

The 7th General Conference of Mayors for Peace
Talk with NGOs and Citizens
– **Efforts by NGOs to eliminate nuclear weapons
at local, national and regional levels**

August 10 (Mon), 2009 9:00 – 12:00
Nagasaki Brick Hall (International Conference Hall)

Moderators: **Hideo Tsuchiyama**, Chairman, Organizing Committee of the Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
Hikomichi Umehayashi, Special Advisor, Peace Depot

Panelists: **Pol D'Huyvetter**, Director, International Campaign Secretariat, Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign, Belgium
Jackie Cabasso, Mayors for Peace North American Coordinator, USA
Noboru Tasaki, Secretary-General, Organizing Committee of the Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
Akira Kawasaki, Co-Representative, Executive Committee, Peace Boat
Keiko Nakamura, Secretary General, Peace Depot
Franz-Michael Skjold Mellbin, Ambassador of Denmark to Japan
Soran Ali Hasan, Mayor of Khanaqin, Iraq

Speakers: **Michel Cibot**, General Manager, City of Malakoff; Association Française des Communes, Départements et Régions pour la Paix(AFCDRP), France
Yukio Isobe, Director, Solidarity Activities Division, Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo)
Yoshiha Arichi, Coordinator, Nuclear Abolition Network Kyoto
Tomihisa Taue, Mayor of Nagasaki;
President of National Council of Japan Nuclear Free Local Authorities
Masayoshi Naito, Coordinator, Citizens' Network for Nuclear Weapons Abolition
Toshihiro Inoue, Deputy Director,
Japan Congress against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikin)
Yasunari Fujimoto, Deputy Secretary General,
Japan Congress against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikin)
Philip Jennings, General Secretary, UNI Global Union, Switzerland
Rafael de la Rubia, President, World without Wars and without Violence
Shigemi Osaki, Manager,
Ward Administrative Section, Community Promotion Department,
Community Development and City Planning Bureau, the City of Sapporo
Tomoko Watanabe, Executive Director,
ANT-Hiroshima (Asian Network of Trust in Hiroshima)
Saori Yuji, the Executive Committee, the 10,000 High School Students Signatures Campaign to Eliminate All Nuclear Weapons and to Make a Peaceful World;
3rd-year student, Kwassui High School
Hikaru Owatari, the 12th High School Student Peace Ambassador;
3rd-year student, Kwassui High School

Moderator: Hideo Tsuchiyama, Chairman, Organizing Committee of the
Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. We will now start the morning session on this last day of the Mayors for Peace General Conference. Two of us will serve as moderators of this session. My name is Hideo Tsuchiyama and my colleague is Mr. Hiromichi Umebayashi. Thank you very much for coming to this session.

First of all, I would like to explain this morning's schedule. According to the program, we have six panelists but we have one more joining. So, there are seven panelists this morning. I would like to introduce them to you:

From Belgium, Mr. Pol D'Huyvetter; from the US, Ms. Jacqueline Cabasso; next from Japan, Mr. Noboru Tasaki, Mr. Akira Kawasaki and Ms. Keiko Nakamura; from Denmark, Ambassador of Denmark, His Excellency Mr. Franz-Michael Skjold Mellbin, and from Iraq, Mayor of Khanaqin, the Honorable Mr. Soran Ali Hasan. They are seven panelists and each will give a 10-minute speech.

Afterward, we will take questions from the floor, for a 20-minute question and answer session. Then we will take a 15 minute-break. After the break, we have 10 presenters already registered to speak. Afterward, we will of course welcome interventions from participants, and additional questions from the floor at the end. This is a 3-hour session and I hope you will find it enjoyable and useful.

Today the general public has joined us for this session. I hope that everybody understands the significance of this. Of course Mayors for Peace is a group of the representatives of cities and is involved in NGO activities. On the other hand, there are citizens' groups and private groups that Mayors for Peace should have connections with. We need them to share the task of educating the general public and at the same time lobby their governments. This is an important part of our collaboration. In the past, each of the Mayors for Peace General Conferences had a session to exchange with NGOs and the general public. This year, we hope to further enhance such activities by moving local NGOs and general citizens toward nuclear abolition, we set a theme for this session "Efforts by NGOs to eliminate nuclear weapons at local, national and regional levels."

