

New Zealand Waitangi Day

Strengthening ties with key regional partner

Ian Kennedy
AMBASSADOR OF NEW ZEALAND

I am grateful to The Japan Times for offering this opportunity to greet New Zealanders and our friends in Japan.



Feb. 6 marks the birth of the country we know today as New Zealand. On that day in 1840, Maori Rangatira

(chiefs) gathered with representatives of the British crown to sign New Zealand's founding document, the Treaty of Waitangi.

Waitangi Day provides an opportunity for New Zealanders to reflect on the development of our nation in the 171 years since the treaty was signed, to celebrate the contributions and commemorate the sacrifices that New Zealanders have made at home and abroad over those years, and to take stock of the chal-

lenges that remain in an increasingly globalized world where New Zealand is committed to make a difference as a responsible member of the international community.

New Zealand's relations with Japan began not long after the Treaty of Waitangi was signed and have continued to grow ever since. Trade, tourism and exchanges with Japan helped shape our country and our ties with Asia. Today Japan is one of

our closest and most important partners in the region.

Japan and New Zealand share a commitment to developing cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. I want to congratulate Japan for hosting the highly successful APEC leaders' meetings in 2010, which New Zealand Prime Minister John Key attended. One highlight of the meeting was Japan's expression of interest in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which we welcome as a way

to deepen our relationship further.

Strengthening the New Zealand-Japan science relationship is another priority. New Zealand's science sector has a high reputation and there is good potential for future collaboration with Japan. 2010 saw the visit of Science Minister Dr. Wayne Mapp and the holding of the inaugural Joint Committee on Science and Technology Cooperation, which identified the environment, advanced technologies, health, disaster mitigation and marine research as areas for future scientific collaboration.

Business leaders in Japan and New Zealand have made their own commitment to strengthen ties. This year the third Japan-New Zealand Partnership Forum meeting will take place in Tokyo and the Japan/New Zealand Business Council will meet in Osaka. The partnership forum is a new strategic dialogue designed to ensure that the bilateral economic ties keep pace with changes in the region.

New Zealand is now gearing up to welcome visitors



Friendly ties: Prime Minister John Key receives a warm welcome from students during his visit to APEC Yokohama 2010. SARAH CORBETT

Showcasing New Zealand's best to the world

As New Zealand begins counting down to the Rugby World Cup, Kiwi businesses and industries are preparing to showcase their innovation to the world.

New Zealand is well-known as a popular tourist destination and industries like food and wine enjoy a reputation for premium specialty foods. Excellence in food production underpins New Zealand's reputation as a producer of functional foods and other biotechnology products.

Other lesser-known industries are also coming to the fore with significant advances. For example, New Zealand information and communication technology is gaining acclaim for its fresh thinking in areas like software and digital content. Yacht racing events such as the America's Cup have given New Zealand companies an edge in setting the standard for boat building technologies. New Zealand companies are also active in environmental industries like water and alternative fuels.

New Zealand's film industry speaks for itself with successes like "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy. Visual effects studio Weta Digital redefined motion-capture technology in virtual environments during the production of "Avatar"



and has set new benchmarks in the world of computer animation and special effects. Oscar-winning director Sir Peter Jackson will begin shooting the film version of J.R.R. Tolkien's novel "The Hobbit" in New Zealand this month.

During the Rugby World Cup, the REAL New Zealand

Festival will celebrate New Zealand's diverse arts, culture and heritage with over 300 events held at 18 regions nationwide. As part of the festival, New Zealand's world renowned opera singer Dame Kiri Te Kanawa will perform a special concert, singing her great classics along with New

Zealand favorites. For a South Pacific flavor, Style Pasifika will show off the innovation and creativity of New Zealand's numerous Polynesian groups.

The REAL New Zealand Festival will complement match fixtures and the team hosting schedule for RWC 2011.

Overseas visitors can follow their teams around New Zealand and enjoy local festival events at the same time.

Congratulations on Waitangi Day



Congratulations on the 171st Anniversary of Waitangi Day



140MW Nga Awa Purua Geothermal Power Station
fully commissioned in April 2010 by Fuji Electric Systems for Mighty River Power.



Fuji Electric

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Congratulations on the 171st Anniversary of Waitangi Day



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Congratulations to the People of New Zealand
on Waitangi Day

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