

**Remarks by His Excellency Ambassador SUZUKI Kazuhiro  
at the 2025 Rotary Club Peace Bell Ceremony  
9 August 2025**

Before I begin my remarks, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet, and pay my respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

Mr David Smith, Federal Member for Bean

Ms Yvette Berry, Deputy Chief Minister of the ACT

Mr Brendan Smyth, Commissioner for International Engagement

Ms Tara Gutman, ICAN

Dr Sue Baglow, Medical Association for Prevention of War

Dr Ludmilla Kwitko, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I join you all once more here on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin, in the tranquil setting of the Nara Peace Park, amid scenery completely removed from the events that we recall on this day.

Eighty years ago, around one hundred thousand or more precious lives were lost when atomic bombs were dropped on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Today marks exactly the day in 1945 when the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki.

Once vibrant cities were reduced to rubble and ash, with the dreams and hopes of their residents cruelly torn away in an instant.

For those who survived, everyday life became one of intolerable suffering.

Such tragedy must never be repeated.

As the only nation in the world to have suffered from an atomic bombing, Japan has a duty to convey to future generations the true horror of the

devastation caused by nuclear weapons, and so Japan will continue to expend every effort to make a 'world free of nuclear weapons' a reality.

Today, on this important occasion 80 years after the end of the war, the fact that I am able to stand here to give this speech is because of local citizens such as yourselves and the members of the Rotary Club of Canberra Burley Griffin who expended every effort to have a 'World Peace Bell' established here in Canberra.

Another of these bells is located in Cowra and indeed, Australia has two 'Peace Bells'.

I find it both extraordinary and encouraging to see such dedication to world peace at all levels.

The great relationship that Japan and Australia enjoy today stands as living proof of how exchanges lead to mutual understanding and which in turn lead to peace.

All of you would have seen global tensions rising.

It is precisely at moments like this that Japan is grateful for having such a friend in Australia, equally dedicated to realizing the elimination of nuclear weapons.

In gathering here today, in the shade of these pine trees as the sound of the Peace Bell echoes across the Lake, we solemnly pray for a world free from nuclear weapons and for everlasting peace.

We owe this to the current generation and those yet to come, in memory of those lost 80 years ago today.

Thank you.

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