

Message from the Mayor of Karuizawa

~ On the occasion of the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Karuizawa, Nagano ~

On behalf of the people of Karuizawa, I would like to extend my heartfelt welcome to the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Karuizawa, Nagano Prefecture.

At the time of the crisis of world peace starting with Russia's aggression against Ukraine, I believe it is very significant that the foreign ministers of the G7 countries gather here in Karuizawa Town to hold discussions on maintaining a peaceful order and other global issues such as climate changes.

Karuizawa Town has a long history of accepting and collaborating with different cultures since the Meiji era. In particular, during World War II, more than 2,000 foreigners were evacuated to this town, and the townspeople worked together to mitigate their food shortages, and peace activities were carried out even during wartime when surveillance was strict.

In addition, after the world war II, it has been designated as an International Friendship Culture and Tourism City by a special law, which states that, since Karuizawa is an excellent health area with a highland beauty that is rarely seen in the world and has a historical record of contributing to international goodwill, the purpose of this law is to promote international goodwill and international cultural exchange and to contribute to the achievement of the ideal of lasting world peace.

Given the current global situation, I believe that it is the best place for G7 foreign ministers to discuss peacekeeping as well as protection of natural environments for solving climate change related issues, etc.

On behalf of the people of Karuizawa who wish for world peace, I sincerely hope that the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting will serve as an opportunity for the world to take a new step toward restoring and maintaining a peaceful order.

April 16, 2023

Mayor of Karuizawa

Michio Tsuchiya