

New Zealand Waitangi Day

Looking forward to developing ties with Japan on Waitangi Day

The following is a brief interview with New Zealand Ambassador Mark Sinclair on the occasion of Waitangi Day, celebrated every Feb. 6.

What is Waitangi Day about and how do you celebrate the national holiday in New Zealand?

Waitangi Day marks the birth of modern New Zealand, commemorating the treaty between the British and the Maori people of New Zealand. Signed in 1840, the treaty provides a framework for the continuing partnership between the government and the Maori. It reflects our unique experience in building an ethnically diverse and multicultural society.

Waitangi Day is celebrated throughout New Zealand with many public commemorative events and at home by many families. The highest profile event is at Waitangi, in the far north, where the treaty was signed. Every year the original signing ceremony is re-enacted and the Royal New Zealand Navy is present alongside traditional Maori canoes or "waka." In Tokyo, the New Zealand Embassy hosts a lunch for Kiwis living in Japan, complete with a performance by a Maori cultural group, Nga Hau e Wha. For more details and images of the Tokyo celebration, please see the embassy's Facebook page.

Please give us a brief overview of bilateral relations between New Zealand and Japan.

New Zealand's ties with Japan are close and warm. Japan is one of our most important partners in Asia. This partnership was tested two years ago when tragedy struck both of our countries within a few weeks. On Feb. 22, 2011, a 6.3-magnitude earthquake hit Christchurch killing 185 people including 28 Japanese citizens. Japan supported New Zealand in our time of need just as we made an effort to support Japan following the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake of March 11. New Zealand Prime Minister John Key visited the Tohoku region last year as a gesture of solidarity with people of the



Ambassador of New Zealand Mark Sinclair

region. As both of our countries move ahead to rebuild cities and communities, we are working together to learn from each other's experience of disaster and recovery. The prime minister was accompanied by 11 Christchurch schoolchildren who built ties of friendship and understanding with the children of Tohoku.

Another theme in Prime Minister Key's visit last year was the importance of further developing business links, with a special focus on the role of regional economic integration initiatives such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

It has been almost two years since the 2011 Christchurch earthquake. How are the recovery projects being conducted? Please give us a brief review of the operations by the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority, which could serve as a useful reference for the recovery projects in Japan's affected areas.

2013 will be an action-oriented year for the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA) as it moves from the planning phase into the implementation phase of its reconstruction efforts in Christchurch. CERA has made significant progress in repairing and rebuilding roads, drainage systems, and the relevant building consents are now in place to move ahead further in these and other areas. The rebuilding of Christchurch

homes is a top priority to provide Christchurch people with some security and certainty about where they are going to be living.

There is one part of the reconstruction program that will be of special interest in Japan — Shigeru Ban's design for a "cardboard cathedral," which will temporarily replace the iconic Christchurch cathedral irreparably damaged during the quake.

Other than Prime Minister Key's visit to Tohoku, what special activities have occurred in the areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake?

A Japan-New Zealand Disaster Management Workshop was held in March 2012, where both countries' scientists looked at developing practical research projects to assist the rebuilding of Christchurch and Tohoku. There is interest among the Japanese engineering community about the effects of liquefaction and the evolution of New Zealand's building standards in the wake of our earthquakes and has resulted in idea sharing. A second workshop is planned for April 2013 in Japan.

Under the banner "Support our Kids," 50 Japanese high school children from Tohoku (many of whom had lost family members during the earthquake) were hosted by New Zealand families to give them a taste of Kiwi life last year. Japanese and New Zealand businesses provided generous support for the scheme, which gave children, who had been through so much, some time away. These homestays were so successful that we are looking at providing an opportunity for more children to visit New Zealand later this year

What are some possibilities for strengthening the economic and commercial relationship?

