



Government House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
26 May 2022

## Honorary Appointment – May 2022 (4)

The Governor-General is pleased to announce the following appointments:

### HONORARY OFFICER (AO) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION

**Dr Haruhisa HANDA**, Japan

For distinguished service to the arts, education and sport through philanthropic contributions.

**Mr Toshiaki KITAMURA**, Japan

For significant service to the trade and investment relationship between Australia and Japan.

### HONORARY MEMBER (AM) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION

**Ms Veronica Nicole COMYN**, France

For significant service to Australia's bilateral relationship with France, particularly through the enhancement of trade and business links.

By His Excellency's Command

**Paul Singer MVO**

Official Secretary to the Governor-General

## **APPOINTED AN HONORARY OFFICER (AO)**

### **IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA**

**Dr Haruhisa HANDA, Japan**

For distinguished service to the arts, education and sport through philanthropic contributions.

Dr Haruhisa Handa has a proven record of selfless service and significant philanthropic contributions in Australia's arts, cultural, sporting and educational fields.

Dr Handa's work fostering and supporting the careers of developing Australian artists, particularly in opera, is exemplary. His efforts have expanded the audience for opera in Australia and increased opportunities for inclusive participation in sports.

Since 2012 support from a Handa foundation has enabled Opera Australia to stage the world-renowned Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour, for more than two decades, his foundation has also supported the IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition for developing opera and classical singer. He has also supported the Perth International Arts Festival and built a studio for the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts.

For approximately 15 years Dr Handa has been a major sponsor of significant golf tournaments, especially for the visually-impaired, people with disabilities, women and juniors. He is both the patron of Golf Australia and its International Ambassador alongside Greg Norman AO.

Dr Handa's support for university education has also made a positive national and global impact in the field of human rights. In particular, at Curtin University he funds a university chair at the Centre for Human Rights Education. He has received Honorary Doctorates from the University of Western Australia, Curtin University, and Edith Cowan University in Western Australia.

Globally, Dr Handa has received significant recognition for his public service from the governments of Cambodia, Japan, New Zealand and China. Among his many acknowledgements of contribution from international universities are an Honorary Fellowship from The School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, an Honorary Fellowship from the University of Oxford, an honorary doctorate from the University of Edinburgh and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the Juilliard School, New York.

Dr Handa's distinguished service to the arts, education and sport through philanthropic contributions in Australia is worthy of formal national recognition through an appointment as an Honorary Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO).

## APPOINTED AN HONORARY OFFICER (AO)

### IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

**Mr Toshiaki KITAMURA**, Japan

For significant service to the trade and investment relationship between Australia and Japan.

Mr Toshiaki Kitamura has made significant contributions to the Australia-Japan trade and investment relationship as Chairman, and previously President and CEO, of INPEX, and has demonstrated a long-term commitment to future economic partnerships in Australia.

Under Mr Kitamura's leadership, Japan's biggest ever single investment in Australia was executed through INPEX's \$55 billion Ichthys LNG development in northwest Australia.

These projects have reinforced the strong ties between Australia and Japan in terms of LNG exports to Japan, the world's longest standing and biggest consumer of Australian LNG, and bolstered relationships and supply chains that are expected to assist in Australia providing lower carbon fuels like hydrogen in the future.

The projects resulted in the creation of over 10,000 jobs for the construction of the LNG plant near Darwin and around 1,400 jobs in Western Australia, where the Ichthys offshore facilities are serviced in Broome and Perth. Projected flow-on economic benefits include \$195 billion in export revenue and an additional \$190 billion of growth to Australia's GDP (from 2012 to 2050).

Mr Kitamura is also a strong promoter of community assistance and has ensured that INPEX has respected and engaged local traditional owners wherever it has interests in Australia. INPEX established its first Reconciliation Action Plan in 2013 and put in place the Larrakia Ichthys LNG Foundation Trust (LIFT), which is set up to provide benefits to the Larrakia people, the traditional owners of the Darwin region, over the 40-year operational life of Ichthys.

Mr Toshiaki Kitamura's strong contribution to fostering and facilitating economic opportunities between Japan and Australia, with deep social corporate responsibility linkages, is worthy of formal national recognition with an appointment as an Honorary Officer of the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO).

## **APPOINTED AN HONORARY MEMBER (AM)**

### **IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA**

**Ms Veronica Nicole COMYN, France**

For significant service to Australia's bilateral relationship with France, particularly through the enhancement of trade and business links.

For over three decades Mrs Veronica Comyn has made a significant voluntary contribution to Australia's interests in France through her involvement with the Australian Business in Europe (ABIE) France. She was instrumental in the formation of ABIE France in 1988 and served as its President for 5 years. Through ABIE, as well as in roles with the Queensland Government Trade and Investment Office and Ingeus France, she has helped forge business and trade relations between France and Australia and has played an important role in raising the profile of Australian businesses in France.

Her service has been particularly valued by the Australian Embassy in Paris. With it she has co-hosted events for visiting Australian ministers, premiers and delegations, including former Australian Prime Minister the Honourable John Howard OM AC the French Confederation of Industry, former Australian Governors-General the Honourable Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO and the Honourable General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK CVO MC, and successive delegations of the Europe Australia Business Council.

Mrs Comyn is an important member of ABIE International, a group of associations representing Australian and Australian-interested organisations across Europe with the shared objective of growing and strengthening the trade, investment, business and diplomatic ties between the two regions. She represented Australia's interests at some of our most challenging times, including raising over €30,000 through charity work with ABIE France for 2019-20 bushfire relief efforts in Australia.

Mrs Veronica Comyn's longstanding commitment and service to advancing Australian–French relations is commendable and worthy of formal national recognition through an appointment of an Honorary Member of the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM).