

Thank you for having me here today. My name is SHIMADA Junji and I am the Consul-General of Japan in Melbourne. This is my third time to attend the service marking the Hiroshima Peace Day. Before I begin, I would like to thank St Paul's Cathedral for organising the Hiroshima Peace Day service every year.

On this day, the world's first deployed atomic bomb was dropped over Hiroshima 78 years ago and the second one over Nagasaki three days later.

I would like to express my sincere condolences and sympathy to the victims, their families and friends, and to all those who have been affected by the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Today less than 114,000 survivors are alive, and their average age is 85 years old. It is now more important than ever to pass on the realities of the first-hand experience to future generations and beyond borders so that such tragedies shall never be repeated ever again.

はじめに、原子爆弾の犠牲となられた数多くの方々に対し、哀悼の意を捧げます。そして、今なお被爆の後遺症に苦しんでいる方々に、心からお見舞いを申し上げます。このような悲劇が二度と繰り返されることのないよう、核兵器使用の惨禍を後世に、そして国境を越えて語り伝えることは、今かつてないほど重要になってきていると思っております。

Japan hosted the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese was one of the Japanese guests at the summit. It was very important for the leaders to gather and hold discussions in Hiroshima, a city which continues to aspire to lasting peace. At the Summit, the G7 leaders had detailed discussions on achieving a world without nuclear weapons and announced the 'G7 Leaders' Hiroshima Vision on Nuclear Disarmament'. This is the first stand-alone G7 leaders' document focusing on nuclear disarmament. In the document, the G7 leaders reaffirmed the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation efforts to create a more stable and secure world. They have also encouraged leaders, youth and people from around the world to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki to raise and sustain awareness of the realities of the use of nuclear weapons.

This Summit was an important milestone, and I believe we are one step closer to a future without nuclear weapons. As the world is facing unprecedented crises, such as Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and threats with nuclear weapons, we must once again emphasise the preciousness of peace.

このサミットは核兵器のない世界の実現に向けての重要な一歩になったと思います。ウクライナ侵略を続けるロシアによる無責任な核兵器使用の威嚇、北朝鮮の核実験やミサイル開発等、世界がかつてない危機に直面している今、私たちは平和の尊さを改めて強調しなければいけません。

Today's memorial service plays an important part in spreading the message of peace and harmony here in Melbourne. The memorial also demonstrates how strong and close the Japan-Australia relationship is, and I hope that this relationship will continue to be an advocate for world peace.

この礼拝は、ここメルボルンで一人でも多くの人に平和のメッセージを伝えるという非常に大切な機会です。日豪関係が今後も世界平和を擁護する関係であり続けることを願っております。

Once again, please accept my sincere gratitude for hosting this Hiroshima Peace Day service today.

Thank you for listening.

ありがとうございました。