

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
Tuesday August 6, 2024

His Worship the Mayor Logan Howlett, City of Cockburn,
Mr Josh Wilson MP, Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy,
Her Worship the Mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge & Cr Jenny Archibald,
Distinguished guests,
School students,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning.

I wish to start by acknowledging traditional custodians of the land we meet today, the Whadjuk people of Noongar nation and pay my respect to their elders, past, present and emerging.

Thank you for inviting me to this commemoration event for peace.

On the 6th of August 1945, 79 years ago today, 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 many more in the later years.

Last 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. In Apulia Italy in June this year, G7 leaders reiterated their commitment.

At 8:15 am today, the time atomic bomb was dropped 79 years ago, people in Japan paid silent prayer.

I wish to thank the people of the City of Cockburn for showing respect on this special day with us since 1986. I had the opportunity of visiting the Peace Park guided by the Mayor Howlett last October where tree planting on Hiroshima Day started. The park is now a beautiful thriving forest that provides green shade with footpath murals inspired by Japan, and with plaques of the first tree planted by students and consulate officials. I am pleased to know that Hiroshima Day tree planting ceremony has been held 39 times, every year.

In showing our humble appreciation, the Government of Japan presented the Foreign Minister's Commendation to the City of Cockburn in 2016 for promoting peace and friendship with Japan and countries around the world.

We also thank the City of Cockburn for caring for the children of trees that survived the atomic bomb. Hibaku Jumoku (survivor trees) have the remarkable power of messaging peace and resilience. We

are pleased that seeds have been passed on from Hiroshima to Western Australia and saplings were planted in various places including Yandi Park in Cockburn.

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

To the students, the future of world is in your hands. Think of the importance of maintaining and contributing to peace on this day.

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

Thank you for your attention.

End