney regarding the Japanese community in NSW.
- held discussions with Austrade in relation to NSW's trade position.
- announced that the International Metropolis Conference will be coming to Sydney in 2018 and be held at the ICC.

## **KEY OUTCOMES**

### **1. Strengthened government to government relationships**

In Tokyo, the Minister had productive meetings with senior members of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Japan's Federal Government to reaffirm NSW's commitment to the sister state relationship and to explore additional areas the relationship could address.

During these meetings, the Minister shared and gathered intelligence on:

- NSW's policy of integration, settlement and cultural diversity
- Disability services reform such as the National Disability Insurance Scheme
- Ageing population issues

### **2. Promoted Tourism to NSW**

Whilst in Nagoya, Japan at the International Metropolis Conference, the Minister worked on further establishing and strengthening links with institutions and participants likely to attend the Sydney conference. The Minister also announced that the International Metropolis Conference will be coming to Sydney in 2018, and will be held at the ICC.

The Minister also commenced promotion of the Sydney conference to the international community and Multicultural NSW staff met with conference secretariat/organisers to gain useful intelligence and help ensure the success of the event in Sydney.

### **3. Attracted Japanese investment**

The Minister promoted NSW's capabilities across a range of sectors and encouraged consideration of NSW as an investment location. The Minister marketed NSW as a strong investment environment by promoting the strengths of the NSW economy and the established economic and cultural links.

## **OFFICIAL DELEGATION**

The Hon John Ajaka MLC  
Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Multiculturalism

### **Accompanied by:**

Mr Adam Zarth  
Chief of Staff, Office of the Hon John Ajaka MLC

Mr Hakan Harman  
Chief Executive Officer  
Multicultural NSW

Mr Victor Duranti  
Director, Government Policy and Research  
Multicultural NSW

(NB. Staff from Multicultural NSW attended the full duration of the International Metropolis Conference and did not participate in meetings with government officials.)

### **Based in Japan**

Mr Geoff Walker  
Commissioner - NSW Trade and Investment, Department of Premier and Cabinet,  
Tokyo, Japan

Mr David Carlow  
Senior Business Development Manager, NSW Trade and Investment, Department of  
Premier and Cabinet, Tokyo, Japan

## ESTIMATED COSTS AND DETAILS OF TRAVEL

<b>Minister</b>	The Hon John Ajaka MLC
<b>Portfolio</b>	Ageing, Disability Services, Multiculturalism
<b>Destinations(s) visited</b> a) Countries b) Cities	a) Japan b) Tokyo and Nagoya
<b>Dates of travel</b> a) Departure date b) Return date	a) Sunday, 23 October 2016 b) Thursday, 27 October 2016
<b>Number of official travel days</b>	Three days
<b>Number of accompanying</b> a) Minister's staff b) Government officials	a) 1 b) 2
<b>Accompanied by spouse</b> a) in an official capacity b) in a private capacity	a) N/A b) N/A
<b>Costs</b>	
<b>Airfares</b> a) Minister and Minister's staff b) Government officials	a) \$10,814.08 b) \$7,875.00
<b>Accommodation</b> (includes any meals/incidentals charged to room) a) Minister and Minister's staff b) Government officials	a) \$3,176.03 b) \$5,352.00
<b>Official hospitality</b> a) Minister and Minister's staff b) Government officials	a) N/A b) \$4,985.00
<b>Other expenses</b> a) Official gift presentation b) Ground transport c) Meals and refreshments d) Interpreter e) Printing e) Other miscellaneous costs	a) \$401.85 b) \$1,861.25 c) N/A d) \$1,610.91 e) N/A e) N/A
<b>TOTAL estimated travel cost</b>	\$36,076.12
<b>Currency conversion rate</b>	1AUD = 80.5856 JPY Date of conversion 11 November 2016

NB. There may be slight variations in the costs that may be attributed to exchange rates and international transaction fees.

Date	Organisation	Purpose
24/10/2016	Government meeting with the Vice-Governor of Tokyo (Tokyo) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Toshifumi KAWASUMI</li> </ul>	Discussion on the Sister-State Relationship between Tokyo and NSW, Olympics 2020, challenges of an ageing population, programs for seniors.  Minister provided an overview of the economic environment in NSW as the best-performing state in Australia.
24/10/2016	Government meeting with Special Advisor to the Prime Minister, also the Chairman for Parliamentary League Promoting the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; Chairman for LDP Special Committee on Persons with Disabilities (Tokyo) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Seishiro ETO</li> </ul>	Discussion on the importance of NSW-Japan relations, the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Australia and disability services policy and efforts for people with disability to live well in the community in both NSW and Japan.
24/10/2016	Government meeting with the State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan Government (Tokyo) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Nobuo KISHI</li> </ul>	Discussion of cultural relations between NSW and Japan, multiculturalism policy of integration of migrants and cultural diversity.
24/10/2016	Dinner with outgoing and incoming of Consul General of Japan in Sydney (Tokyo) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Masato TAKAOKA</li> <li>• Mr Keizo TAKEWAKA</li> </ul>	Discussion of Japanese community in NSW, multicultural policy, NSW – Japan relations.
25/10/2016	Meeting with Austrade (Tokyo) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Brett Cooper, Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner Japan</li> </ul>	Obtained a briefing on economic and political issues relevant to NSW and Japan.
25/10/2016	Dinner with Metropolis Conference organisers and co-hosts of Metropolis Sydney 2018 (Nagoya) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Howard Duncan, Executive Head, Metropolis Project</li> <li>• Dr Hass Dellal AO, Executive Director, Australian Multicultural Foundation</li> </ul>	Signing of a certificate for International Metropolis Conference in Sydney in 2018.  Gathered useful intelligence to help ensure the success of the event in Sydney.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Violet Roumeliotis, Chief Executive Officer, Settlement Services International</li> <li>• Mr Hakan Harman, Chief Executive Officer, Multicultural NSW</li> </ul>	
26/10/2016	International Metropolis Conference 2016 key-note address (Nagoya)	<p>Attendance at the International Metropolis Conference.</p> <p>Delivered a key-note address which highlighted NSW's excellent record on migrant and refugee resettlement and the importance of cultural cohesion.</p> <p>Highlighted the position of NSW as a successful multicultural state, some of the key programs and services delivered.</p> <p>Promoted the 2018 Sydney conference.</p> <p>Further established and strengthened links with institutions and participants likely to attend the Sydney conference.</p>



# Sydney to host major migration, integration conference in 2018

[IMAGE](#)[VIDEO](#)[AUDIO](#)

**Sydney has been announced as the host of the 2018 International Metropolis Conference - a major gathering of the world's leading migration and cultural integration experts.**

Source: SBS News

[Tweet](#)

27 OCT 2016 - 5:20 PM UPDATED 27 OCT 2016 - 5:20 PM

NSW Minister for Multiculturalism John Ajaka announced the news while on a trade tour in Japan.

He said the state's expertise in settling people of different cultures makes it the perfect city to host the conference, which will be held at Sydney's International Convention Centre in late October, 2018.

"Across the world, countries are grappling with how best to deal with issues like migration and the movement of people," Mr Ajaka said.

"Here in NSW, we have hard earned experience and expertise in this area.

"We have been successful in creating the most multicultural society on earth. It is only right that we shared these insights and contribute to the global debate."

The event will be coordinated by the NSW government, Settlement Services International and the Australian Multicultural Foundation.

Mr Ajaka is in Japan to brief high-ranking government officials on disability reform.

Settlement Services International CEO Violet Roumeliotis said the staging would be an “opportunity to showcase the extraordinary diversity of Sydney’s local neighbourhoods”.