First, we would like to hear from the seven panelists. First, I will invite Mr. Pol D'Huyvetter to talk about strategies of NGOs in Europe, especially the nuclear policies

of NATO and Europe.

Pol D'Huyvetter, Director, International Campaign Secretariat
Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign, Belgium

Good morning. It is a privilege and honor for me to be here with you all. I wish to thank you for taking the time and efforts to travel to this General Conference and to be here with us. My name is Pol D'huyvetter. I am the Director of the International Campaign Secretariat of Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign based in the City Hall of Ypres in Belgium, and I am also the Executive Advisor for the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation.

When I looked at the title of this session, "Efforts by NGOs to eliminate nuclear weapons at local, national and regional levels," I felt I should start by telling something about my life before I started working with Mayors for Peace. I have been active for the issue of nuclear disarmament since 1981, when the US and Russia were in the midst of Cold War and planned to deploy cruise missiles in Persia and Europe. Ever since then, I have been committed to this cause.

I was working with an organization called For Mother Earth when I first met Mayors for Peace in UN Geneva in 2003. When I met Mayor Akiba I was very inspired by his speech. During the NGO session, I talked with Steve Leeper, who is here with us, who is the Chair of the Foundation and, who has also, I think, made very valuable contributions over the years to link the work of NGOs with local and national governments. At that time, I was engaged with For Mother Earth, which today is a part of the International Friends of the Earth network federation. Internationally, we had some reputation to focus on NATO nuclear sharing in Belgium with the US nuclear base in Kleine Brogel where 20 US bombs were deployed and flown by Belgian pilots. If you look at the NPT, you can see that this nuclear sharing agreement is in violation of Article 1 and Article 2 of the NPT, something that is hardly mentioned in our corporate driven media. We in For Mother Earth at that time were inspired by people like Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King. And did civil disobedience and were upholding international law because we felt and we still feel that today that the presence of US nuclear weapons in Belgium are preparations for crimes against humanity.

From the beginning, with our group, we always thought it was very important to involve legislators when we engage in our activities, both in civil disobedience and others. So,

from the beginning already in the 1990s when we did citizens' inspections, referring to the inspections which were happening in Iraq at that time, we had members of the Belgium parliament inspecting the base with us, going inside and exposing the injustice we felt was done in Belgium. At some point, we can say it were very effective actions, as we were able to draw the attention of Belgian general public and politicians to the fact that we had these weapons in Belgium which nobody, hardly anybody knew about. At some point we had 1,170 people arrested for entering the base non-violently – we would not resist the arrest, we would just say the proper reason why we were there. So this is to give one example an effective action of an NGO. I think a well-respected NGO, which is often using this kind of non-violent methodology in these days, is Greenpeace.

As we moved on, and continued to do political work with our group, we also helped a lot to set up a PNND (Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament) section in Belgium. I think we were instrumental and people from the NGO community can really take these initiatives as I have experienced where we contacted members of different democratic political parties to make sure that no political party would claim the struggle we have had for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

After I heard Mayor Akiba's speak at the UN Geneva Conference in 2003, and met with Steve Leeper and Aaron Tovish, I found out about Mayors for Peace and the 2020 Vision Campaign which was launched soon afterwards. I went back to Belgium and saw out that out of 589 mayors in Belgium, at that time only 6 mayors had joined Mayors for Peace, Ypres being one of them. We contacted with our NGO the 6 mayors to propose them to cooperate. We were planning a Peace March from NATO headquarters in Brussels, our capital. And we came up with a plan to do a peace march from NATO headquarters to Ypres, which is the city in Belgium completely destroyed during the First World War. On the territory of Ypres, about half a million people died between 1914 and 1918, because of war.

So this was the start of a fruitful cooperation between For Mother Earth and the City of Ypres and a growing number of mayors, which soon resulted, again, using this cross-party approach, where we as an NGO, we felt it was very important to work with mayors from all democratic political parties in our struggle against these NATO nuclear sharing agreements in Belgium. We involved, for example, Jean-Luc Dehaene, who

was the previous Prime Minister of Belgium and Mayor in Vilvoorde, and Senator Patrick Vankrunkelsven, I am sure some people have heard about him, who is from the Liberal Party. We also had people from the Green Party, from the Social Democrats. For Belgium, it is a little more complicated, because of different regions, as we needed to make sure we have Flemish speaking and French speaking. So we worked that out very carefully before sending out letters to involve mayors across Belgium. I know that in 2005, soon we saw almost half of Belgian mayors had joined because of these cross-party appeals. Today I can say that 337 of the 589 Belgian mayors have joined Mayors for Peace, which is almost 60%. And we are working to have more this year, especially with perspective to have 5,000 members by the NPT Review Conference.

I believe that my training with this NGO to make sure we have this cross-party approach was very important and I know it is a policy as well of Mayors for Peace in Belgium which is now well-established group, a structure. We have a Mayors for Peace Belgium Council, which again we have 4 mayors from the North of Belgium: Flanders, 4 from the South: Wallonia and then we also have the Brussels region. In this Council of 9 mayors, again, we make sure all political parties are represented. It is example of our work in Europe that has resulted in several resolutions both in the lower house and the upper house, by members of parliaments, cooperation between NGOs, PNND, Mayors for Peace, asking for the withdrawal of US nuclear weapons from Europe, and asking the de-nuclearisation of NATO. This has been very significant. I hope this example from Belgium gives you a methodology that we use very successfully, and we see that some of our colleagues across Europe are also using.

The latest development which in a way was still confidential as we were working with, again Mayors for Peace took the initiative after the NPT PrepCom in New York last May to invite our Council of the mayors in Belgium to work with a cross-party group of PNND members to introduce a Belgian law to ban nuclear weapons. Because Belgium has, as you might know, quite a tradition. We were the first country to ban cluster munitions, to ban weapons with depleted uranium, and to ban landmines. So now with the members of parliament, we take up this new and bigger challenge, I am sure you know, to ban nuclear weapons in Belgium. Because we keep believing that will give enormous leverage both internationally and within the NATO alliance.

I will end by saying that as an NGO as well and now with Mayors for Peace we are also very active on the level of the European Parliament, where we have been successful to

have several resolutions adopted. Again very carefully, before we launch the initiative we make sure we have all political parties on board. That is our formula and I believe it is very important. I cannot stress it enough.

Also, before the NPT PrepCom last April, the European Parliament adopted a resolution with majority in Strasburg, which was very important, for the first time referring to the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol, the 2020 Vision, and the support for the Nuclear Weapon Convention.

I hope that this very short intervention will be inspiring for young people I see there, because we can, as citizens, make a whole lot of difference, and we really need to have faith and cooperate with people on the different levels. Local level NGOs and I think local governments now, we have a very important role to play, and I think we are playing it, to get leverage to the national government, and eventually the UN.

So, thank you very much for giving me this word. Just to make a final announcement. If you have not received this report from the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign, it has a lot of information of the work of NGOs and mayors across the world. You can receive it here today, if you find me, Chris or Aaron. Chris is there and the reports are there on the table I see. Thank you very much.

Tsuchiyama

Thank you very much, Mr. Pol D'Huyvetter. Next, we would like to invite Ms. Jacqueline Cabasso, talking about "NGO Challenges and Opportunities under the Obama Administration."

Jackie Cabasso, Mayors for Peace North American Coordinator, USA

Mayor Taue, Mayor Akiba, distinguished Mayors for Peace delegates and fellow citizens, thank you for inviting me to speak here today. It is a great honor. Since arriving in Nagasaki, I have been struck by the fact that in every speech I have heard, whether at the Mayors for Peace Conference, the Gensuikyo rally, or the Women's Forum, President Obama's April 5th Prague speech has been praised as a world changing event. In part, I think this reflects our collective sense of relief that the Bush era is over, as well as our desperate desire for a real breakthrough on nuclear disarmament. One thing is certain, Obama's Prague speech has inspired a tidal wave of hope and opened up the space for a badly needed renewal of advocacy and action to

abolish nuclear weapons.

