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Japan and Australia: Fostering a firm and far-reaching economic partnership

In 2014, Japan and Australia marked a significant milestone in their economic relationship with the signing of the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement, paving the way for increased bilateral trade and cooperation. Commemorating JAEPA's 10th anniversary, the partnership remains robust, dynamically impacting the economic ties between the two nations.

"Overall, I would characterize it as positive, growing and broadening," H.E. Justin Hayhurst, ambassador of Australia to Japan, said of the current state of trade relations between Japan and Australia.

"I would highlight three areas of potential in our continued cooperation: energy transition, critical minerals and in the areas of strategic trust. Australia's decades-long energy partnership with Japan remains very strong. We have very similar decarbonization and emissions reduction targets, and the challenge is how to support each other's efforts, as partners.

"Energy transition and critical

minerals are two of the vital areas. As for areas of strategic trust, defense industry, data and telecommunications technology are just some key aspects in which two countries with advanced scientific capabilities and a close political partnership can work together," he elaborated.

H.E. Kazuhiro Suzuki, ambassador of Japan to Australia, said, "The Japan-Australia relationship has never been better." Citing the results of the 2022 Lowy Institute poll, a survey of the Australian public's perceptions of foreign relations, Suzuki noted that Japan placed first, with 85% of respondents saying they trust the country to "act responsibly in the world."

"In many ways, this is not surprising, given that Japan and Australia enjoy a long-standing economic partnership often called a 'complementary relationship,'" he added.

Moreover, Hayhurst underscored that JAEPA has been a great success not only on the forefront of bilateral trade, but also in strengthening "the principles that



Kazuhiro Suzuki, Ambassador of Japan to Australia

both countries stand for, economically."

Over the last decade, JAEPA has fostered economic growth and stability. The agreement has played a pivotal role in the diversification of both countries' economies by expanding trade relations and market access for businesses and investors



Justin Hayhurst, Ambassador of Australia to Japan

across an array of sectors, including technology, natural resources and finance, among many others.

"About 60% of Japan's iron ore imports and around 40% of its natural gas imports come from Australia. About 40% of Australia's imported passenger cars are of Japanese origin. Furthermore, we now see more

Japanese industrial products and investments in Australia, enriching society as a whole. On the financial front, Japanese banks run second only to Australia's four megabanks for corporate loans; for project finance, three of the top seven banks in Australia are Japanese," Suzuki said.

Richard Andrews, CEO of the Australia Japan Business Co-operation Committee, concurred with the insight on the far-reaching effects of JAEPA.

"The creation of new industries and new forms of collaboration requires the creation of new networks and new ways of working together. These networks will be needed across an unprecedented range of activities — from clean hydrogen and ammonia, green steel production and renewable energy to new collaborations on innovation and technology, in areas as diverse as robotics and nanotechnology, space, artificial intelligence and life sciences," he concluded. ♦

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Beyond lithium: Delta's symphony continues shaping the landscape for renewable energy

In the ever-evolving landscape of lithium development in Western Australia, Delta Lithium Ltd. has achieved a significant milestone regarding the results of its recently announced maiden mineral resource estimate (MRE) at the Yinnetharra Lithium Project.

The company's strategic journey, fueled by a substantial capital infusion of 46.4 million Australian dollars from Japanese conglomerate Idemitsu Kosan Co. Ltd., cements Delta's position as a key player in the sector, showcasing financial strength and strategic collaboration.

Delta Lithium Managing Director James Croser underscored the importance of the partnership.

"Idemitsu's global scale and diversified portfolio, coupled with substantial financial capacity, position it as a valuable ally in advancing critical minerals business, particularly in lithium battery technologies, mining and chemical engineering," he said.



Delta Lithium's strategic focus includes advancing the Mount Ida Lithium Project and intensifying exploration at the Yinnetharra Lithium Project.

exploration at the Yinnetharra Lithium Project. With substantial Joint Ore Reserve Committee resources totaling 40.1 tons at 1.1% lithium oxide, Delta has strategically positioned itself in Western Australia's evolving lithium landscape.

