

Remarks
Presented by NAITO Yasushi, Consul-General of Japan in Perth
On the occasion of the Hiroshima Day Commemoration Event hosted
by the City of Cockburn
(4th August 2023)

Councillor Chontelle Stone, on behalf of His Worship the Mayor Logan Howlett,
Distinguished guests,
School students,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for inviting me to this commemoration event for peace. On the 6th of August 1945, 78 years ago, an Atomic Bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and another one three days later on Nagasaki. Those were the only two attacks in the history of man-kind where nuclear arms were used. Hiroshima was devastated, with more than 140,000 people losing their lives by the end of 1945 and more in later years.

This year, the G7 Summit was held in Hiroshima and leaders of the world expressed their determination to achieve a world without nuclear weapons with undiminished security for all. G7 leaders expressed their shared sense of importance of the 77-year record of non-use of nuclear weapons, affirming that “a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.” Leaders around the world including Prime Minister Anthony Albanese solemnly showed their respect by laying wreaths at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial.

At the end of the G7 Summit, Prime Minister Kishida, as the chair of the Summit said; “It is our belief and responsibility to ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy peace and prosperity without fear of nuclear weapons. That is why our generations must continue to appeal from the A-bombed city of Hiroshima that the use of nuclear weapons has caused indescribable devastation and that nuclear war could destroy the entire humanity. As we strive to avoid these dire consequences at all costs, we need to steadily move forward on the path toward a future “world without nuclear weapons.”

Prime Minister Kishida visited Perth and Rockingham in October last year and strengthened bilateral relations between Japan and Australia. And here at the City of Cockburn, 7500 kilometer away from Hiroshima, I am pleased to know that a commemoration service has been held every year for a total of 38 times.

The Green Legacy Hiroshima is an NPO in Japan that has initiated sending seeds of survivor tree around the world. “Hibaku Jumoku”(survivor trees) have the remarkable power of messaging peace and resilience, and also have the power to connect people.

We are pleased that seeds have been sent to Western Australia as well and saplings were planted in various places including Yandi Park in Cockburn.

One of the survivors in Hiroshima said that the very first thing that encouraged people after the devastation was the green sprouts coming out from the burned soil as if the sprouts were saying to those people in despair "you must live, you must live on".

Today, I am pleased to join you to plant the native Melaleuca trees at the Jan Hammond Park for peace. I am doing so also wishing for the enduring friendship between the people of Japan and Western Australia.

Thank you for your attention.

End