

Greetings

Ladies and Gentlemen. Now we are holding the first Hiroshima World Peace Flag Ceremony at the first year of Reiwa. Thanks to everyone's past warm support, I would like to thank you again this year for holding the flag ceremony in front of the Hiroshima Atomic Bomb Dome.

On this date, 74 years ago, a single atomic bomb destroyed many people's daily lives in an instant and turned them into ruins. It had been said that in Hiroshima there would be no plants and trees at all for 75 years. With the innumerable efforts of many people who have risen from deep grief and the strong desire for peace that such tragedy should not be repeated again, and also by a multitude of support from people in many parts of Japan and around the world, Hiroshima could be transformed into a beautiful, peaceful city surrounded by water and lush greenery.

However, there are still many people who are forced to live in fear of terrorism and air strikes in many parts of the world. Let's pray all together for peace for all of them from now on so that everybody can feel relieved as soon as possible and live every day with a smile.

While raising the national flags of each of the 194 countries in the world, we go beyond the differences in language, religion, principle, and assertion, with only one wish: "May peace prevail on earth". We have been performing the "Flag Ceremony" to pray for peace in each country of the world every year on August 6th in front of the Atomic Bomb Dome. It is our 27th annual ceremony this year.

In last year's flag ceremony, a young boy from the United States participated with the flag three times. On the 3rd time, he raised his national flag of America and prayed. We were so moved when he was crying with his mother. We were taught the power of the flag ceremony by this boy.

The era of "Reiwa". It is a desire to be in a beautiful and peaceful time, and also it is the Chinese character of "command", an instruction from heaven to create a peaceful world quickly. "You haven't yet created a peaceful world after 74 years, do not waste their sacrifices, create it quickly". This is also a strong wish of Hibakushas in Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Today, many friends in Japan and around the world are also participating in our ceremony through the Internet. So, with these friends, let us pray together with one heart, and send our prayer of world peace to the world.

May the wind of Reiwa blow from Hiroshima to all of the world.

August 6th, 2019

Shohei Tominaga
Representative of
World Peace Flag Ceremony Hiroshima