Some speakers have characterized Obama's pledge to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons as unprecedented. Yet as UN General Assembly President Miguel d'Escoto reminded us on Saturday, in the NPT itself the US and other original nuclear weapon states pledged to negotiate the elimination of their nuclear arsenals. So 40 years later and 20 years after the end of the Cold War and the dissolution of the Soviet Union, why are nuclear weapons still with us; who benefits from them? I think we need to do a much deeper analysis in order to figure out where the real pressure points are. And I think this requires openness to the possibility of doing things differently than we have done before.

My main conclusion, as I will explain, is that we can no longer approach nuclear weapons as a single issue. In order to win we must address the interconnected issues of militarization, globalization and the economy and we must build a new movement that brings together the various constituencies that together make up the vast majority of the world's population that does not benefit from the permanent war system.

In order to attract these constituencies we need to promote an alternative vision of security. We must put universal human security and ecological sustainability at the heart of conflict resolution and prevention. We must divest precious resources from militarism and invest them instead in this new security paradigm. This is what Mayors for Peace is ultimately working for.

In his Prague speech, President Obama made an historic admission that as the only nuclear power to have used a nuclear weapon, the United States has a moral responsibility to act for their elimination. This is a welcome acknowledgement but we should not be naïve. While Obama has repeatedly said that he will pursue the goal of a world without nuclear weapons, this statement is invariably followed by a disclaimer that as long as nuclear weapons exist, the US will maintain a strong nuclear deterrent. This disclaimer reflects the influence of a massive and powerful military industrial complex, which has successfully perpetuated the role of nuclear weapons as the cornerstone of US national security policy for 64 years. I would like to give President Obama the benefit of the doubt, but if he is serious about getting rid of nuclear weapons, he is going to have to make a major break with the policies of all Administrations since 1945, whether Republican or Democrat, and take on some of the most powerful and

entrenched forces on earth. President Obama needs our help. It is up to us to create the political pressure that will make meaningful progress on disarmament possible.

It is important for Japanese people to understand that while the personality at the top of the US government has changed, the architecture and special interests that underpin it have not. The US continues to spend nearly as much as the rest of the world's countries combined on its military. In 2008, the United States spent 52.4 billion dollars on nuclear weapons-related programs alone. This staggering amount is a drop in the bucket compared to overall US military spending that year, which was 711 billion dollars, but it exceeds the entire military budgets of nearly every other country. In 2006, only China, Russia, the United Kingdom and France spent more on their militaries than the US spent on its nuclear weapons-related programs.

When he presented his military budget for 2010, this is what President Obama said, "Going forward, we will continue to make the investments necessary to strengthen our military and increase our ground forces to defeat the threats of the 21st century." More than a quarter of a million US personnel are already serving at more than 1,000 military bases around the world. And the US is the only country that deploys nuclear weapons on foreign soil.

Since the Prague speech, there has been a disturbing wave of editorials ridiculing President Obama, accusing him of being naïve, and declaring that nuclear abolition is impossible or even a bad idea. Former government officials, generals, and other influential members of the nuclear establishment are engaged in a full court press to ensure that even the modest first steps taken by President Obama to reestablish traditional arms control are doomed to fail. For example, the Commission established by Congress to give advice on the forthcoming Nuclear Posture Review reported in May,

"the United States requires a stockpile of nuclear weapons that is safe, secure, and reliable, and whose threatened use in military conflict would be credible ... The conditions that might make the elimination of nuclear weapons possible are not present today and establishing such conditions would require a fundamental transformation of the world political order."

Almost as if to ensure that such conditions are not created, the Senate recently adopted a series of amendments to the 2010 Defense Authorization Bill. One of these

amendments calls on the President to make sure that the US-Russia START follow-on treaty does not limit US ballistic missile defense systems, space capabilities, or advanced conventional weapons systems.

A second amendment expresses support for a US ground-based missile defense system in Poland and the Czech Republic. These are precisely the issues that Russia has raised as impediments to deeper nuclear arms reductions. Yet another amendment requires the President to deliver a plan to modernize the US nuclear deterrent. These amendments were introduced by Republican Senators, but their adoption was aided by Democrats.

