

Remarks by H. E. Mr. HAYASHI Hajime,
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,
for the Opening Ceremony of Japanese Peace Garden in Coventry
at Coventry War Memorial Park
on Friday, July 2, 2021

Lord Mayor McNicholas,
Councillors,
Distinguished Guests,
Members of Coventry Young Ambassadors,

My wife and I have indeed been looking forward to joining you today on the occasion of the Opening Ceremony of Japanese Peace Garden in Coventry. I sincerely congratulate all of you here for the opening of this outstanding place, which has been completed by the efforts of City of Coventry, Coventry primary schools, War Memorial Park and Japanese Garden Society.

Obviously, Coventry is a renowned international city of peace, supporting schools to promote peace and reconciliation through education as well as holding the annual Hiroshima Day Service. Coventry's dedication of peace is now crystalized in the opening of Japanese Peace Garden, which is expected to play a pivotal role for peace education of the city, encouraging particularly younger generations toward this end.

Furthermore, Japanese Peace Garden is also expected to become a symbol of friendship between Japan and the UK. I was impressed to hear that more than 2,000 pupils in the city were involved in the process of planning the garden and learned the thoughts behind it, such as a concept of "between the stones", in cooperation with Japanese Garden Society. In the process of building the garden, I understand that local communities and

Japanese companies worked together. I believe, such collaborating process has contributed to stronger bonds between the people in Coventry and those in Japan.

Therefore, I genuinely hope that Japanese Peace Garden will be loved by many people in Coventry for the years to come, as a symbol of peace and reconciliation and also for commemoration of friendship with Japan. In closing, I express my congratulations once again to all of you here today.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.