A recent equity-raising initiative valued at AU\$70.2 million reinforces the confidence of major shareholders, including Mineral Resources Limited and Hancock Prospecting. This initiative, with an offer price of AU\$0.46 per share, is designed to strengthen Delta's financial standing and support ambitious projects with a current cash balance of AU\$120 million.

"The MRE is the foundation from which a mining lease application, scoping studies and further growth at Yinnetharra will proceed, with real potential now to support a significant lithium mining operation of large open-pit scale. We believe that this is just the beginning for the Yinnetharra project, with multiple mineralized lithium-cesium-tantalum prospects yet to be tested over the massive project area," Croser said.

Idemitsu Kosan's investment aligns with a broader strategic

vision driven by the growing global demand for lithium, especially for electric vehicles and large storage batteries. Idemitsu aims to contribute to the stability and production of lithium ore in Australia.

As this alliance unfolds, it is clear that the collaboration between Delta Lithium and Idemitsu is more than a financial transaction; it's a synergistic partnership combining financial strength, industry expertise and a shared commitment to advancing the critical minerals sector in the pursuit of a sustainable and low-carbon future. Additionally, Delta's recent announcement about the Yinnetharra Lithium Project adds to the company's positive trajectory, marking a significant step toward large-scale lithium mining operations. ♦

www.deltalithium.com.au



James Croser, Managing Director of Delta Lithium

Delta Lithium's strategic focus includes advancing the Mount Ida Lithium Project and intensifying

ATFX: Leading global online trading broker committed to excellence

In the dynamic world of online trading, ATFX stands out as a global leader, recognized for its award-winning customer services and strategic achievements. The latest accolade is the prestigious Most Reliable FX Broker award it received at Forex Expo Dubai 2023, solidifying its position as a trusted online broker.

The third quarter of 2023 marked a groundbreaking milestone for ATFX, as revealed in Finance Magnates' Quarterly Intelligence Report. The company posted a staggering trading volume of over \$852.3 billion, securing the fourth position globally and surpassing its record from the previous quarter. This achievement underscores ATFX's commitment to providing a robust and efficient trading platform for its clients.



Joe Li, Chairman of ATFX

A significant move that contributed to this success was ATFX's strategic expansion through the

acquisition of Rakuten Securities Australia, a subsidiary of Japan's Rakuten Securities Inc. This move not only strengthened its position in the Australian market, but also expanded its global footprint, allowing ATFX to access a well-established customer base and integrate a talented team of industry professionals.

Joe Li, chairman of ATFX, expressed enthusiasm for these developments, stating: "We are thrilled to welcome RSA into the ATFX family. This acquisition presents a significant opportunity for us to expand our presence in the Australian market and provide clients in the region with enhanced trading solutions. We are committed to investing in technology, talent and resources to ensure that our clients receive the highest level of service."

Li also commented on the appointment of Simon Naish as the new country head for ATFX Australia.

"We are delighted to have Simon Naish join ATFX as the country head for ATFX Australia. His extensive expertise and leadership skills make him the ideal candidate to drive our business forward in this key market. We are confident that ATFX Australia will continue to thrive under Simon's guidance and provide exceptional services to our clients."

ATFX's commitment to delivering exceptional trading experiences is evident through its presence in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and Australia. The company's diverse range of trading instruments, including foreign exchange, contracts for differences,

indices and commodities, caters to the varied needs of its global clientele. The acquisition of RSA aligns with ATFX's strategy to provide innovative trading solutions on a global scale.

As ATFX continues to set new standards in the online trading industry, its award-winning customer services, strategic acquisitions and key appointments position it as a global force in financial markets. Investors and traders can anticipate a reliable and innovative trading experience with ATFX, a broker that consistently meets the evolving needs of its clients worldwide. ♦

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