

State Minister Kazuyuki Nakane's Visit to New Zealand

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Kazuyuki Nakane visited New Zealand from 20 to 22 February.

Visit to Wellington, New Zealand (21 February)



Meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Rt. Hon. Winston Peters



Meeting with Deputy Chairperson of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade and former Minister of Defence, Hon. Mark Mitchell



Meeting with former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Gerry Brownlee

On the 21st of February, State Minister Nakane visited Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Rt. Hon. Winston Peters. They discussed Japan-New Zealand bilateral relationship, regional affairs including the North Korea situation, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement (TPP). Both Mr. Nakane and Mr. Peters agreed to continue working together towards an even stronger bilateral relationship, through cooperation on a range of issues.

On the same day, State Minister Nakane also met Hon. Mark Mitchell, the Deputy Chairperson of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade and former Minister of Defence, and Hon. Gerry Brownlee, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs and former Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery. In both meetings, they exchanged ideas on Japan-New Zealand relations and current international affairs.

Visit to Christchurch, New Zealand (22 February)



Offering of flowers at the Canterbury Earthquake National Memorial



Chatting with Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern (left)
(In centre is Mayor of Christchurch, Lianne Dalziel)

State Minister Nakane attended the Memorial Service for the 7th Anniversary of the 2011 Christchurch Earthquake, and offered flowers and prayers to the departed representing the Japanese Government. He also visited and laid flowers at the site of the CTV building, which collapsed in the Earthquake killing 28 Japanese nationals, and Avonhead Cemetery.

At the Memorial Service, Mr. Nakane met Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, Minister for Greater Christchurch Regeneration and Minister Responsible for the Earthquake Commission Hon. Megan Woods, and Mayor of Christchurch Hon. Lianne Dalziel. Mr. Nakane requested continued assistance by the New Zealand Government for the bereaved families, and it was reaffirmed that the two Governments will continue their cooperation.



Prayers for the deceased at Avonhead Cemetery



Offering prayers and flowers at the CTV building site

Visit to Auckland, New Zealand (20 February)



Meeting with Mayor of Auckland, Hon. Phil Goff



Meeting with former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Murray McCully

Prior to visiting Wellington and Christchurch, on the 20th of February, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Kazuyuki Nakane visited Hon. Phil Goff, Mayor of Auckland. Auckland City is home to many Japanese companies operating in New Zealand and hosts a large number of Japanese residents, not to mention having a flourishing sister city relationship with Japan. Both Mr. Nakane and Mr. Goff agreed to work together towards an even closer relationship.

On the same day he also met New Zealand's former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Murray McCully, and the two exchanged views on the Japan-New Zealand bilateral relationship and the state of regional affairs.