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H.E. Ms.Irina Bokova
Director - General
UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07SP, France

Dear Ms. Bokova,

We hope that this letter finds Your Excellency well. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to you for your generous understanding and continued support to our non-governmental UNESCO activities in Japan.

By taking this memorable opportunity of 70 years anniversary of UNESCO, please allow me to express, on behalf of the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan, our profound respect and pay our sincere tribute for the leading role of UNESCO for its various steady activities which, we believe, cannot be realized by other UN agencies but only by UNESCO.

Based on the ideals of UNESCO Constitution, our predecessors had established a citizens' UNESCO movement in Japan even before the Japanese government was admitted to the Organization. This was because after the World War II we believed we could entrust to UNESCO our desires of rebuilding our country based on a culture of peace. In turn UNESCO warmly welcomed the Japanese citizens' peace movement and actively supported Japan's admission to UNESCO. As a result, Japan was officially admitted at the sixth session of the General Conference of UNESCO on June 21st, 1951 even before the San Francisco Treaty of Peace with Japan was signed in the same year on the 8th of September. This historical event indeed paved the way for Japan to re-join the international community once again and it became a torch light of big hope for the Japanese people then.

戦争は人の心の中で生まれるものであるから、人の心の中に平和のとりでを築かなければならない。

Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed.