



Welcome Reception for Consul-General of Japan, Mr
Makoto Hinei
Official Residence of the Consul-General
Friday, 16 May 2008, 5.30 pm



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The Hon Paul de Jersey AC Chief Justice of Queensland

Consul-General and Mrs Hinei, Minister the Honourable Warren Pitt, Minister the Honourable Neil Roberts, Major General Arnison, The Honourable John Macrossan, Members of Parliament, Deputy Mayor, Commissioner of Police, Service Chiefs, ladies and gentlemen.

I am most honoured to have the opportunity to welcome Mr Hinei, warmly, to the position of Consul-General of Japan for the State of Queensland. Mr Hinei is on my count the 15th Consul-General for Queensland since the post was established in 1972. We wish the Consul-General and Mrs Hinei an enjoyable, fulfilling and productive time in Queensland.

I should say that we Queenslanders greatly appreciate our State's vibrant relationship with the great nation of Japan, and we also appreciate Japan's recognition of the



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importance of that relationship. That recognition is reflected by the distinction of the Consuls-General who have filled the position over the years.

Since my appointment as Chief Justice in 1998, six distinguished diplomats have occupied the important posting, Mr Sugano, Ms Bando, Mr Kai, Mr Yamazaki, Mr Nishiyama, and now Mr Hinei.

Queenslanders have been the grateful beneficiaries, in consequence, of many things – mutual friendships, an appreciation of the richness of Japanese cultural life, and the benefit of sharing the Japanese trade dynamic, among others.

In warmly welcoming you, Consul-General and Mrs Hinei, we acknowledge our debt to the people of Japan, and wish you well as you maintain and develop this important office. We also hope of course, on a personal level, that you greatly enjoy your time in our State, and your interaction with the friendly people of Queensland.



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I assure you both we will be doing our utmost to guarantee that outcome.