

Mr. Ivan Knez, Mayor of Biograd na Moru,

Dear friends,

Good evening.

Thank you for your invitation tonight for the twelfth commemoration ceremony for atomic bombing victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I am very honored to be attending this ceremony for the third time.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Mayor Knez for organizing this commemoration ceremony every year. In recognition of his contribution, the decoration of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette was conferred by the Emperor of Japan 3 years ago. This shows how Japanese people appreciate Mayor Knez.

The past year again, the world has not seen great progress in nuclear disarmament. It is our hope that the only one existing nuclear disarmament treaty, the new START, will progress with wider participation. As the only state that has suffered the horrific effects of atomic bombings, Japan has played a leading role in the international community's discussions on nuclear disarmament. This morning Prime Minister Suga in Hiroshima renewed his determination to work for concrete achievements at the 2020 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, to be held early next year.

In the meantime, even in these challenging times of the pandemic, thanks to the effort and dedication by athletes, staffs, healthcare workers and everyone, Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games are going on. Before its opening, the President of International Olympic Committee Mr. Thomas Bach visited Hiroshima as Truce for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 is effect until the end of the Games.

At the end, I would like to join you in your prayers for Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and for world peace.

※クロアチア語で行われた挨拶を仮英訳したもの。