

Remarks by Mr NAITO Yasushi, Ambassador of Japan in Malawi at the Opening Ceremony of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Poster Exhibition on 09th March 2026

(Acknowledgements)

- Our guest of honour, Ms Mary Kachale, Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, in the Republic of Malawi,
- Your Worship, the Mayor of Lilongwe City, Councillor Alex Peter Banda,
- All Government Officials present,
- Members of Diplomatic Corps and International organizations,
- Representatives of Media,
- Students and teachers from Mkwichi Secondary School,
- Ladies and gentlemen,

(Welcome)

Mwaswela Bwanji Nonse.

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the opening of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Poster Exhibition here at the Lilongwe City Council Chambers. I wish to express my appreciation to his worship the Mayor of Lilongwe City, Councillor Alex Peter Banda for making this beautiful facility available for our event. This is the second year that the Embassy hosts this exhibition in Lilongwe, with collaboration with Hiroshima City and Nagasaki City and I am delighted to bring this again to peace loving people of Malawi.

(Introduction and Background)

Last year marked 80th years since the atomic bombings of the two cities in Japan. In August 6th 1945, an atomic bomb were dropped on Hiroshima and three days later on Nagasaki on August 9th which took many lives instantly and even those who survived the have had to live with indescribable suffering. Since then, Japan, as the only country in the history of mankind to have suffered atomic bombings, has been advancing efforts toward a world without nuclear weapons to ensure that such a tragedy will never be repeated.

We believe that this exhibition is useful in helping people to understand the tragedy experienced in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and to reaffirm the importance of peace. I sincerely hope that this exhibition will serve as an opportunity to connect the hearts of those who seek a world without nuclear weapons and to reflect on the preciousness of peace. I hope that many people will visit this exhibition and that the desire for a world

without nuclear weapons will spread even further.

(Building a Common Roadmap Towards a World Without Nuclear Weapons)

In December 2025, Japan submitted a resolution to the United Nations General Assembly titled “Steps to Building a Common Roadmap Towards a World Without Nuclear Weapons.” voted with overwhelming support of 147. Japan has been initiating this resolution every year since 1994 in its effort to enhance the momentum within the international community towards realizing a world without nuclear weapons, while persistently and steadily advancing realistic and practical efforts.

The resolution emphasizes the continued non-use of nuclear weapons, greater transparency regarding nuclear arsenals and policies and promotes disarmament and non-proliferation education, particularly highlighting the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. We thank the Government of Malawi for not only supporting it but also for being a co-sponsor of the resolution together with Japan for many years.

(Resilience and Peace)

The resolution acknowledged the work of long-standing grass-roots efforts around the world, including those of Nihon Hidankyo, recognized with the Nobel Peace Prize 2024. One of grass-roots efforts is by Green Legacy Hiroshima sending seeds of plants Atomic Bomb survivor trees around the world. 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 people “you must live, you must live on”. These trees survived have since become powerful symbols of resilience and hope that are planted all over the world including in Africa.

(Conclusion)

In today’s world of growing uncertainty and persistent conflicts, it is more important than ever to remind ourselves of the devastating consequences of war and the importance of building a peaceful future.

It is our sincere hope that this exhibition will help visitors and to understand the human stories behind Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

To the students, one of the stories you will see from the movie clips is about Sadako Sasaki, a 12 year old girl who died of Leukemia 10 years after bombing. On her bed, she

folded 1000 cranes with Origami paper folding, praying for her recovery and thanking her parents and her friends for their assistance. After her death, her classmates spread her story with message of peace to all over the world. Her statue, titled “Children of Atomic Bomb” was erected and stood in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. Each year her statue receives more than 10 million folded cranes “Orizuru” from all around the world.

So, try folding the Origami crane today with our guidance. It is fun and meditating as well as sobering. Take home your own “Orizuru” for your memory of visiting this exhibition.

To students. The future of the world is in your hands. I hope the exhibition helps you to inspire you of the importance of maintaining and making your own contribution to peace, which should not be taken for granted.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Zikomo Kwambiri

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