

Ambassador's message for the Peace Bell Ringing Ceremony

Sunday 7th August 2021 at Canberra Rotary Peace Bell

- 76 years ago, on August 6th, a single weapon of mass destruction laid waste to the city of Hiroshima in an instant, reducing it to ruins and claiming the lives of more than 100,000 of its citizens, including many innocent women and children. 3 days later, Nagasaki suffered the same fate, as immeasurable devastation fell upon the city and 74,000 of its inhabitants lost their lives.
- I express my sincere condolences to the souls of the great number of atomic bomb victims. I also extend my heartfelt sympathy to those still suffering, even now, from the after effects of the atomic bomb.
- I would also like to offer my gratitude and acknowledge all of you who have purposefully gathered here today, as we reflect on a terrible force unleashed in the not-so-distant past and mourn the dead.
- Currently, the pandemic is still rampant around the world and Australia is no exception. The state of national security in the Indo-Pacific region, especially the East and South China Seas, is becoming increasingly challenging. In pursuit of overcoming these difficulties, we must focus on the importance of peace and the value of each and every human life.
- Amidst this turmoil, Japan is hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games which support the Olympic Truce and are known as a “festival of peace”. The Tokyo 2020 Games have been made possible by the tremendous efforts of all participating countries and territories. They are a symbol of global unity in facing the ongoing challenges of Covid-19, reflected in the games’ motto of “Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together”. I wholeheartedly hope that the Tokyo 2020 Games become another stepping stone towards achieving world peace in our lifetimes.
- As the only nation to have suffered from the horror of nuclear devastation in war, Japan will lead the international community’s efforts, together with likeminded nations such as Australia, to bring about a world free of nuclear weapons, while upholding its “three non-nuclear principles”.
- World peace bells are modelled after Japanese temple bells and are of great symbolism; a place where people unite in a prayer for peace. Twenty-three world peace bells exist worldwide and two of them are here in Australia; the one here in

Canberra and the other in Cowra. These bells all echo the message of the first peace bell; that peace transcends borders, religions, and nationalities.

- Now we will ring the bell and offer our silent prayer.

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