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## Media Release

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### 30 years of science inspiration

Thirty years ago today, Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre officially opened its doors.

Since then, nearly 12 million people have experienced Questacon’s unique brand of science engagement at the Centre in Canberra. Questacon’s footprint though extends far beyond Canberra. More than half of Questacon’s programs, exhibitions and activities are delivered to Australians in their own communities.

Questacon’s success was founded on the generous contribution of the governments and business communities of Australia and Japan. Questacon’s friendship and collaboration with Japan continues today through the completion of a five-week cultural exchange to Japan.

“The recent Science Circus tour of Japan was a gesture of friendship and gratitude in recognition of Japan’s contribution to Questacon’s establishment 30 years ago,” said Professor Graham Durant, Questacon Director.

“The tour created opportunities to share science communication and engagement techniques between Australian and Japanese science communicators, as well as creating goodwill towards and an appreciation of Australian science communication,” said Professor Durant.

Collaboration and partnerships have been fundamental to Questacon’s success.

“Much of our work is in effect powered by partnerships. These partnerships help us increase the range and scope of our content, fund our activities, enable more Australians to be inspired by and engage with science. They amplify messages about the importance of science, technology and innovation for the future,” said Professor Durant.

“Today’s anniversary provides the opportunity to reflect on the successes of our first 30 years. But more importantly it encourages us to think about the future and Questacon’s role in preparing young Australians for the world to come.

“Our role is create excitement and optimism amongst young people about the future, their future, and to develop their skills to make their hopes and dreams a reality,” said Professor Durant.

As a national cultural institution, Questacon is a place that welcomes everybody with programs and activities delivered to ensure that people from all walks of life, of all ages and all abilities can participate in Questacon experiences.

“To celebrate our 30th anniversary, the community is invited to join us at the Festival of Questacon tomorrow, Saturday 24 November. This free day will feature live science shows, hands-on activities and science busking,” said Professor Durant.

“Kicking off at 8.30 am, the Festival is sure to be a fun-filled day. I encourage everyone to come along and experience a day of science inspiration like only Questacon can deliver,” concluded Professor Durant.

For more information on the Festival of Questacon visit [www.questacon.edu.au](http://www.questacon.edu.au)

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