

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Peace Bell Ceremony on the International Day of Peace, September 21

Thursday, September 21, 2023

11:30~12:30

St. Ignatius Church of Mary Cathedral, Sophia University, Tokyo



As stated in its Charter, the United Nations was established for the purpose of maintaining international peace and security. However, global challenges such as conflicts among nations, conflicts within regions, climate change, pandemics, and accelerating technological innovation are becoming threats to humanity. The United Nations member states must work together to address these global challenges. To this end, we wish to promote international cooperation with respect for human rights and freedoms for all, regardless of nationality, race, gender, language, culture, or religion, in solving international political, economic, social, and humanitarian problems.

The United Nations is addressing global issues such as international peace, environmental problems, COVID-19, and other threats. In order to maintain international peace and security as enshrined in the UN Charter, member states and we should act in accordance with the principles of justice and international law. It is also important to achieve international cooperation and respect for all people's human

rights and freedoms, without discrimination based on race, gender, language, or religion, in solving international economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian problems.

Therefore, on September 21, the International Day of Peace, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1981, the Committee holds a ceremony every year to commemorate the International Day of Peace by ringing bells and other instruments across Japan to pray for world peace and solidarity, transcending the boundaries of various fields and factions.

To carry out the purpose and philosophy of the United Nations, we are making the following arrangements.

1. The representatives of various institutions have been requested to participate in this ceremony and play their respective roles.
2. Temples and other institutions with bells and other musical instruments have been requested to ring them at their respective locations to pray for world peace and to record a video of the event, which will be edited and made public later on.
3. If you are able to come to Tokyo, we would like you to participate not only in the ceremony but also in the symposium to be held at Sophia University after the Peace Bell Ceremony.

Sincerely yours,

International Day of Peace Japan Committee
Chairperson: Sukehiro Hasegawa
(Former Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations)

For inquiries, please contact
Masakuni Tanimoto, Secretary General
House of Councillors, 1-7-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
Secretariat of the Japanese Parliamentary Committee for the World Federation
Phone: Representative of the House of Councillors 03-3571-3111 ext. 7229

Part I

Peace Bell Ceremony to Pray for Peace on the International Day of Peace

Purpose:

This year marks the 78th anniversary of World War II's end and the United Nations's founding. With the War in Ukraine and many other conflicts throughout the world, we observe the International Day of Peace, September 21, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1981 by holding a ceremony to pray for world peace and world solidarity by ringing bells in all parts of Japan, transcending the boundaries of various circles and groups.

Date:

September 21, 2023, Thursday

11:45~ Ceremony (Ringing of the UN Peace Bell replica, greetings, etc.)

Venues:

Headquarters Venue:

St. Ignatius Church of Mary Cathedral, Sophia University, Tokyo
(Only ceremony and no reception)

National Cooperation Locations:

Kibo no Kane (Onagawa, Tohoku)

Expo Park (Osaka)

Peace Bell (Hiroshima)

Urakami Tenshudo (Nagasaki)

Iwashimizu Hachimangu (Kyoto)

Rissho Koseikai Cathedral (Tokyo)

Hieizan Enryakuji (Shiga)

Ohmoto, Jinrui Aizenkai (Kyoto)

Okinawa Cenotaph (Okinawa)

Other parks, temples, shrines, churches, etc. throughout Japan.

Organizer:

International Day of Peace Japan Committee

Cooperating Organizations:

United Nations Association of Japan
World Federation Japan Promotion Council
World Federation Movement Association
National Council of Local Authorities for Declaration of World Federation
World Federation Japan Diet Committee
World Federation Council for Cultural Education
World Federation Japan Religious Committee
World Federation Buddhist Council
World Conference of Religions for Peace Japan Committee, Japan Religious
Federation
UN Peace Bells Keepers' Association and others

Supporters:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (tentative),
Conference of Chiefs of Peace (tentative),
United Nations Public Information Center (tentative),

Advisors:

- Sen GEMSHITSU, President, United Nations Association of Japan / Grand Master of Urasenke
- Mitsuo OHASHI, Chairman, Japan Council for the Promotion of World Federation and World Federation Movement Association/former Chairman, Showa Denko)
- Yoshiko HIGASHIKUNI, President of the Japan Council for the Promotion of World Federation, Culture and Education / Head of the Higashikuni Family)
- Tsunekyo TANAKA, Chairman of the Japanese Committee of Religions for World Federation / President of the Jinja Honcho
- Seishiro ETO, Chairman of the Japanese Parliamentary Committee for the World Federation / Member of the House of Representatives / Chairman of the LDP Foreign Affairs Research Committee
- Zenya YAMAZAKI, Chairman, National Council of Local Governments Declaring World Federation / Mayor of Ayabe City, Kyoto Prefecture)
- Saneeki TOKUDAIJI, Chairman, Tokudaiji Bunko
- Yoshio KARITA, Chief of Ceremonies, Imperial Household Agency
- Kiminaga TSUTSUMI, Chief of the Imperial Household Agency
- Toshiaki TAKASO, Senior Priest, St. Ignatius Church

Executive Committee:

Chairman:

HASEGAWA Sukehiro, Former Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Director of the United Nations Association of Japan

Vice-Chairman:

TANAKA Tomokiyo, Secretary General of the World Federation of Religions Commission on Religions in Japan, Director of the United Nations Association of Japan

SHISHINO Fumio, President, World Federation of Religions for the Promotion of Culture and Education; Director, Japan Religious Federation

TOMATSU Yoshiharu, President, All Japan Buddhist Association

TAKASE Seiko, President, UN Association for the Preservation of the Bells of Peace

SUGIMURA Miki, Venue Facilities Official, Professor/former Vice President of Sophia University, Director of the United Nations Association of Japan

Committee members:

Experts, persons recommended by each cooperating organization, and each venue facility

Secretariat:

TANIMOTO Masakuni, Secretary General (Director of the World Federation/ Chairperson of the International Committee and Deputy Secretary General of the Japanese Parliamentary Committee of the World Federation)

SHIOHAMA Osamu, the Japanese Parliamentary Committee of the World Federation

Interns of the Japanese Parliamentary Committee of the World Federation, etc.

Please note that the schedule is subject to change due to circumstances.

Peace Bell Ceremony Schedule (Draft)

September 21 (Thursday)

11:00 Arrival of guests

Rest in the waiting room (to be arranged)

11:45 "Peace Bell Ceremony on the International Day of Peace" (Bell Ringing)

Master of Ceremony: Masakuni Tanimoto + Assistants

1. Explanation of purpose: Sukehiro Hasegawa, Chairperson of the Committee
(Former Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations)

2. Introduction of guests

3. Messages:

- Her Imperial Highness Princess Akiko of Japan
- President Sen Genshitsu of the United Nations Association of Japan
- The United Nations Headquarters

4. Greetings:

- Mitsuo Ohashi (Chairman, World Federation of Trade Unions)
- Yoshiko Higashikuni, Advisor to the Committee
(President of the World Federation Council for the Promotion of Culture and Education)
- Seishiro Eto, Advisor to the Committee (to be confirmed)
(Chairman, World Federation Parliamentary Committee)
- Representatives of cooperative and related organizations, etc.

12:00

5. Moment of silence

6. Guest of Honor:

- The Honorable KOIKE Yuriko, Governor of Tokyo
- Diplomatic delegation, including foreign ambassadors in Tokyo, etc.