

(Provisional translation)

June 2019

Dear Hon. Prime Minister:

On behalf of the Government of Japan and the Japanese people of Japan, I would like to express my deepest condolences by the news of the passing of the former Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Honourable Robert James Lee Hawke AC.

Former Prime Minister Hawke led Australia and the Asia-Pacific region with his strong leadership and deep insights for as long as eight years.

He played an indispensable role in the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) as an important forum for international economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Former Prime Minister Hawke was a great supporter of the Japan-Australia relationship. During his tenure as Prime Minister, he visited Japan four times and contributed to the development of the Japan-Australia relations not only in trade and economic affairs, but across a wide range of areas through close dialogue.

Even after concluding his political career, former Prime Minister Hawke continued to support the Japan-Australia relationship by encouraging exchanges between our younger generations, such as through the establishment of the “Bob Hawke Scholarship”.

I will pray with respect for the souls of Former Prime Minister Hawke again.

/s/

Shinzo Abe

Prime Minister of Japan

The Honourable Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia