

On the 7<sup>th</sup> December (Friday), Ambassador Yamada attended the memorial ceremony dedicated to the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1988 Armenian earthquake (in Spitak City)

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of December, 30 years after the 1988 Armenian earthquake (☒) in Spitak City, in front of the khachkars (cross-stone) for the victims of the 1988 Armenian earthquake as well as the Great East Japan Earthquake, a commemoration ceremony was held. Ambassador of Japan Mr. Yamada, Ambassadors of the Czech Republic and Poland, representatives from the Armenian side Deputy Minister of Emergency Situations Mr. Ara Nazaryan, Mayor of Spitak City Mr. Gagik Sahakyan, Head of fire-rescue station of Spitak Deputy Colonel Serob Gabrielyan (the khachkar dedicated to the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake was established by his initiative), residents and Rescue Service employees attended the memorial ceremony. During the ceremony, an Armenian Church Mass was served and hundreds of citizens participated and laid flowers at the khachkars.

Followed by the ceremony, the commemorative concert took place at the music hall in the city. On the occasion of the event, the Ambassador Yamada expressed his condolences for the 1988 Armenian earthquake victims, and his hope Japan would continue to develop and strengthen the bilateral relations with the government of Armenia, as both countries face the same challenges of earthquake. In addition, Ambassador expressed his gratitude for erecting the khachkars for the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake, as well as for the assistance of Armenian people to those who have suffered from the earthquake.



Khachkar for the victims of 1988 Armenian earthquake



(From left side) Head of Fire-Rescue station, Ambassador Yamada and Mayor of Spitak



Mass by the Armenian Apostolic Church



Citizens laying flowers at Khachkar (1)



Citizens laying flowers at Khachkar (2)



Khachkar for the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake



Ambassador Yamada laid flowers at Khachkar



Speech by Mayor of Spitak, Mr. Gagik Sahakyan at music hall



Speech by Ambassador Yamada at music hall

After the concert, the Ambassador Yamada visited to observe the facilities and equipment at the Fire Service of Spitak City.



Fire-trucks at Spitak Fire Service



Ambassador with Spitak Fire Service staff (1)



Ambassador with Spitak Fire Service staff (2)

※note : Armenian Earthquake...A devastating earthquake hit the Spitak City on the 7th December, 1988. As the intensity of the earthquake was 6.8 on the Richter scale, the major businesses and industries were seriously damaged and approximately 4,000 citizens, almost one-third of the population, were victimized. After the earthquake, bi and multilateral development partners including Japan (the Government of Japan dispatched the Disaster Relief Team and provided emergency relief supplies and grant aid) have assisted the government of Armenia to rebuild, rehabilitate and reconstruct the city and revitalize the economy, lifeline and basic infrastructure. Despite that, approximately 3,000 citizens are still residing in the temporary shelters.

In this regard, the embassy of Japan supported the implementation “The Project for Heating System Improvement of School No.8 in Spitak City” to improve the study environment for 350 pupils and working environments for 58 teachers at the shelters, by upgrading the heating system that installed the natural gas and solar energy power system (For further information of the project, [please click here](#)).

Article of the previous memorial ceremony of the earthquake :

[https://www.am.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr\\_en/b\\_000256.html](https://www.am.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/b_000256.html)