

I am Ayaka Shiomura, a member of the House of Councillors. I am from Japan.  
Thank you for inviting me to this memorial service today. It is a great honour to meet you all.

My late father's uncle died in action in Infanta, Luzon. His remains were not returned. That is why I had hoped to visit the Philippines one day and pay my father's respects. At that time, I was invited to attend the memorial service in Davao. I feel that this is also an opportunity of sorts, and that as a Member of Parliament, I may have a role to play in the future.

Whenever I learn about the history and facts of the last war, my heart aches for the many people who were unjustly caught up in it. Here in the Philippines, 500,000 Japanese and more than a million Filipinos lost their lives in the war. I offer my deepest condolences to all the war dead.

Those who lost their lives and those who survived. War, which brings tragedy to all, must never be forgotten. It must not be repeated.

In Japan, the majority of parliamentarians now belong to a generation that has never known war. That is why I believe it is important for the Diet to address the historical facts of what happened in the last war here in the Philippines.

During my visit to the Philippines, I will also meet with Japanese survivors of the war. Although the war is over, there are still unresolved issues. As a Member of Parliament, I pledge to make every effort to resolve these issues.

Finally, I would like to conclude my speech by wishing everyone here today good health and happiness and, not least, the repose of the souls of all the war dead.

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Ayaka Shiomura a member of the House of Councillors