

**Remarks by Representative of Embassy of Japan
in Finland
“The Little Singers of Takarazuka Concert”
on 23rd August**

Ladies and gentlemen,

My name is Kenji Ohashi, First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan. I am honored to be here today to extend greetings on behalf of the Embassy of Japan.

I'd like to sincerely congratulate on the opening of “The Little Singers of Takarazuka Concert”.

First, I wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to the City of Helsinki for hosting this concert and providing the venue today. Our deep appreciation also goes to Asahi Cross-Cultural Exchange Institute and all of those concerned for their endeavors to help organize this concert.

Since its foundation in 1975, The Little Singers of Takarazuka has been performing domestically and abroad. They have gained a good reputation in foreign countries including Republic of Korea,

China, United States of America, Canada, and Russia. I learned they also visited to Finland to participate in the Finnish International Youth Choir Festival, called Sympaatti, held in Lahti in 2003.

Today, they are welcome here again to show a beautiful singing to us on the significant occasion of the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Finland.

I sincerely hope through today's concert will harmonize the hearts of Japanese and Finnish people, and more and more people will contemplate how the next 100 years might look like for both countries, deeply appreciating the centenary significance.

Thank you.

(End)