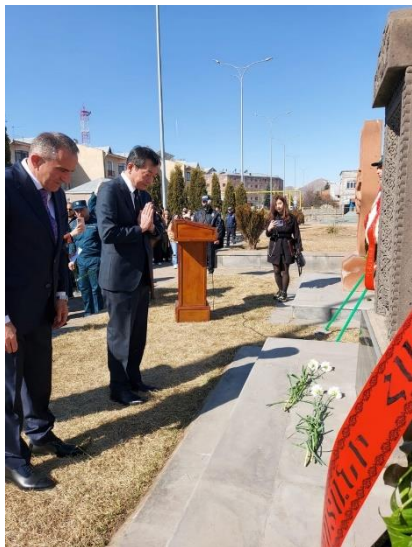


Ambassador Aoki Attended the Commemoration Ceremony for the Great East Japan Earthquake

On March 11, 14 years after the Great East Japan Earthquake, Ambassador AOKI Yutaka attended the commemoration ceremony, which took place in Spitak City, the epicenter of the Great Armenian Earthquake in 1988. The ceremony was held in front of khachkar, a cross-stone dedicated to the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake, established in 2012 through local volunteers' efforts.

In addition to Ambassador Aoki, the event was attended by Armenian officials, including Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs and Director of the Rescue Service of the RA Ministry of Internal Affairs, Mr. Tsutsulyan, Deputy Governor of Lori Province Mr. Asryan, along with Rescue Service members and local citizens. Participants laid flowers at the khachkars for the victims of the Great East Japan and the Great Armenian Earthquakes, in tribute to the victims of both tragedies.

The ceremony also included the presentation of the Foreign Minister's Commendation to Col. Serob Gabrielyan, Head of the Rescue Service of Lori Province, who initiated a fundraising campaign to build a memorial monument for the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake, successfully realizing it with contributions from Spitak residents and his own personal funds, after visiting Japan's disaster-stricken areas through a JICA program. Col. Gabrielyan was awarded in recognition of promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and Armenia through his activities.



Ambassador Aoki praying for the victims



Great East Japan Earthquake Memorial



Speech by Ambassador Aoki



Presentation of the Foreign Minister's Commendation to Col. Serob Gabrielyan