One of the most alarming trends is the renewed importance being given to the concept of “extended deterrence.” In response to developments in North Korea, the US and Japan have begun official talks on ways to enhance the nuclear threat to others that the United States provides for Japan. As an alternative, some Japanese politicians have argued that Tokyo should develop its own nuclear weapons to protect itself. This is appalling.

As the only country thus far to have experienced the trauma and devastation of a nuclear attack, Japan has a unique moral stature. As Japanese citizens, I urge you to press your government hard to reject the fallacy of nuclear deterrence, to withdraw from the US nuclear umbrella, to forswear all nuclear weapons altogether and to model a new security paradigm based on diplomacy, cooperation and the rule of law.

It is becoming clearer every day that the problem of nuclear weapons cannot be solved in isolation. In his keynote speech on Saturday, Bruce Gagnon was eloquent on this point. As United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recently explained,

“progress in eliminating other weapons of mass destruction and limiting missiles, space weapons and conventional arms – all... are needed for a nuclear-weapon-free world. Disarmament must anticipate emerging dangers from other weapons ... Of course, strategic stability, trust among nations, and the settlement of regional conflicts would all help to advance the process of disarmament. Yet disarmament has its own contributions to make in serving these goals and should not be postponed.”

It is therefore more important than ever that we, the ordinary people of the world, join

together to demand the elimination of nuclear weapons before the last *hibakusha* is gone.

Inspired by Japanese NGOs, a growing international petition campaign is underway calling on the leaders of government to agree at the 2010 NPT Review Conference to commence and conclude negotiation of a treaty to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons. The US version of the petition calls on President Obama to make good on his Prague commitment by announcing at the Review Conference his initiation of good faith multilateral negotiations on an international agreement to abolish nuclear weapons, within our lifetimes. In June, the US Conference of Mayors unanimously adopted a Mayors for Peace resolution calling on President Obama to conclude the negotiations by 2020. Millions of signatures collected in Japan, the US, UK, France and elsewhere will be delivered to the NPT Review Conference.

American organizers are excited that as many as 1,000 Japanese activists will come to New York next May to personally deliver their appeal for a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons. With United for Peace and Justice and Abolition 2000, we are organizing a march and rally on Sunday May 2, the day before the Review Conference opens, and an international conference on Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Peace and Disarmament on May 1. As in 2005, we anticipate that the march will be led by *hibakusha* and Mayors for Peace, followed by Japanese and other international peace activists.

I want to say a few words about time-bound frameworks. In his Prague speech President Obama said that the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons “will not be reached quickly – perhaps not in my lifetime.”

However, governments set milestones all the time. Paradoxically, on May 8, during the NPT Preparatory Committee meeting, President Obama announced the US goal by 2020 of having the highest college graduation rates of any country on earth. And during his recent campaign for health care legislation he told reporters “if there are no deadlines, nothing gets done in this town.” So why not set a goal of eliminating nuclear weapons by 2020?

In a time of twin global [financial] and environmental crises and growing competition over natural resources, the dangers of conflicts among nuclear-armed states are

increasing. We cannot afford to wait decades more for the elimination of nuclear weapons. Nuclear disarmament cannot be contingent on solving all of the world's other problems, but we cannot avoid the connections either. That's why the organizations that have initiated the campaign in a run up to the 2010 NPT Review Conference have adopted the following mission statement:

“nuclear disarmament should serve as the leading edge of a global trend towards demilitarization and redirection of resources to meet human needs and restore the environment.”

With the worldwide surge of hope in response to the election of Barack Obama as US President, the time is ripe for another massive stage of public opinion calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons. As Ban Ki-moon put it, nuclear disarmament “will restore hope for a more peaceful, secure and prosperous future. It deserves everybody's support.” Thank you.

Tsuchiyama

Ms. Cabasso, thank you very much. In Nagasaki, the Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons has come together three times in the past, with the attendance of many leaders from Japan and around the world. Now, we are planning to hold a fourth assembly in February next year. Mr. Tasaki will further explain this point.

