

Opening Remarks

Dr. Mitsuo Ochi

President of Hiroshima University

Good afternoon. Thank you for gathering here to attend this symposium. It is humbling to see so many of you have made it here, braving the scorching heat of high summer.

I am honored to welcome you, as the President of Hiroshima University, to this Symposium, “The Atomic Bombs and War Memories: Heritage of Peace in an Uncertain Age”. May I also take this opportunity to thank the speakers for their participation, despite their hectic schedules.

Our keynote speaker, Professor Glenn Dawson Hook, is an Emeritus Professor at the University of Sheffield, UK. Professor Hook is a distinguished scholar of Japanese Studies, representing not only the British, but also the European research communities in this field. I understand that he is also a fluent Japanese speaker. Professor Andrew Hoskins, from the University of Glasgow, is a leading expert in the field of media and war studies. He will give us a special lecture based on his trailblazing research into the reporting of wars in the media. I heartily thank both the speakers for making the time and, traveling so far, to deliver their lectures in Hiroshima.

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Kenji Shiga, Director of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, for making a special effort to participate in this symposium, despite his extremely tight

schedule in the run-up to August 6.

This Symposium focuses on the challenges of passing down the memory of the Atomic Bomb experience to future generations. This is an extremely important and urgent issue for both Hiroshima and Nagasaki: the two cities devastated by the Atomic-Bombings. I believe that we will be having in-depth discussions during this symposium which will lead to new possibilities and suggestions for overcoming our challenges.

Hiroshima University has just, in April of this year, drawn-up a new ten-year vision called “SPLENDOR PLAN 2017”, adding the responsibility for achieving peace to the university’s long-term vision within which we will integrate our existing courses under the theme of the sustainability of humanity, society, culture, food, environment, and nature. As a result of this, we will aim to create a field of science that leads to sustainable development, and which manifests our principle of Peace Science that strives for peace-building without limits. Our university aims to take the lead in the activities of Peace Science, and aims to still be producing impressive results even in a hundred years from now. The Institute for Peace Science, that is hosting this Symposium, is expected to play a central role in this long-term vision.

Taking over from Ambassador Tsuneo

Nishida, who has fulfilled the weighty responsibility of the directorship of the Institute of Peace Science, Hiroshima University, for the past three years, Professor Noriyuki Kawano was appointed as the new Director of the institute as of April this year. Among the director's various responsibilities, Professor Kawano is particularly tasked with developing the two pillars of Peace Science, namely, the study of peace based on the legacy

of Hiroshima and the study of peace-building. I expect that Professor Kawano will lead the field of Peace Studies in Hiroshima and Japan and disseminate the outputs worldwide.

Once again, I sincerely thank you all for your kind participation and I hope this symposium will be a fruitful experience for us all.