



JAPAN NEW ZEALAND PARTNERSHIP FORUM 2009

CONCLUDING STATEMENT BY THE CO-CHAIRS

We have been pleased to co-chair the second Japan New Zealand Partnership Forum which was held in Tokyo at the Tokyo Kaikan on Friday 30 October 2009. Building on the success of the inaugural Forum held in Tokyo on 14-15 May 2008, this second Partnership Forum brought together over 100 senior leaders from government, business and the academic community. We are grateful to the New Zealand International Business Forum and its partners in Japan and New Zealand for the excellent arrangements for our Forum and to the event sponsors for their generosity.

The Forum was honoured to be addressed by the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Hon John Key, who was making his first official visit to Japan, and Special Advisor to Prime Minister Hatoyama, Mr Yoshikatsu Nakayama. New Zealand Foreign Minister Hon Murray McCully also addressed the Forum.

The Forum took place against a background of political change in both countries and a difficult economic situation. Under the theme "Partnership and the Real Economy" discussion at the Forum focused on the outlook for economic recovery, the prospects for even closer cooperation between business in the areas of sustainable energy and resources, food safety and security, and prospects for the further liberalization of trade between the two countries and within the Asia Pacific region.

The Forum was privileged to hear from government and business commentators about steps to promote the economic recovery in both countries. While some satisfaction was expressed that the global economy appeared to have turned a corner and returned to modest growth, it was clear to Forum participants that the recovery remained fragile and the situation of many citizens was precarious.

In the light of the emerging recovery businesses in both countries are being drawn to focus on what needs to be done to remain competitive in the current climate and to prepare the basis for future expansion. Meeting the needs of consumers has become even more important and companies need to respond to demographic change, new concerns about sustainability and environmental responsibility and increasing attention to product safety. The Forum heard from senior representatives of Oji Paper, Meridian Energy, Mitsubishi Motors Corporation, Anzco

Foods and Bourbon Corporation about how they are responding to these challenges. By concentrating squarely on the “real economy” the Forum hopes to have built a platform to establish stronger business links which will lead to increased productivity and living standards in both countries.

The Forum considered the outlook for freer and fairer trade in the region. Both academic and business participants agreed that expanded trade and investment could be the drivers of sustainable economic growth. The urgent need to conclude the World Trade Organization’s Doha round was expressed. Support was given for the proposed establishment of an East Asian Community as advocated by Prime Minister Hatoyama and concrete steps toward a Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA). Participants urged that priority be accorded to examine the future basis for an economic partnership agreement (EPA) between Japan and New Zealand. They hoped that this would lead to the commencement of negotiations in the near future.

The Forum was pleased to note the excellent state of relations between the two countries which will have been further enhanced by the various activities taking place in Tokyo during the week of the Forum. Forum participants are prepared to play their part in taking the relationship to a new level. We believe that this Partnership Forum has an important leadership role to play in this regard.

In an inspirational address to delegates over lunch, Global CEO of Saatchi and Saatchi, Kevin Roberts, urged us to “dream together, work together, inspire each other and make a difference”. As Forum Co-Chairs we can wish for nothing less. Accordingly we recommend that the Forum be reconvened within 18 months to take forward our discussion and co-operation and to continue to build this valuable, strategic partnership between us.



Yoshihiko Miyauchi



Hon Philip Burdon

Tokyo, 30 October 2009