

## **Opening Remarks**

My name is Yasushi MARUYAMA, and I am the Vice President of International Exchange at Hiroshima University. President Mitsuo OCHI is, unfortunately, not in attendance today as he has gone to the US for business, but he has asked me to send his best wishes to all of the presenters and participants

On behalf of Hiroshima University, I would like to welcome you all here today and sincerely thank you for taking the time to participate in this symposium, “Revitalization and Peace-building.” I would also like to thank the presenters, who have travelled to Hiroshima from overseas, for their participation.

The keynote address will be given by Prof. Hitoshi ABE, Professor at the UCLA School of Arts and Architecture and Director of the UCLA Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies. Professor Abe is an architect whose work represents Japan, and he has also been involved in reconstruction efforts following the Great East Japan Earthquake. Prof. Hong-Kyu PARK, Director of the Korea University Peace and Democracy Institute, and Kate FEARON, Special Advisor at the European External Action Service, will also be speaking today. These three presenters have juggled their busy schedules and traveled from abroad to speak at this symposium, for which I would like to express my gratitude. We will also hear from Special Assistant to the President of Hiroshima University Prof. Tsuneo NISHIDA.

How can we rebuild societies that have been destroyed? How can we maintain peaceful and democratic nations? These are the questions that I hope we will explore from various angles with the presenters, with their wealth of experience and knowledge, at today’s symposium.

In 2014, Hiroshima University was selected by the MEXT’s Top Global University Project as a university with the potential to be ranked among the top 100 universities in the world. As a comprehensive research university that creates knowledge, fosters a sense of humanity, and serves the international society under the guiding principle, “the Pursuit of Peace,” Hiroshima University continues to strengthen our research and educational capabilities, while providing education that brings out the best in the students who participate in solving the problems faced by the humanity.

In April of this year, we formulated our new long-term vision, “SPLENDOR (Sustainable Peace Leader Enhancement by Nurturing Development of Research) PLAN 2017,” to perform our duty to make peace a reality. More than ever before, we intend to fulfil our responsibility to be a “University that will still be shining 100 years from now” by including all existing academic domains related to the sustained existence of people, society, culture, food, the environment, and nature in our effort to develop a new conception

of peace science—that is, a “guiding science of sustainable development”—that strives unceasingly to build peace.

I have great expectations of Director Noriyuki KAWANO and the other leaders of the Institute for Peace Science, which is hosting this symposium. They have conducted research on the atomic bomb and radiation exposure that is based on the concept of “Hiroshima” and dedicated notable effort to peace studies in peace-building and other fields, and I hope they will drive future research on peace in Hiroshima and Japan.

With these remarks, I welcome you all here once again and express my hope that, with your cooperation, today’s symposium will be a rewarding event for us all. Thank you very much.

**Yasushi MARUYAMA**  
**Vice President, International Exchange**  
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