



Over 200 landmarks to light up UN blue on 70th anniversary

① UNITED NATIONS (AP) — More than 200 landmarks in 60 countries from the Pyramids in Egypt to the Eiffel Tower in Paris and the Empire State Building in New York will be lit up in blue — the official color of the United Nations— on Saturday to

commemorate the 70th anniversary of the world body.

② The global celebration will kick off in New Zealand and then at the Sydney Opera House in Australia. It will move across countries and continents to the Great Wall of China, the ancient city of Petra in Jordan, Russia's Hermitage Museum, the Alhambra in Spain, the statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro and many other sites.

③ New Yorkers actually got a sneak preview of the celebration because U.N. headquarters was lit up in blue Friday night as well.

④ U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed hope that "by turning the world U.N. blue for a day, we can light a way to a better tomorrow."

⑤ Oct. 24 is the anniversary of the entry into force of the U.N. Charter in 1945 and is celebrated as U.N. Day.

⑥ The General Assembly unanimously approved a declaration Friday reaffirming the faith of the 193 member states in the United Nations on its 70th anniversary and the U.N.'s determination "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war."

⑦ It says the U.N. charter unites all member states "in diversity beyond our differences of language, culture or religion, today as 70 years ago."

The secretary-general told the assembly that the U.N. over seven decades has brought "freedom to millions, dismantling colonialism, defeating apartheid and defending human rights for all, regardless of race, religion, nationality, gender or sexual orientation."

But he said "violence, poverty, ill-health and abuse plague far too many people, especially women and girls," and more people have fled their homes than at any time since World War II because of conflict, oppression and fear.

Nonetheless, Ban said, "without the United Nations, our world would be a far bleaker place."
【October 23, 2015 / AP】

commemorate: 記念する kick off: 開始する ancient: 古代の get a sneak preview: こっそり下見する U.N. Secretary-General: 国連事務総長 unanimously: 満場一致で reaffirm: 再確認する faith: 信条 scourge: 苦悩のもと、惨害 U.N. charter: 国連憲章 diversity: 多様性 dismantle: 解体する colonialism: 植民地主義 apartheid: 人種隔離制度 regardless of: ~ にかかわらず orientation: 志向 plague: 苦しめる flee: 逃げる conflict: 紛争 oppression: 圧政 bleak: 寒々とした、暗い

★Ice breaker for active discussion★

1. What does the color blue mean to you?
2. What are the achievements united nations in the past 70 years?
3. Have you ever been to the places mentioned in the article?
4. What are reforms that the United Nations itself must make?
5. How can Japan contribute for the betterment of the United Nations?
How can Japan benefit from the United Nations?
6. Make sentences using the following words: unanimously, ancient, scourge, regardless of, orientation, plague and bleak.

国際連合は、第2次世界大戦を防げなかった国際連盟の反省を踏まえ 1945年に設立された。当初の51カ国から加盟国は193カ国に増えている。日本は1956年に加盟。70周年を迎えたこの日、日本国内でも東京のスカイツリーや、北海道札幌市の時計台、名古屋市のテレビ塔、兵庫県の明石海峡大橋、石川県の金沢城など12カ所で青色ライトアップが行われた。より良い世界のために、国連改革の必要性が求められている。