

CHANCELLOR,

Chancellor, I have the honour to present to you Jiro Okada, who Council has determined should be awarded the degree of Doctor of Science *Honoris Causa*.

Mr Okada is the Vice-President of the Ichthys Project Division at the INPEX Corporation, and has played an important role in the establishment and development of the Ichthys Joint Venture from its initial stages of conception.

Mr Okada graduated from the Osaka University of Foreign Studies in 1970, and has completed subsequent studies at the Stanford Business School.

He commenced working with the Mitsubishi Corporation upon completion of his first degree, and held many positions within the organisation, including that of Director and General Manager of Japan Australia LNG (MIMI) Pty Ltd and the President of the Mitsubishi Corporation Exploration Company.

Mr Okada joined the INPEX Group as the Managing Director of INPEX Alpha Ltd, INPEX Sahul Ltd, INPEX Browse Ltd, INPEX Timor Sea Ltd and as Director INPEX DLNGPL Pty Ltd in 2006. He assumed his current position of Vice President in 2008.

The Ichthys Project stems from the discovery of the Ichthys Field in 2003, which is an extremely large gas and condensate field over 300 km north of the Western Australian Kimberley region. This in itself was the result of previous drilling campaigns in the offshore Australian Browse Basin, and was so named as Ichthys means fish in ancient Greek, and there was a great amount of fossilized fish discovered in the vicinity.

Site selection for the Onshore LNG processing plant for this field initially favoured the Maret Islands off the Kimberley Coast; however a Darwin option had also been part of the original process. When potentially serious delays threatened the initial preference, Mr Okada was instrumental in ensuring that the Darwin option was fully explored, including: engaging in extended discussion with the Northern Territory Government; numerous potential site visits; and in conducting investigations concerning the technical difficulties of building nearly 1,000 km of subsea pipeline from the Ichthys field to Darwin. In helping to advocate on behalf of this, he emphasised the easy access to well-established infrastructure and services, as well as the constructability and operability of the Darwin development concept. In September 2008, INPEX deemed the Darwin option technically, economically and environmentally feasible, and formally selected Darwin as the LNG plant site. The Final Investment decision was confirmed in 2012, and production has now commenced.

Through Ichthys, INPEX, its major partner TOTAL Group and the other companies involved in the joint venture are currently embarking on one of their largest and most challenging projects to date, and have brought to northern Australia one of the most significant resource projects in our nation's history. However, the benefits to the Northern Territory are more than the development of the plant itself. INPEX is committed to contributing to sustainable development, regional and social infrastructure enhancement, employment and training opportunities and local business growth. Such initiatives include funding for the relocation and construction of the Northern Territory Open Education Centre, the construction of the Larrakia Trade Training Centre and funding for the construction of the North Australian Centre for Oil and Gas.

The commitment to education aims not only to ensure access to education for all Territorians, but also to assist with resourcing the growing number of oil and gas projects in the Territory over the coming years.

Mr Okada's pivotal role in enabling Darwin and the Northern Territory to be a part of this project, including the significant social and economic benefits which this will afford, are being recognised here this evening – it is of great significance to have this opportunity to participate in building capacity for the nation's energy industry and beyond.

CHANCELLOR

In recognition of his leadership and advocacy in supporting the establishment and development of the Ichthys Joint Venture, Jiro Okada has been awarded by the Council of Charles Darwin University, the degree of Doctor of Science, *Honoris Causa*.