

## **Ambassador Yamada Attended the Ceremony Dedicated to the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake in Spitak City**

**On March 11, 10 years after the Great East Japan Earthquake, Ambassador Yamada attended the commemoration ceremony of the Great East Japan Earthquake in Spitak City, the epicenter of the Great Armenian Earthquake in 1988. In Spitak, the khachkar (cross-stone) dedicated to the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake was built in 2012 by the initiative of local volunteers. Since then, the commemoration ceremony is held on March 11 every year.**

**The ceremony was attended by Ambassador Yamada, Mr. Pambukhchyan, First Deputy Minister of Emergency Situations, Archbishop Hakobyan, Mr. Asryan, Deputy Governor of Lori region, Mr. Sahakyan, Mayor of Spitak City, officials of the Ministry of Emergency Situations including Col. Gasparyan, Director of Rescue Service and Rescue Service members in Lori region as well as a number of citizens of Spitak City. During the ceremony, the participants laid flowers at the khachkar for the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Great Armenian Earthquake, praying for the victims.**

**Ambassador Yamada also exchanged views on cooperation in the field of disaster prevention with First Deputy Minister Pambukhchyan and other participants.**



**The Great Japan Earthquake Memorial**



**Speech by Ambassador Yamada**



**Speech by Deputy Minister Pambukhchyan**



**Speech by Archbishop Hakobyan**



**Musical Performance for the Victims  
by Ambassador Yamada**



**Ambassador Yamada and Deputy Minister  
Pambukhchyan Laying Flowers at the Memorial**



**Col. Gabrielyan, Head of Lori Regional Rescue Service  
Department and Spitak Citizens Laying Flowers**



**1988 Armenian Earthquake Memorial**



**Ambassador Yamada, Archbishop Hakobyan and  
Rescue Service Members**



**Ambassador Yamada, Mayor Sahakyan and  
Spitak Citizens**