Preface.

This work embodies the result of research work carried out over a period of three and half years in the Division of Japanese and Korean Studies, Centre for East Asian Studies of the School of International Studies. Starting my investigation on a related theme when I worked for the degree of Master of Philosophy, I extended the area of my interest to the process and stages of development of Japan-Australia partnership - a partnership which is held out by some as a model to be emulated - and the long-term significance of that partnership. During the course of my investigation, I visited Japan and Australia where I had the benefit of consulting scholars, administrators and ambassadors, who have been, or are still, associated in one way or another with Japan-Australia relations.

The purpose of this study is to examine the nature and content of the biggest partnership in the Western Pacific, viz., between Japan and Australia. Unlike Japan's other partnership in the Pacific, e.g., with the United States, the one with Australia is overwhelmingly economic, and its success is bound to have far-reaching effects on other countries in the Pacific Basin. It would not be surprising if the next decade witnesses the emergence of a strong economic community encompassing the nations of the Pacific. In writing this dissertation, I have used extensively Australian sources because they were more easily available and accessible. Japanese sources, which are used, include newspapers, periodicals and Government publications, in the English language.
Briefly, the study focusses on the following themes: genesis of Japan-Australia economic relations, trade in industrial raw materials (especially in minerals and fuels), agricultural products and foodstuffs, cultural matters, and the significance of Japan-Australia partnership for the Western Pacific region. The approach is primarily descriptive with an attempt to provide a third country perspective to the development of bilateral economic relations between Japan and Australia. The very limited analysis that has been attempted here is due to the fact that I have never been a formal student of economics and am, therefore, severely handicapped in handling a subject of enormous economic significance.

Numerous individuals and institutions in India, Japan and Australia have given me valuable help and cooperation and thus enabled me to complete this study. Among the individuals in India are, Professor P.A. Narasimha Murthy, Chairman, Centre for East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), who, as my principal guide, bore patiently the burden of overcoming the numerous difficulties that I faced and gave me a sense of direction, whenever I was in trouble; and Dr K.V. Kesavan, Associate Professor in the same Centre, who gave me constant encouragement. In Japan, I was offered lots of facilities, valuable comments on and help in some portion of this work by Professors Kiyoshi Kojima, Hiroshi Fukasawa, Dr Makoto Ikema and Mr Ippai Yamasawa (all of the Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo); Professor Masashi Nishihara (of the National Defence Academy, Tokyo); and Dr Saburo Okita, Chairman, Japan Economic Research Centre (Tokyo). My thanks are due to Dr Peter Drysdale,
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Rajaram Panda
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