

Message by Foreign Minister Motegi for the Friends of the CTBT

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the first ever use of nuclear weapons. The tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki must never be repeated.

Since the dawn of this century, almost all states have observed a moratorium on nuclear testing. Worldwide condemnation against North Korea's nuclear tests demonstrates the strengthened sense of norm against nuclear testing. We must promote the entry into force of the CTBT and strengthen its monitoring capabilities to deter nuclear tests.

Human resource development is a key to reinforcing the verification regime. Since 1996, Japan has received 271 trainees from 79 States and equipped them with the necessary skills to engage in International Monitoring System operations. We will continue such efforts.

The COVID-19 pandemic must never be allowed to dampen our common aspiration for a world without nuclear weapons. I hope the messages from the Friends of the CTBT will contribute to the realization of our common goal.