

Ceremony in commemoration of 1988 Spitak earthquake victims

On December 7, marking 37 years since the Armenia Earthquake, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Japan to Armenia, Ms. Yoko ANAZAWA, attended the **ceremony** in commemoration of 1988 **Spitak** earthquake victims. At the ceremony, she laid flowers at the memorial monument and, guided by Colonel Gabrielyan, Head of the Lori Regional Rescue Service, also offered flowers at the memorial dedicated to the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake, which was installed by him and other volunteers.

Following the ceremony, Ms. ANAZAWA visited the rescue service department of Spitak city and heard about the fire engines donated by Japan six years ago played an active role in firefighting operations during the wildfires that occurred across the region this year, and also heard about the ongoing efforts and initiatives in Lori Province related to fire and rescue activities.

After visiting disaster-affected areas in Japan through a JICA program in 2012, Colonel Gabrielyan initiated the idea of erecting a memorial for the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake. For these efforts to promote mutual understanding between Japan and Armenia, he received the Foreign Minister’s Commendation last year.

