

**Speech by H.E. Ambassador Makoto OSAWA
on the occasion of
Japan Business Breakfast 2024
(13 September 2024, Wellington)**

Kia ora, nau mai! Good morning,

Mayor of Wellington, Ms Tory Whanau,
Wellington Chamber of Commerce President, Mr Karun
Shenoy

Distinguished and Creative Speakers and Guests,

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa,

Thank you all for attending this Japan Business Breakfast.

Ladies and gentlemen, When you arrive in Wellington, you first discover it is a city of politics and strong wind. However, as you get to understand more about the city you find out it is much more than that and Wellington is also a city of great creativity.

For example, Weta Workshop is creating their renowned movies. Digital and gaming companies such as Floating Rock are crafting stunning game cinematics and the World of WearableArts is attracting designers from all over the world, to name just a few.

Today, I am honoured to welcome speakers from a number of creative NZ companies, as well as some of the most creative Japanese companies such as Toyota and NEC, which should make this an excitingly creative breakfast session. I cannot wait to see the colours of the sparks of fusion ignited by all of these creative speakers.

I would also be delighted if, after this Business Breakfast, you somehow feel inclined to do something toward enhancing collaboration or partnership with Japan.

Japan and NZ share the importance of establishing a rules-based, free and open Indo-Pacific, based on the rule of law. In June, New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon visited Japan, and both our leaders confirmed steps to further enhance relations under the 'Strategic Cooperative Partnership'.

Turning to business, this year will see the 50th Japan - New Zealand Business Council held in Kurashiki in November. Business leaders from both countries will discuss our "Partnership for the next Generation" to take advantage of opportunities and to cope with the challenges in front of us. This will help to expand our relationships, based on our strength using our creative ideas.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of another upcoming creative event in Japan. The Osaka-Kansai Expo will be held from 13th April to 13th October, next year. The theme is 'Designing Future Society for Our Lives', which will stimulate our creativity. We hope that you will visit Japan during the Expo, either on business or as a private trip.

Finally, I hope you will also enjoy the Japan Festivities here in Wellington tomorrow.

No rei ra. Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.