

## **Opening Remarks**

Thank you very much for taking the time today in the midst of your busy schedules to join us at this symposium.

I first assumed this post in April 2014, since when we have held major symposiums at this center biannually. While today's event will only take half the day, in general our symposiums last a full day. As I am sure you understand, the number of events taking place over the summer make it such that venues are in high demand, but there will be a further event around August 6<sup>th</sup> and also in September (although it may be slightly delayed as with this event and take place at the beginning of winter). By these means, we have in total amassed a considerable number of events.

The Autumn Symposium will be back for its third incarnation, and will share a mutual theme. This will be concerning the role international bodies – in particular, major international bodies such as the United Nations – are able to play in this disorderly world, and how they can be strengthened. Each symposium raises this issue to be approached from new perspectives.

Today's event will focus on and discuss “refugees & immigrants” and the human rights and humanitarian issues relevant to this subject.

While our speakers will be introduced more fully in a short while, I am pleased to announce that we have three eminent professors here to talk to us today, whose speeches will be followed by a

moderator/participant Q&A session moderated by myself, with questions between those on stage but also open to the audience, to be answered as we go through the session.

Perhaps this goes without saying given that we return to the same issues each time, but I would like to talk about where the success behind this symposium lies. Of course, most of the responsibility is on the shoulders of its organizers (including myself). Then, the speakers also bear some responsibility. However, the audience cannot go without any responsibility. Asking interesting questions will allow the entire event, in a positive sense, to advance to the next level. It is this, I believe, that will decide whether the symposium has succeeded or not. I always say this, but this symposium is best served not by us taking the microphone and unilaterally addressing the audience, but by having hands and voices raised from the floor, allowing the conversation to flow between the two sides.

Today's symposium will only last half a day and therefore is likely to be rather busy; I hope we can fill the short time we have with substantive discussion.

Thank you sincerely for joining us today.

**Director, Institute for Peace Science,  
Hiroshima University  
Former Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative  
of Japan to the United Nations**

**Tsuneo NISHIDA**