

## Memorial Ceremony for the Great East Japan Earthquake (Spitak City)

On March 11, marking the 15th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake, H.E. Mr. Yutaka Aoki, Ambassador of Japan to Armenia, attended a memorial ceremony for the victims of the disaster held in the city of Spitak, the epicenter of the 1988 Armenian earthquake.

In addition to Ambassador Aoki, the ceremony was attended by Armenian officials including Mr. Aram Ghazaryan, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs and Head of the Rescue Service; Mr. Arsen Mkrtychyan, Deputy Head of the Rescue Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs; Mr. Serob Gabrielyan, Head of the Lori Regional Rescue Service; as well as rescue personnel and local residents.

Participants laid flowers at a khachkar (Armenian cross-stone) to honor the victims of both the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Armenian earthquake.



Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs and Head of the Rescue Service Aram Ghazaryan and Ambassador Aoki observing a moment of silence at the memorial monument.



Ambassador Aoki delivering remarks



Mr. Serob Gabrielyan, Head of the Lori Regional Rescue Service, and local rescue personnel laying flowers