

Message

I am pleased to send this message of greetings to the Samgha Honganji-Honganji Foundation and its Chief Incumbent Highness Venerable Ohtani Chohjum on the occasion of the grand opening of the "Wisdom of Japan – Kyoto Cultural Exhibition" held in Colombo.

The exhibition organized by the Western Province Governor's Office in Colombo, the Municipality of the historic Kyoto city in Japan, and the Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka, is held to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Sri Lanka.

This event is a worthy reminder of the strong ties between Japan and Sri Lanka, and would lead to the further strengthening of this friendship in the fields of cultural relations and people to people contact.

I note with appreciation the contribution of the Honganji Foundation to strengthen the spirit of friendship between our two countries through many memorable activities such as the erecting of the Tsunami Honganji Vihara in memory of the deceased in the Tsunami of 2004, and the building of the Japanese Corner at the International Buddhist Museum at the premises of the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic in Kandy.

I continue to value the contribution by Your Highness and the Honganji Foundation in the furtherance of cultural relations between Sri Lanka and Japan, and look forward to further cooperation between the Governments and people of Japan and Sri Lanka,.

I commend all organizers of this event for their commitment and cooperation, and wish the "Wisdom of Japan - Kyoto Cultural Exhibition" every success.

Mahinda Rajapaksa

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