## Memorial Service for Earthquake/Tsunami Victims in Japan

It has been two years since Japan was devastated by the magnitude 9 earthquake and tsunami that struck the Tohoku and northern Kanto regions. The tsunami totally destroyed many towns, and worse still the damage to the

Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station led to nuclear contamination of the surrounding area. Residents throughout Tohoku and Kanto still face the fear of nuclear contamination even today.

The total death toll including those who were never found reached 20,000, while thousands of people are still dislocated from their homes and communities. Japan had put a great deal of effort into disaster preparedness, but the scale of the disaster and its aftermath surpasses anything imaginable. Its effects have dealt a massive psychological blow to Japan, as well imposing an enormous physical and human cost.

In 2012, about 250 people gathered in the Canberra-Nara Peace Park to mark the first anniversary of this disaster. On the second anniversary, we will once again join together to remember the victims and to show our support for those who are recovering. This year's service will be held on 11 March at the Nara Peace Park exactly two years after the earthquake occurred.

Lighting a candle will be an opportunity to send our prayers and thoughts to the victims and the displaced, and at this gathering, we will renew our pledge to support the survivors into the future.

Time: 4:30pm Monday 11 March 2013

Place: Canberra-Nara Park, Lennox Gardens, Flynn Drive Yarralumla

## Programme:

- 4:20 Gather at the Canberra-Nara Park; light candles (available at the venue)
- 4:30 Shakuhachi Performance by Mr Graham Ranft
- 4:46 One minute's silence

(The time will be 2:46pm in Japan, time the earthquake struck)

- 4:50 The address by His Exellency Mr Yoshitaka Akimoto, Japanese Ambassador to Australia
- 5:00 Speeches and reading by guests, paying tribute to the victims

Enquiry: Chikako Murata (村田智香子) info@canberrajapanclub.org.au (02) 6140-1427



CANBERRA JAPAN CLUB, INC

PO Box 840 Civic Square ACT 2608 AUSTRALIA info@canberrajapanclub.org.au



Australia – Japan Society (ACT) Inc. GPO Box 1066 Canberra ACT 2601







