

2011 JNZBC Conference

The 38th Joint Meeting of the Japan New Zealand Business Council was held in Osaka, from 6 – 8 November 2011, with 106 participants, 68 from Japan (including 19 from Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry) and 38 from New Zealand. This was the first time the conference had ever been held in Osaka. With the support of the Tokyo and Osaka Chambers of Commerce, new opportunities for trade, investment, and other relationships were born.

The Opening Ceremony was at held at the Mayors Mansion in Osaka, and provided a great opportunity for networking amongst conference delegates attending from Tokyo, Osaka, and New Zealand.

The industry tour to the Monodzukuri (Manufacturers) Business Information-Center Osaka showcased SMEs in the Osaka region, and provided attendees with fresh ideas on relationship development between SMEs in both countries. A visit to a local sake manufacturer, Kitashoji, showcased the traditional art of sake making, and the cultural and economic perspectives of this industry.



The key points relating to the Plenary Sessions are covered in the Chairman's Summary (refer to the attached document).



Japan New Zealand Business Council

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With the support of the Asia: NZ Foundation, four Youth Japan New Zealand Business Council (yJNZBC) members (some of whom were previous Jenesys programme attendees) were privileged to attend the conference. Youth delegates included: yJNZBC Founder and Chairperson Jeanine Begg, Olivia Upton, Michelle McCarthy and Corey Wallace. Prior to the JNZBC conference, the youth delegates discussed the objectives to pursue during the conference on behalf of the yJNZBC. Though creating a greater awareness of the skill sets of young Kiwi's to New Zealand export businesses was paramount, there was a more pressing need to excite our Japanese counterparts about the potential for a youth-driven sector within the scope of Japan's Council-proper. The yJNZBC gave a presentation to all delegates on the importance of fostering a bilateral relationship at a youth level between our countries. This was received warmly from the Japanese delegates, and Chairman Yano expressed his commitment to assist in the development of this initiative on the Japan side. Congratulations to the yJNZBC team for being great ambassadors for all NZ youth involved with Japan.



Another highlight of the conference was the showcase of the Tauranga/Hitachi sister city relationship. Export NZ Bay of Plenty coordinated a display of products, taste testings, gift packs, and presentations to all delegates. The success of this trade relationship between the two sister cities is testament to the level of effort being put in on both sides, and provides a good model for other sister cities in NZ/Japan to follow as well. Congratulations to Angela Wallace, a former Jenesys programme participant, and the support of the Tauranga Council in the development of this relationship.



The conference was a success, and provided a number of catalysts for new relationships to be developed by those in attendance.

The 39th Joint Meeting of the Japan New Zealand Business Council will be held in Auckland on 6-8 November 2012. This conference will mark the 60th anniversary of relations between Japan and New Zealand. The JNZBC is planning a 'super conference' which will provide further opportunities for the yJNZBC, sister cities, and trade and investment between the two countries.

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