

The Second Joint Australia-Japan Public-Private Policy Dialogue – Friday 7th October, 2011 – Tokyo

This second Dialogue was timed to coincide with the presence of many Australians for the 49th Japan-Australia Joint Business Conference held in Kyoto 9th – 11th October, 2011.

Following Opening Remarks and some discussion of Trade and Investment Issues, the bulk of the meeting's Agenda considered Infrastructure related matters. These included reports on:-

- Recent activities of the Department of infrastructure and Transport
- The new New South Wales Government's establishment of Infrastructure New South Wales to prioritise and coordinate the state's infrastructure programme.
- Australian Government's activities in facilitating increased international financing in Australian infrastructure
- Updates on recent developments in Japan including the impact of the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami and the government's reconstruction policy

The meeting also discussed:-

- Coordination of Australian and Japanese Government support for joint Australia-Japan projects in Asia
- What mechanisms are needed to realise closer cooperation between Australia and Japan.

Reference was also made to the Government of Japan's revision of the PFI Law and the benefits that would be expected to be gained by Japan's infrastructure sector from the introduction of 'concession' agreements for economic infrastructure projects. Based on its experience over twenty five years in PPPs, the Australian business representatives expressed their interest in being able to comment on the proposed rules and regulations associated with the revision when these become available.

A third Dialogue is being considered for March 2012 in Tokyo.