Noboru Tasaki, Secretary-General, Organizing Committee of the Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

Good morning everybody. As introduced, I am Secretary-General of the Organizing Committee for the Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. As it is a very long name, I would like to refer to it as the Organizing Committee.

This Committee is organized in Nagasaki with the collaboration of citizens, the Prefectural government, and the city government of Nagasaki, and is working toward the elimination of nuclear weapons. As mentioned already, we have invited international guests to the global assembly three times in the past four years. Next February, we will hold the fourth assembly.

In Japan, at least, it is quite rare for there to be collaboration between the public sector

and citizens, except maybe in the welfare and environmental protection fields. It is particularly rare in the field of peace-related activities, but we do have this organization of citizens and municipalities working together for almost 10 years in Nagasaki.

This committee was started from a citizens' conference in Nagasaki for the abolition of nuclear weapons that was established to convey the voices of Nagasaki citizens to the Tokyo Forum for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, which was organized in 1999 by the government of Japan to propose statements for the abolition of nuclear weapons. We wanted to have voices from the citizens of Nagasaki reflected in the Tokyo Forum. Mr. Tsuchiyama, who is a coordinator today, and the late Mr. Sadao Kamata, the former director of the Nagasaki Peace Institute who unfortunately passed away five years ago, took the initiative to establish this organization. The citizens' conference organized various meetings and forums to gather citizens' opinions and those opinions became an input at the Tokyo Forum.

Based on these achievements, we requested in 2000 the collaboration with the Prefecture and the City of Nagasaki in inviting experts from around the world to hold an international conference. Upon our request, the Prefecture and the City of Nagasaki along with other organization and citizens established the Organizing Committee for the Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. The major activity of this Organizing Committee is to hold international assemblies for peace. But in order to do so, we needed funds, and we asked the Prefecture and the City of Nagasaki for assistance. We have organized the Global Citizens' Assembly three times in the past.

This may be rare in Japan, but Nagasaki Prefecture and Nagasaki City say that they will provide funds but will not intervene with the activities of the Organizing Committee. So we can have such gatherings based on our own ideas without any interference from the prefectural or the city governments. In this way, we can organize cross-party activities, and this is made possible because of trusting relationships between our Organizing Committee and the prefectural and the city governments. This is how we can get support from citizens and funds from Nagasaki Prefecture and Nagasaki City.

In 2006, we held the third Global Citizens' Assembly and I prepared slides to show what we have done, so I would like you to see the slide show.

[Slide1] This is from the Opening Assembly. We have 70 members in our

Organizing Committee on a voluntary basis, and we conduct the Global Citizens' Assembly every three years, inviting guests from Japan and around the world. We would provide economy class tickets, and some other expenses, but we cannot afford to pay honorarium. This is our logo, the balloon globe, also designed by our volunteer members.

[Slide 2] This is the 10,000 signature campaign by high school students, many of them are seated on the balcony today. Are you members? They are the high school students who participated in that 10,000 signature campaign. Thank you very much for your support. (Applause)

[Slide 3] This is a scene from the Workshop 2, "Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zones and Nuclear Umbrella"

[Slide 4] This is a scene from the Workshop 3, "Nuclear Abolition and Multilateral Negotiations"

[Slide 5] This is the Workshop 4, "Peace Education Forum"

[Slide 6] This is the Workshop 5 "Forum for Youth"

[Slide 7] Workshop 6, "Atomic Bomb Survivors Forum"

That's a part of our Global Citizens' Assembly from last time. In February of next year, we are going to hold a fourth assembly and I would like to talk to you about it later.

