

**Address by Charge d’Affaires a.i.
MIYAZAKI Kazumasa
on the occasion of Roihuvuori Hanami Festival
on 15 May 2022**

Hyvää päivää. I am MIYAZAKI Kazumasa, Charge d’Affaires ad interim at the Embassy of Japan in Finland. I would like to extend my sincere congratulations on the opening of “Roihuvuori Hanami Festival” this year.

I would also like to express my deep appreciation to Ms. Emilia Packalen, Director of Roihuvuori Society, Mr. TOMIDA Norio, Father of Hanami Festival, and all of those concerned for their great efforts to make this Hanami Festival possible.

Due to the COVID-19 situation, Hanami Festival had not been held for the last two years. Today is the very day that everyone has been really looking forward to enjoying these beautiful cherry blossoms here in Roihuvuori Park.

Last week, Prime Minister Sanna Marin visited Japan. It is highly significant that the strong ties between Japan and Finland have been confirmed at the summit level again. On this occasion, a working holiday agreement between Japan and Finland was signed. These symbolize the resumption of human interaction between both countries toward the post-covid world.

Our Embassy will also continue to do our utmost so that relationship between both countries can further develop. This year marks the 230th anniversary of the successful return to Japan by Daikokuya Kodayu, a Japanese sailor, whose ship was wrecked and drifted to Siberia in 18th century, with the help of Finnish natural scientist Erik Laxman and his son Adam Laxman.

Highlighting this heartfelt friendship and strong ties over 200 years ago, our Embassy has marked this year as “Finnish-Japanese Friendship Year 2022” and has been organizing various events to bolster our bilateral relations. We are looking forward to your participation in our events.

I sincerely hope that in this very significant year for both Japan and Finland, many people will enjoy these beautiful cherry blossoms, thereby both countries will further develop as a trusted partner for each other.

Kiitos!

(End)