

As a Consul-General in the World's Most Liveable City

Welcome to the website of the Consulate-General of Japan in Melbourne.

I, Hidenobu Sobashima, have recently assumed the post of Consul-General of Japan in Melbourne.



At the outset, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to many people in Australia including Japanese residents for their sincere sympathy and massive support extended to Japan after the Great East Japan Earthquake. Japan will surely recover and will repay everyone's kindness by strongly contributing to the international community again.

This Consulate has jurisdiction in the three states of Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania with over 16,000 Japanese residents living within these borders. The various activities of Japanese companies have also supported the local economy and exchanges in various fields have contributed to the development of mutual understanding and friendly relations with Japan. Numerous sister-city activities have developed into thirty-four official sister-city/state arrangements between Japan and the aforementioned states. In particular, the Japanese language is learned by many students in the state of Victoria.

This year (2011), Melbourne was again rated 'The World's Most Liveable City' by a popular periodical, which considered various aspects of living conditions in Melbourne and overall evaluated it as the world's best. I am pleased to be able to reside in such a place and I intend to work here examining the meaning of "liveability". As previously mentioned, Japanese companies contribute to the local economy. Sister-city relations, Japanese language education and cultural exchanges also have a certain influence on the general living environment.

The Consulate-General of Japan intends, in cooperation with state governments and their people, to contribute to liveability by promoting cordial relations and exchanges with Japan in all fields, as well as by

providing appropriate administrative services to local Japanese residents. Therefore, I will direct my energies to this end and your support and cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Hiddenobu Sobashima
Consul-General of Japan, Melbourne

Curriculum Vitae

Hiddenobu Sobashima, who arrived in Melbourne on Oct. 5, 2011 after his assignment was announced on Aug. 15, 2011 as Consul-General of Japan in Melbourne, held the following posts:

Jan. 2010 to Aug. 2011 - Deputy Press Secretary and Deputy Director General, Public Diplomacy Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)

Jan. to Dec. 2009 - Dean, Consular Corps of the Philippines

Apr. 2008 to Jan. 2010 - Minister (Deputy Chief of Mission) and Consul-General, Embassy of Japan in the Philippines

Aug. 2007 to Apr. 2008 - Minister (Head of Chancery), Embassy of Japan in the Philippines

Dec. 2005 to Jul. 2006 - Head, Liaison Office of MOFA in Samawah, Iraq (Concurrent assignment)

Aug. 2003 to Jul. 2007 - Minister, Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva

Jul. 2002 to Aug. 2003 - Director, Global Environment Division, Global Issues Department, MOFA

Jan. 2000 to Jul. 2002 - Director, Energy Resources Division, Economic Affairs Bureau, MOFA
(Concurrently, from Jan. to Jul. 2000 - Deputy Secretary-General for Civil

Society, Secretariat for the G8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit and between 2000 and 2002 – Vice Chairperson of the Energy Charter Conference.)

May 1997 to Jan. 2000 - Director for ODA Loans to Indonesia and Malaysia, Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund and Japan Bank for International Cooperation

Earlier assignments include:

- Deputy Director, Technical Cooperation Division, Economic Cooperation Bureau, MOFA;
- Deputy Director, Southwest Asia Division, Asian Affairs Bureau, MOFA;
- Assistant Director, Grant Aid Division, Economic Cooperation Bureau, MOFA;
- First Secretary, Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament (Geneva);
- Third Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Kenya; and
- Section Chief, Cabinet Counselors Office on Internal Affairs, after joining MOFA on April 1981.

He graduated from the University of Tokyo (Bachelor of Arts in Law) and obtained a Master of Law (LLM) Degree from the University of Cambridge.

Born in 1956 in Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan. Married with two children.