How do we collaborate between citizens and municipal government? I think I can point out three important factors. The first reason is, ten years ago the nuclear weapon abolition movement was stalled and citizens and *hibakusha* were irritated that abolition was not going smoothly. The second reason is that NGOs and NGO activities are recognized. Recently, the term non-governmental organizations or NGOs has come into use in Japan, which is almost equal to "civil society" in the United Nations, and we recognize them as such. The third reason is in Nagasaki, collaboration among peace movement organizations has been promoted. Dr. Tatsuichiro Akizuki, who passed away 20 years ago, called for the Nagasaki Peace Gathering, in which all the peace organizations and citizens were to assemble regardless of minor differences in their opinions. Dr. Akizuki said let's get together for a common goal. This means that we have to overcome the small differences, and get together to show solidarity for the common goal of nuclear abolition. Responding to Dr. Akizuki's call, various groups and individuals gathered together beyond differences in organizations and daily activities. That is why we were able to collaborate with each other to form our Organizing Committee 10 years ago, enabling the Global Citizens' Assembly.

We are currently implementing two major activities: one is a petition drive to ask President Obama to visit Nagasaki. Those who have not signed it yet, please sign it at the NGO booth. The other is the fourth Assembly planned for February 6 to 8 of the next year. We plan to have four themes. The main aim is in preparation for the NPT Review Conference in next May, we would like to have citizens, municipalities and international society cooperate with each other and get together through the Global Citizens' Assembly to make every possible effort to convey the voice from the A-bombed city to the UN. Thank you very much.

Tsuchiyama

Thank you Mr. Tasaki. I would like to invite Mr. Akira Kawasaki to give a presentation about the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND), which is a joint initiative of the Australian and Japanese governments, and is planning to issue a report by the end of this year. As the NGO Advisor to the ICNND, Mr. Kawasaki is coordinating talks between NGOs and Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the process of drafting the report. We would like to hear about that point. Mr. Kawasaki, please.

Akira Kawasaki, Co-Representative, Executive Committee, Peace Boat

Thank you very much. As introduced, my name is Akira Kawasaki. Before going into the main theme of ICNND, the joint initiative of Australia and Japan, I would like to talk about my experiences as the Co-Representative of the NGO Peace Boat, in the hope that my talk will be something of interest to the citizens and representatives from Mayors for Peace member cities.

Peace Boat is a project that navigates around the world to nurture mutual trust and understanding. In the four months from September 2008 to January 2009, we traveled around the world with 103 *hibakusha*. Those *hibakusha* shared their experiences in 23 countries, which was quite unprecedented. We were very impressed with the enthusiastic responses we received. At each port, a huge number of citizens and media keenly listened to the storytelling of the *hibakusha*. For many of those *hibakusha*, that was the first overseas trips in which they shared their stories with people around the world, and some of those who went there are here today.

I have carried out activities toward the abolition of nuclear weapons for many years, but I strongly feel that listening to *hibakusha* testimonies is very, very important for the

world today. It is not a mere storytelling of what happened in the past. Today, at every corner of the world in their own circumstances, people are feeling that the world is drastically changing. For example, the inauguration of President Obama in the US, economic crisis and poverty, and countries thinking that they should not spend so much money on the military. In this changing world, it is very important to listen to the voices of *hibakusha* and it is taken as a real problem today.

During our cruise, 27 cities in 4 countries announced that they would join Mayors for Peace and support the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol. We are happy that, through our activities, the number of member cities of Mayors for Peace and cities with interest in it has been increasing. For these newly joined member cities of Mayors for Peace, there is a huge potential as more opportunities are provided to learn deeper the reality of the A-bombings and current status of nuclear weapons as many groups will approach them in various forms of international exchanges including NGOs like us visiting them by ship. Through these exchanges, new members of Mayors for Peace should be given direction on how we are to seek nuclear abolition.

This is the example of the Peace Boat, and I believe that Mayors for Peace needs to expand exchanges with NGOs. In addition to these grass-root activities, we, citizens, should put pressure our governments to adopt a firm policy toward the elimination of nuclear weapons. An example of this would be the bilateral collaboration between Japan and Australia, International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND), which was established in 2008. Prior to the 2010 NPT Review Conference, this ICNND is preparing to announce a new appeal toward a nuclear free world. This is a very good initiative, but if people keep silent, the issue will be discussed only among a limited number of people, who are government officials and experts supporting government policies. Then, they would end up missing a valuable chance, not even taking a step forward to solve the issue and conclude with a report just confirming the current situations. We have many many experiences like that. It might happen at this ICNND.

