



Mitsui Educational Foundation



In 1971 the then Chairman and Managing Director of Mitsui & Co. (Australia) Ltd., Mr Ken Ejiri AC, established the Mitsui Educational Foundation (MEF).

The decision to set up the MEF was then, and is today, based on Mitsui Australia's desire to achieve two objectives:

1. Our parent being one of Japan's leading companies and Mitsui being a responsible corporate citizen, we seek to make a meaningful contribution to the betterment of society.
2. Building stronger ties and promoting mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and Australia by introducing Australian university students to aspects of Japanese culture, history, business, industry and contemporary lifestyle.

Selection Procedure



The MEF selects a total of 10 students per year from 34 universities around Australia to participate in an annual tour of Japan, held in November/December.

The 10 participating universities are chosen by MEF Trustees.

Each university shortlists candidates and interviews at least 10, to provide Mitsui with a final shortlist of 4 students.

The 4 shortlisted students are interviewed by the MEF and one candidate is selected to represent their university on the tour.

Nominated Universities for 2008



- **Victoria:**
 - Monash University
 - Deakin University
- **ACT:**
 - Australian National University
- **Western Australia:**
 - University of Western Australia
- **Queensland:**
 - University of Queensland
 - Queensland University of Technology
- **South Australia:**
 - University of Adelaide
- **New South Wales:**
 - University of Sydney
 - University of Newcastle
- **Tasmania:**
 - University of Tasmania



The Tour



- The 21-day tour provides a balanced experience of corporate, traditional and contemporary Japanese culture
- All transport, accommodation, insurance and transfer costs are borne by MEF. Students are only responsible for incidental expenses such as snacks, souvenirs and phone calls
- Tour dates: November 24-December 16
- The tour is fully chaperoned by a Japanese-speaking tour leader and tour guides

Tour Itinerary



The tour includes visits to Japan's capital Tokyo, ancient capitals Kyoto and Nara, and Hiroshima.

Places visited may include:

- KYOTO and NARA- visiting world-famous historical sites, shrines and temples
- HAKONE- in the foothills of Mt. Fuji, showcases the natural beauty of Japan
- HIROSHIMA- visiting the Hiroshima Peace Park and Memorial Museum
- TOKYO: ASAKUSA-Famous temple located in downtown Tokyo/ GINZA- Financial and shopping district/ TSUKIJI-Tokyo's largest wholesale fish market

Plants and offices visited may include:

- *NIPPON STEEL CORPORATION
- *SHARP CORPORATION
- *TOYOTA MOTOR COMPANY
- *ASAHI BEER FACTORY

Weekend with Mitsui Prospective Employees

Participants will have the opportunity for cultural exchange through spending a weekend with fourth year Japanese university students who have been recruited as graduates to commence work with Mitsui the following year.

Homestay

For three days participants stay with a Japanese family, allowing a firsthand experience of everyday Japanese life - one of the most rewarding aspects of the tour.

Criteria for Eligibility



This opportunity is offered to all students of the 10 participating universities who:-

1. Are full-time, on-campus undergraduate students, second year or above
2. Are Australian citizens
3. Are academically capable, but selection is not contingent on high academic achievement
4. Can clearly demonstrate a keen interest in learning broadly about Japan, and could most benefit from the MEF experience
5. Will act as outstanding ambassadors for their university, state, and Australia at all times whilst participating in the tour



****Study of Japan/Japanese language is not required to be eligible for the tour.**

Upon returning to Australia the student is required to provide a 4,000-word report on his or her impressions of Japan, and provide a presentation based on this report to the MEF Trustees and Mitsui staff at head office in Sydney in mid-February. Other than this the student is in no way obligated to Mitsui or the Foundation on their return to Australia.

Participants become automatic members of the 279-member MEF Alumni Association, which has chapters in each state/territory of Australia.



Mitsui & Co. (Australia) Ltd.

- **Mr Yasuhide Fukatsu** Chairman & Managing Director
- **Mr Toshiro Nakada** Deputy Managing Director

External Trustees

- **Mr John Menadue AO** - Formerly; Australian Ambassador to Japan, CEO Qantas Airways Ltd and Director, Telstra.
- **Professor Bill Purcell** – Pro Vice Chancellor International, University of Newcastle
- **Mr D Lex Webb** – Company Director. Formerly; National Australia Bank, General Manager, Asia Pacific Division.
- **Mr Michael Wynter** - Partner, McCullough Robertson Lawyers.



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