



PROGRAM

Performance by the United Nations International School Choir

Remarks by H.E. Mr. Motohide Yoshikawa,
the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations
and rings the Peace Bell

Remarks by H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon,
the Secretary-General of the United Nations
and rings the Peace Bell

Remarks by H.E. Mr. Sam Kutesa,
the President of the 69th Session of the General Assembly
and rings the Peace Bell

Photo Session

Performance by the Tarumi Violin Children's
Foundation for the Arts



The Peace Bell Ceremony

*In commemoration of the return of the Peace Bell
to the Japanese Garden*



The Peace Bell, located north of the Secretariat at United Nations Headquarters. Credit: UN Photo

Wednesday, 6 May 2015, 9:00 a.m.
Japanese Garden

The Peace Bell

The Peace Bell was donated to the United Nations by the United Nations Association of Japan in June of 1954.

The idea to donate a bell to the United Nations was first proposed by the late Mr. Chiyoji Nakagawa, an executive member of the United Nations Association of Japan and observer during the 6th session of the General Assembly in Paris in 1951, when Japan submitted its application to join the United Nations. Mr. Nakagawa proposed building the bell as a symbol of peace. Two years later in 1956, Japan became the 80th member of the United Nations.

The bell was cast from coins and medals donated by citizens not only from Japan, but also the representatives of U.N. Member States, Pope Pius XII and people from more than 60 countries.

It has become tradition to ring the bell twice a year; on the first day of spring at the Vernal Equinox, and on 21 September to celebrate the International Day of Peace. On the International Day of Peace, the United Nations Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly ring the bell to pray for World Peace.

The Japanese Garden

In 2000, the location of the Peace Bell was transformed into a Japanese Garden, using funds donated by the Japanese people living both in Japan and New York through “The Committee for the Peace Bell Garden.”

The Japanese Garden officially opened on 14 September 2000, and in attendance were former Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono.

The Japanese Garden provides a stage for demonstrating a unified call for peace. Symbolically, the Garden and the layout of its components present the mythological universe, our physical world, and the United Nation’s flag.

During the historic renovation of the United Nations Headquarters Complex from 2009 to 2014, the Japanese Garden was damaged but was repaired with funds from the “Trust Fund for Restoration and Maintenance of the Peace Bell”.

