



Media Release

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Innovative Research Universities strengthening links with Japan

Senior representatives from the Innovative Research Universities (IRU) will travel to Japan next week to strengthen collaboration with partners in higher education, government and industry.

The visit is part of the IRU's commitment to build stronger links with key partners in the Indo-Pacific region through education and research, as part of the *IRU Strategy 2022-2027*.

Professor Lucy Johnston, Interim Vice-Chancellor at the University of Canberra and Chair of the IRU Research Committee, and IRU Executive Director Paul Harris will speak at an event on higher education and research cooperation hosted by the Australian Embassy in Tokyo, and participate in the 7th Japan-Australia High Level Policy Dialogue on Education.

They will also meet with academic and industry colleagues to explore opportunities for strengthened research cooperation in areas of mutual national priority, and for increased university-industry links.

Mr Harris will also visit Tohoku University to deliver a presentation on Australian higher education, international education and the Australian Universities Accord.

"All IRU member universities have long-standing, high-quality partnerships with Japanese universities that support student mobility and research cooperation," he said.

"We have analysed Australia-Japan research collaboration and we know it delivers a boost to both countries in both quality and impact. We have mapped our respective research strengths and we are looking forward to building on these for new collaboration in critical sectors and for expanding innovative university-industry links.

"We thank colleagues in the Australian Embassy, the Department of Education and Austrade for their support of our visit, and we look forward to representing the IRU and Australian higher education, and building stronger links with our colleagues in Japan."

About the IRU

The IRU is a network of seven comprehensive universities across Australia committed to inclusive education and innovative research that advances our communities. Its members are Flinders University, Griffith University, James Cook University, La Trobe University, Murdoch University, University of Canberra, and Western Sydney University.

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