



Mayors for Peace

Secretariat

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It is a great honor to be sending my greetings on the occasion of the 7th Pacemakers-bike marathon on August 6th and 7th.

On August 6, 1945, an atomic bomb reduced Hiroshima to ashes and took tens of thousands of precious lives. The pain inflicted on the citizens of Hiroshima is simply indescribable—their beloved hometown obliterated, family and friends lost forever.

With our *hibakusha* aging and many of them still suffering from the aftereffects of radiation, I am determined to have their experiences and strong desire for peace absorbed and wholeheartedly accepted by future generations and to have the desire for peace spread throughout the world. I am convinced that disseminating the *hibakusha* message will eventually lead to the realization of their most cherished wish, the abolition of nuclear weapons.

To achieve this goal, the City of Hiroshima, together with more than 4,800 member cities of Mayors for Peace around the globe, has been promoting the 2020 Vision Campaign for the total elimination of nuclear weapons by 2020. After the bombing, it was said that nothing would grow in Hiroshima for 75 years and the year 2020 will be its 75th anniversary.

As part of my efforts to build global momentum for nuclear abolition, I am exploring the possibility of hosting the 2015 NPT Review Conference. This conference would bring heads of government and ambassadors worldwide, including those of all nuclear-armed states, to Hiroshima. I am eager for world leaders and millions of people from around the world to come to Hiroshima, where the tragic memory of the bombing is still a living reality. I want everyone to understand the horrific human damages wrought by nuclear weapons and fully share the wish of the *hibakusha*.

I now ask each of you to make Hiroshima's wish your own. Please support the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign and strive with us toward lasting world peace for humankind.

In closing, I offer my warmest wishes for the success of the 7th Pacemakers-bike marathon.

August 6, 2011

MATSUI Kazumi
Mayor of Hiroshima
President of Mayors for Peace