

Gaishi Hiraiwa

Citation for Honorary Degree

Mr Chancellor, I have the honour to present to you Gaishi Hiraiwa for the award of a degree from The Australian National University.

Gaishi Hiraiwa is one of Japan's most distinguished public figures. He has made an immense contribution to the development of the Australia-Japan relationship through his leadership, at the Japanese end, of the Northwest Shelf Gas project, the largest and most complex single project of its kind ever developed in the world. We are glad that such an eminent Japanese has Gaishi Hiraiwa's his longstanding interest in, and affection for Australia. As Chairman of Keidanren, Japan's Federation of Economic Organisations, he initiated the first mission of senior members of that organisation to meet with the Business Council of Australia to establish closer ties between Japanese and Australian business and community leaders at the highest level. And he has made a significant contribution to the development of academic exchanges between Australia and Japan, through his personal involvement in initiating the long-standing exchanges between Tokyo Electric Power Company and the ANU and through his role in ensuring the original support for, and encouraging the development of, the Australia-Japan Research Centre and its work on both countries' interests in Asia Pacific economic cooperation. Mr Hiraiwa remains actively engaged in this work as an international adviser to the University's Asia Australia Management Centre.

Gaishi Hiraiwa was born 31 August 1915 in Aichi Prefecture in Japan. After graduating from the Law Faculty at Tokyo University in 1939, he joined Tokyo Electric Power Company, rising up the ranks to become a member of the Board of Directors in 1968, Executive Vice President in 1974, President in 1976 and Chairman in 1984. He served as Chairman of TEPCO, now the biggest electric power company in the world, until 1993, and is now a Special Adviser to the company.

In 1990, Mr Hiraiwa became Chairman of Keidanren, Japan's Federation of Economic Organisations and Japan's peak business body. This was a time of great change in Japan and Hiraiwa played a key role in public discussion of business, economic and social reform. His leadership of Keidanren saw the implementation of the Keidanren Charter of Good Corporate Behaviour which set out standards for fair, open, responsible and ethical business practice, both at home and abroad, as well as proper balance between corporate life and social life, the environment and philanthropy.

Hiraiwa was, and remains, a passionate advocate of social and political reform in Japan and his quiet influence had a significant effect for good in Japanese society over these years.

Prime Minister Hosokawa chose Hiraiwa to lead the reform commission he established in 1993 (the Hiraiwa Commission) which set new directions for deregulation of the Japanese economy and in Japanese society.

Hiraiwa has earned immense respect in Australia, among business and political leaders involved with him in the huge energy trade between our two countries over many years, and especially since the 1970s. The vision and trust upon which the huge Australia-Japan energy projects were built owe more to Hiraiwa — and the humble integrity of his character — than to any other single person in Japan.

Gaishi Hiraiwa always had a special affection for Australia and the Australian National University. He served with Saburo Okita and Nobuhiko Ushiba in Japan and government and business leaders in Australia to support the establishment of the Australia-Japan Research Centre, one of the foundations upon which the University's Asia Pacific School of Economics and Management has been built. He personally facilitated the work of young researchers from the ANU on energy and other issues in Japan and the succession of trainees from TEPCO who have come to the ANU and gone on

to play an influential role in TEPCO and Asia Pacific energy affairs more broadly.

Mr Hiraiwa is a person of bold and daring ideas, flexible and unafraid of change. He is the associate of intellectuals and thinkers, as well as an outstanding business leader. His modest home in Ota-ku, in Tokyo, is crammed to bursting point with books. However busy, he always took time during the peak of his career, to share ideas with academics in Japan, Australia and elsewhere and when he spoke or wrote of public affairs, his ideas reflected these wide and thoughtful intellectual contacts. Mr Hiraiwa's frequent and generous counsel to Professor Drysdale has undoubtedly given the ANU an international edge in the understanding of economic and public affairs in Japan — and each of them, I understand, a little more confidence in testing their foreign language abilities.

Gaishi Hiraiwa is a person of immense integrity, humility and charm. His record of public service, has been recognised widely both inside and outside Japan, including through his receiving Japan's highest national award (The Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun) and the French Legion of Honour.

Mr Chancellor, it is with great pleasure that I present to you Gaishi Hiraiwa, that you may confer on him the Degree of Laws *honoris causa* on the grounds of his distinguished contributions in the service of society.

Ross Garnaut
Director
Asia Pacific School of Economics
and Management