

Opening Remarks

Good morning, distinguished speakers, ladies, and gentlemen. President Mitsuo OCHI of Hiroshima University should have come to address you, but owing to an urgent business trip, he was not able to do so. So, I would like to read his message on his behalf.

Thank you very much indeed for joining today's symposium, despite your busy schedule—particularly the distinguished speakers. We are very grateful that you adjusted your schedules to join us today. Writer Mr. Satoru Udagawa, who would be the keynote speaker, graciously agreed to a particularly difficult adjustment of schedule to join us. Also, Attorney General Mr. Daniel Leaf, director of the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies; Mr. Anthony Bubalo, deputy director and research director of the Lowy Institute for International Policy; and Ms. Mari Yamashita from the United Nations—thank you for coming. And also, we have from Hiroshima, Ms. Kumamoto from Hiroshima UNITAR, Mr. Higashi from Sophia University, and Ms. Mari Katayanagi. We can look forward to very insightful presentations, given their rich experience and expertise. On behalf of the university, I would like to offer our words of appreciation to all of you. For the citizens and students in the audience, this will be a very rare and important opportunity to hear important lectures about the work of building and maintaining peace maintenance activity. There will be a Q&A session, so please

do participate very actively.

Two years ago, Hiroshima University was selected by the Ministry of Education of the Japanese government for support under the Top Global University Project, for the university to try to be ranked within the top-100 on an international level. The university is now trying to enhance human resources development, so that it may contribute towards resolving the problems of the international community, by taking advantage of the strengths of the university. Today, we will be focusing on peace-building—including efforts in Afghanistan, Cambodia, and Timor-Leste—through a stocktaking of the achievements as well as challenges in the field. In this way, we will be contributing to the government's Top Global University Project.

This Institute for Peace Science at Hiroshima University was established in July 1975. With a history of more than 40 years, in 2014 we set up the renewed IPS with five new faculty members to further strengthen research activities. We welcome the director, Professor Tsuneo Nishida—former Japanese ambassador to the United Nations—utilizing his rich experiences. He is now also working towards networking with peace-related institutions overseas. We are really glad to have Professor Nishida here, and have great expectations of him as he is well-versed in peace-building.

In keeping with the spirit of the pursuit of peace, we will do a lot of work

towards fulfilling the major role of peace studies. Once again, I would like to welcome you and I really hope today's symposium will be successful. I'm really looking forward to your cooperation. Thank you.

**Hiroshima University Vice-President and
Director (International and Fund)**

Toshiyuki SATO