

**National Symposium
on Japanese Language Education
Proceedings**

2012

Creating the Future

The Japan Foundation, Sydney
Melbourne Centre for Japanese Language Education

National Symposium on Japanese Language Education Proceedings
2012: Creating the Future

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Foreword

Welcome to the volume of proceedings from the National Symposium on Japanese Language Education (NSJLE) 2012. This event was the first in almost four decades to bring together Japanese language educators from across all sectors and levels around the nation. Australia has the fourth-largest number of Japanese learners in the world, and more than 95% of those learners are at the primary and secondary levels. NSJLE provides the unique opportunity to bring together the diverse groups of the Japanese language education community in Australia to share information and expertise.

The 2012 symposium was a great success. This volume is a record of the depth and breadth of knowledge in the field of Japanese language education in Australian schools. It allows those who were not able to attend the chance to engage with ideas and opinions from the symposium. These papers offer a glimpse into innovative ways in which Australian teachers of Japanese are leading the field and helping to create the future of international Japanese language education.

I would like to thank the following people for their tireless work in making these proceedings possible: Professor Chihiro Kinoshita Thomson, for her work guiding the editorial panel through the selection and editing process; Robyn Spence-Brown, Anne de Kretser, Cathy Jonak and Hyogyung Kim for taking part in the selection and editing process; and Yutaka Nakajima, Matthew Todd and Elicia O'Reilly for editorial assistance and administration. Finally, thank you to the contributors to this volume, without whom none of this would be possible.

The papers in this volume are but a small selection of the strong voices heard on the day. I hope you enjoy them.

Nao Endo
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