Throughout the Asia-Pacific region there is a general movement toward fuller economic integration, helped by formal trade and investment agreements. New Zealand has trade agreements in place or under negotiation with most of our major trade partners and we would like to have such an agreement with Ja-

pan, either bilaterally or through a wider economic integration initiative. We will be joining Japan in the regional comprehensive economic partnership (RCEP) negotiation scheduled to get under way early this year. We have also welcomed Japan's interest in the Trans-Pacific Partnership, an initiative for a regional free trade agreement that we believe has immense potential. The TPP negotiation has made good progress since it began in 2010 and we see it as a possible pathway to a future economic integration agreement covering all the economies of APEC.

TPP participants remain committed to achieving the common goals set out in the November 2011 Honolulu TPP Leaders' Statement. We have a common vision of the TPP as a high-quality 21st century trade agreement, which will set a new standard for trade in the region. This vision was reaffirmed in November by TPP Leaders including Prime Minister Key and U.S. President Barack Obama on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit in Phnom Penh.

What are the promotional initiatives planned for the future, especially for tourism?

Tourism New Zealand and Air New Zealand will continue our



Friendly exchange: Still conducted in New Zealand today, the "hongi" is a traditional Maori greeting performed by pressing one's nose and forehead to another person's to "share the breath of life." TOURISM NEW ZEALAND / JAMES HEREMAIA

work to promote New Zealand as "100% Middle-earth 100% Pure New Zealand," as our joint work to promote New Zealand in connection with the "Hobbit" film trilogy. Directed by New Zealander Peter Jackson and filmed in New Zealand, the second movie will be released at the end of 2013. Tourism New Zealand and Air New Zealand have dedicated pages set up promoting this Middle-earth theme. Air New Zealand is the official airline to Middle-earth and has a discover Middle-earth promotion on at the moment.

Tourism New Zealand and Air New Zealand will also look to promote hiking in New Zealand including the world-famous Great Walks of New Zealand. Air New Zealand with the Department of Conservation have recently held a Great Walker competition (hike the nine Great Walks in New Zealand over nine weeks) and one of the four winners picked globally was Japanese. He leaves for New Zealand next month and we will all be watching his adventure unfold with keen interest and some degree of envy!



Magical setting: West of the town of Blenheim, the Pelorus Bridge Scenic Reserve is the perfect place for a picnic or a spot of trout fishing. In summer, the river might tempt visitors for a cooling swim. TOURISM NEW ZEALAND / JOHN DOOGAN

Congratulations on Waitangi Day



Congratulations to the People of New Zealand on Waitangi Day

Rinnai

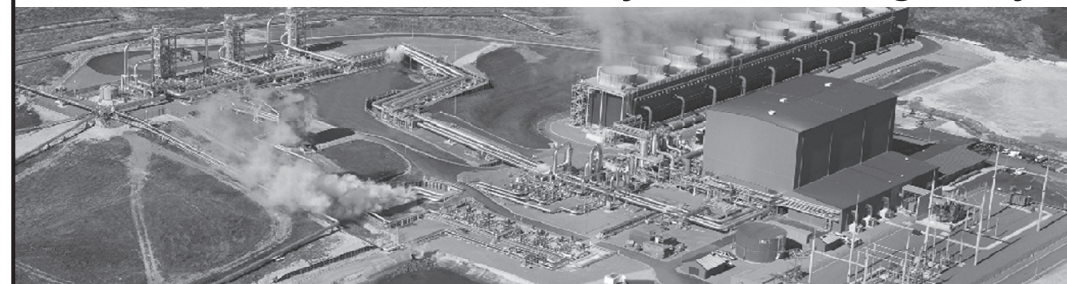
EXPERIENCE OUR INNOVATION

Rinnai Corporation, Japan

Chairman Susumu (Akito) Naito

2-26, Fukuzumi, Nakagawa, Nagoya, 454-0802, Japan Tel : 052-361-8211

Congratulations on the 173rd Anniversary of Waitangi Day



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

FE Fuji Electric
Innovating Energy Technology

<http://www.fujielectric.com>

Congratulations on the 173rd Anniversary of Waitangi Day



SUMITOMO FORESTRY CO., LTD.

Keidanren Kaikan, 3-2, Otemachi 1-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8270, Japan



Nelson Pine Industries Ltd

P.O. Box 3049, Lower Queen St, Richmond Nelson, New Zealand