

Mr. Ross Brown, President of the Rotary Club of Canberra Burley Griffin,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the World Peace Bell Association Headquarters, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to Rotary the Rotary Club of Canberra Burley Griffin, for inviting us to attend this important ceremony marking the unveiling of the World Peace Bell.

Likewise, we would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation and thanks to the Rotary Club of Canberra Burley Griffin for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to us.

On this special occasion, we would like to say that the World Peace Bell, like the one which stands in the courtyard of the United Nations, has been installed here at the Canberra Nara Peace Park Yarralumla with the cooperation of its generous people.

Our Association has been continuing international activity to promote world peace, having transcended politics, religion, race and ideology, since the installation of the World Peace Bell at the United Nations headquarters in 1954, and we have attended the unveiling ceremonies held in various countries in the world.

This World Peace Bell is cast by coins and medals donated from 103 countries in the world. Recalling that Israel is the first donor of coins to our association. We are extremely pleased to see the 23rd World Peace Bell installed here at the Canberra Nara Peace Park Yarralumla.

In addition, this bell is the second World Peace Bell in Australia followed by the first World Peace Bell installed at Cowra Civic Square in November, 1990. The countries which have two World Peace Bells within the same country are only USA and Australia.

We do believe that our 23rd World Peace Bell unveiled here today can play a significant role as a symbol of peace, to generate public interest and support for peace, and that the objective of this Peace Bell will be

passed to generations to come.

Every year on the International Day of Peace, which shall be determined near the opening day of the UN General Assembly, the Secretary-General of UN expresses hope for world peace and performs the Bell Ringing Ceremony. We will greatly appreciate it if you would also ring the Canberra Rotary Peace Bell on the International Day of Peace, September 21st every year.

We need to remind ourselves, and let the people of the world know the horror and misery which war and regional conflict brings to mankind. We need to direct our utmost efforts toward the realization of world peace and carry out more fruitful activities in order to have a bright hope for the future.

Lastly, we congratulate Rotary within Canberra on reaching it's 90th year of service to the Canberra community and express thanks to Mr. Ross Brown, President of the Rotary Club of Canberra Burley Griffin and all the club's members who have worked hard to make this possible today.

Thank you very much.

Katsumi Sato

Director for International Affairs,
World Peace Bell Association.