



## Office of Hon Steven Joyce

Minister for Economic Development  
Minister of Science and Innovation  
Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment  
Associate Minister of Finance

13 MAR 2014

Dallas Nesbitt (Auckland University of Technology)  
Dr Penny Shino (Massey University)  
AUT University  
Private Bag 92006  
AUCKLAND 1142

Dear Dallas and Penny

Thank you for inviting me to the launch of your new organisation, which you co-chair. I regret not being able to attend this event on Friday evening, 14 March, but please find a message of best wishes to read out on my behalf, if you would like to do so:

*Good evening everyone. I regret not being able to join you today for the public launch of Japanese Studies Aotearoa New Zealand (JSANZ). This is truly an encouraging collaboration between those teaching the Japanese language and/or Japanese studies in New Zealand's tertiary institutions and those keen to strengthen the study of Japanese.*

*I would like to acknowledge the Auckland University of Technology and The Sasakawa Fellowship Fund for Japanese Language Education who made this launch possible. The latter was established at Massey University in 1995 and is part of a scheme aimed at promoting Japanese-language education worldwide.*

*I also congratulate you on the official launch of your branding and website. I hope this will prove a purposeful platform that allows the many representatives of JSANZ and its external patrons to help advocate Japanese studies in New Zealand.*

*If we can better acquaint students, domestic as well as international, with other cultures and languages, we expand our global opportunities and strengthen our individual and international relationships.*

*Japan and New Zealand enjoy a very good relationship, and this venture will only strengthen that friendship. I wish you much success and hope your collaboration under the banner of JSANZ will be a rewarding experience.*

Yours sincerely

Steven Joyce  
Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment