Australia-Japan roundtable

smart cities

Sydney – 27 NOV 2018

BRISBANE – 29 NOV 2018

**Re: Smart Cities Roundtables- Background Information.**

Dear All,

We have had a number of enquiries from both Australian and Japanese companies relating to these roundtables regarding the background to these two events and information below provides more detail on both background and the lead up to the roundtable sessions.

**A: Recent Australia- Japan Collaboration in Smart Cities:**

* The Australia- Japan Roundtables are being held under the auspices of the 2017 Japan- Australia Memorandum of Co-operation (MOC) on Innovation between DIIS and METI.
* Former Trade, Investment and Tourism Minister, Hon. Steven Ciobo MP led a Smart Cities Young Business Leader’s Mission to Japan in July 2018, which highlighted the interest in co-operation and collaboration in smart cities.
* Interest in smart cities was reinforced on 16 October at the Smart Cities Session held at the AJBCC- JABCC bilateral business chambers conference in Sydney.

 **B. Recent corporate developments in Smart Cities:**

* Major Japanese companies in Australia are working on a number of important smart city related initiatives including Softbank and Toyota Tsusho on autonomous transport technologies.
* Major Japanese companies have expressed a strong interest in the Greater Western Sydney and Aerotropolis projects with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd and the Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation signing MOUs’ with the NSW Premier  on these two important projects on 16 October at the AJBCC- JABCC Conference.
* Major Japanese trading houses continue to take an active role in participating in a wide range of infrastructure projects in Australia and continue to take a strong interest in urban related projects. Major Japanese development companies continue to participate in a wide range of new residential and commercial projects in major cities in Australia in conjunction with their Australian partners, and are actively promoting innovative solutions and technology in both smart cities and sustainable development.

**C: Objectives of the Roundtables:**

These include:

* To increase co-operation between Japan and Australia in innovative “Smart City” technologies and sustainable development and raise awareness of smart city projects in Australia and in Japan. At the Roundtable in Sydney, on the Japanese side, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Softbank and Fujitsu will provide presentations on relevant “Smart City” related technologies. 2 major Japanese development companies Sekisui House, Daiwa House and Obayashi Corporation, as a major construction company will provide presentations on sustainable solutions and technology relevant to the wider smart cities theme.
* At the Roundtable in Brisbane, on the Japanese side, Softbank, Fujitsu and JX Nippon Oil & Energy will provide presentations on relevant “Smart City” related technologies. major Japanese development company Sekisui House and Obayashi Corporation, as a major construction company will provide presentations on sustainable solutions and technology relevant to the wider smart cities theme.
* To provide an opportunity for Australian companies to showcase innovative solutions in Smart City and sustainable development related technologies to major Japanese companies.
* For Japanese companies to showcase their technologies and solutions, both for smart city and sustainable development perspectives that could be applied to Smart City projects in Australia.
* To provide an opportunity to explore further co-operation and collaboration potential between Australia and Japan in smart city and sustainable development technologies and solutions.

**D. Specific Objectives: Sydney and Brisbane Roundtables.**

The Western Sydney City Deal which includes the Aerotropolis is one of NSW’s most ambitious and transformative infrastructure projects and is an initiative of both the Federal and NSW State Governments and 8 Western Sydney based Local Councils.

The Sydney Roundtable will focus on the Western Sydney City Deal and specifically on the Western Sydney digital commitments which the Greater Sydney Committee require, as well as provide participants with an overview of Smart City projects in Australia. Participants will be able to better understand the Western Sydney digital requirements, sustainability targets and the infrastructure pipeline. It will allow Australian and Japanese participants the opportunity to explore the possibility of collaboration in smart city and sustainability solutions and technologies to mutual benefit.

The Brisbane Roundtable will focus on the South East Queensland City Deal and developments with the Cities Transformation Taskforce an initiative of 12 Local Councils in South East Queensland and the Queensland State Government.

The Brisbane Roundtable will provide participants with the opportunity to learn about the South East Queensland City Deal and for Australian and Japanese participants the possibility of collaborate in smart city and sustainability solutions and technologies to mutual benefit.

The networking sessions that follow the two roundtables will provide a useful forum for all participants and observers to continue discussions with senior representatives from both the Japanese and the Australian side and will feature Australian start-up companies that have an interest in smart cities related solutions.

**E: Organising Parties:**

* Organisers of these roundtables are JETRO with Consulate General of Japan, the Japan Australia Business Co-operation Committee as a co- supporter on the Japanese side and from the Australian side, Austrade as an organiser with DIIS and the Australia-Japan Business Co-operation Committee as a co- supporter.
* We also gratefully acknowledge the support and interest we have received from the NSW and Queensland State Governments and Ernst and Young (Sydney) and QUT (Brisbane) for providing venue space and logistics support.

**F: Other:**

* Invitees should note that the content of the roundtables will vary between Sydney and Brisbane, and the program information provided outlines the content of the roundtables in more detail:

-Attachment A contains a copy of the running sheet

- Attachment B contains a list of invited and confirmed participants.

* For further information, please contact Ms. Gabrielle Hall on gabrielle.hall@austrade.gov.au by e-mail or on +617 3364 7732.

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