[Address by the Chairperson of the commemorative tree-planting executive committee]

Hello, everyone.

I am *Nguyen Phuong Khanh*, President of the Association of Vietnamese in Japan.

It's an honor for me to make an address as the Chairperson of the commemorative tree-planting executive committee.

For all of us who were resettled in Japan from Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Vietnam, today will be an unforgettable, historical day.

About a decade ago, on April 29, 2012, a monument was installed at the former Himeji Resettlement Promotion Center. The monument symbolizes the gratitude that refugees feel for the support they received from the Japanese government and citizens and stakeholder organizations for their resettlement. It's my great pleasure that today we can finally fulfil our long-standing wish to plant trees in this beautiful park to express our gratitude again.

Today, we are going to plant two flowering dogwood trees here. Their language of flowers are "a symbol of gratitude" and "please accept my gratitude." By planting these trees that convey these messages, we want to show that we will not forget what the people who warmly supported our first step towards resettlement in Japan have done for us.

In particular, we would like to show our gratitude to the Shinagawa International Refugee Assistance Center staff, Shinagawa city government officers, Shinagawa citizens, and FWEAP and Refugee Assistance Headquarters staff.

We hope that the two dogwood trees will serve as reminders for our next generations who are looking for their roots of the reason their ancestors left their home countries and resettled in Japan and of the support they received from the Japanese government and citizens. We sincerely hope that our next generations will live a virtuous life in Japan, remain grateful, and contribute to the Japanese society and economy.

In conclusion, we would like to thank the FWEAP for their support, without which we would never have been able to realize this commemorative project. FWEAP greatly supported us from the planning phase to the execution of the project. As the Chairperson of the executive committee, I would like to express our gratitude for FWEAP's support. Thank you very much.

*Nguyen Phuong Khanh*

Chairperson, Commemorative tree-planting executive committee

President, Association of Vietnamese in Japan

(Read on behalf of the President by *Takefumi Umino*, public relations external affairs)