

**Speech by H.E. Ambassador Makoto OSAWA  
on the occasion of the Opening Ceremony for  
the Hydrogen Refuelling Station of Halcyon Green Hydrogen  
Auckland, 22 April 2024**

Mr Simon Bridges, Chair of the New Zealand Transport Agency

Mr Kia Zia CEO of Tuaropaki Trust company

Mr Ando Ken, Head of Energy Division of Obayashi Corporation

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

*Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa*

I am privileged and honoured to extend my sincere congratulations on the Official Opening of this Hydrogen Station launched by Halcyon Power Ltd, a joint venture between Obayashi Corporation and Tuaropaki Trust, here in Auckland.

I would also like to express my most sincere appreciation and respect to all those who have worked so hard to develop this business in New Zealand and the preparations for today's ceremony.

We are all aware that addressing climate change is an urgent priority. Many countries around the world, including Japan and New Zealand, are aiming to achieve net-zero by 2050. In this pursuit, a green transformation is essential, with a particular focus on the use of hydrogen. New Zealand, in particular, is gaining attention globally as a producer of green hydrogen.

In Japan, we have developed a national strategy called the “Hydrogen Basic Strategy” for promoting the utilisation of hydrogen. In order to advance the production, transportation, and utilisation of hydrogen, Japan aims not only to establish a manufacturing base domestically, but also to promote the utilisation of hydrogen produced overseas. For this reason, New Zealand’s abundant renewable energy resources present a wealth of opportunities for bilateral collaboration.

In fact, cooperation with the hydrogen sector in New Zealand has been underway for some time. In October 2018, a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) on strengthening collaboration among government, industry, and research institutions was exchanged between the governments of Japan and New Zealand to promote the realisation of a hydrogen society.

In this regard, I understand that Obayashi Corporation has been actively engaged in a number of projects related to the production, transportation and utilisation of hydrogen using geothermal power since forming a joint venture with the Tuaropaki Trust in Taupo in 2021. In terms of transportation, they are working on a pilot project to export hydrogen to Fiji with a view to exporting it to Japan and other countries in the future. Furthermore, preparations are steadily progressing towards a future green transformation and the realisation of a hydrogen society by expanding the supply of renewable energy, such as adding Eastland Generation to the group. Today's opening of this hydrogen station is an important step towards future initiatives.

We share the spirit of the famous proverb "*I ore te tuatara ka patu ki waho*", which means "A problem is solved by continuing to find solutions." Japanese and New Zealand stakeholders have been working hard to overcome each challenge they face, further developing their cooperation centred on green hydrogen in New Zealand. In the future, I believe that this kind of commitment to utilising green hydrogen between Japan and New Zealand can serve as a model for the world.

The Government of Japan will continue to support the promotion of investments by Japanese companies in the field of renewable energy in New Zealand. To conclude my congratulatory remarks, I sincerely hope that the exchanges between our two countries, which we have been developing together, will continue to thrive and deepen further.

Thank you.

*No rei ra, tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa.*