So, this ICNND is headed by former foreign ministers of Australia and Japan, namely Mr. Gareth Evans and Ms. Yoriko Kawaguchi. Under the two co-chairs, 15 commissioners gathered.

According to their estimate, nuclear weapons abolition will take place in three stages:

at the first stage, during the Obama Administration, the US and Russia will agree to reduce their nuclear stockpiles to some extent. At the second stage by around 2025, we will almost reach the goal of nuclear abolition, with a goal set to reduce nuclear weapons to several hundreds or a thousand, or so.

On the other hand, Mayors for Peace is currently promoting the 2020 Vision Campaign and the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki announced in their Peace Declaration that the nuclear weapons should be abolished by the year 2020. In this sense, the plan of the ICNND is rather slow and irritatingly too careful.

So we established a network of NGOs in Japan that would approach commissioners and experts of the ICNND to expedite the process and aim for the true conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention. I will hand out the materials about that NGO network later.

Among the 15 commissioners of ICNND, there are commissioners from such countries as India, Pakistan, Germany, Indonesia, Mexico and so on, in addition to the original five nuclear weapon states. Honorable mayors participating here, I think you, Mayors for Peace, should meet with these commissioners of ICNND from your countries, if there is one, so that you, as a mayor who represents the citizens, could pressure the commissioners on what kind of report they are compiling.

In view of expectations from citizens and NGOs, not only the ICNND meetings, but also the UN General Assembly this fall and the NPT Review Conference next May can provide good opportunities to capitalize on in terms of the elimination of nuclear weapons. Please don't take these events to be held somewhere far away from us. As these conferences are scheduled, why don't we start campaigning in each country so that citizens and the mayors can meet ambassadors, government officials etc. to pressure each government to take a concrete step forward. That kind of collaboration between national level diplomacy and grass-roots diplomacy will be needed. Without such initiatives, we cannot make the NPT Review Conference next year as truly a good opportunity.

We have something to do in Japan. While appealing to abolish nuclear weapons, Japan is actually quite dependent on nuclear deterrence. The Japanese government opposes the idea of mitigating nuclear deterrence. This is very important and a serious problem

for the international community, and the commissioners of the ICNND and other experts are very concerned about this. So, Mayors for Peace can provide a good forum for the mayors and citizens of Japan to discuss the issue of nuclear deterrence and tell the Japanese government the international impact of the issue and ask them to change their attitude.

In conclusion, both the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki pointed out in their Peace Declarations that we should spread the message of acquiring peace without the use of wars and violence, based on the Japanese “peace” constitution. This is a very important message. This is the opposite of nuclear deterrence. To maintain peace and security in the world, weapons and violence should not be used. I think general citizens, mayors and others are the ones who can advocate that. We can create peace without using weapons or violence. Let’s convey these voices to the nations and international communities. Thank you very much.

Tsuchiyama

Thank you very much Mr. Kawasaki. As he mentioned, the current Japanese government clings to the policy of strengthening nuclear deterrence. They seem to still dwell on the idea of a Cold War mindset that is violence versus violence. In opposition, we can present an alternative idea of diplomacy in a more peaceful way, which is the Northeast Asian Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone. As Ms. Keiko Nakamura is making efforts for this peace diplomacy day and night, I would like to ask her to present her report on these activities. Ms. Nakamura, please.

Keiko Nakamura, Secretary General, Peace Depot

Good morning everyone, my name is Keiko Nakamura and I work at the Peace Depot. As Mr. Tsuchiyama and Mr. Kawasaki mentioned, the Japanese agenda should be elaborated further. I would like to explain the details of the challenges in Japan. There are many issues, but at least what I can say is that currently, international momentum has been aroused for a nuclear-free world, and indeed there is an unprecedented momentum in that direction.

Under such circumstances, the issue of the nuclear umbrella or nuclear deterrence extended to Japan and allied countries became a focal point with an unprecedentedly intensive manner. Several days ago, Prime Minister Aso mentioned in Hiroshima that it is necessary to have a nuclear umbrella in Japan. His words generated strong

criticism. There is a great debate on that issue.

The attitude of the Japanese government is fundamentally contradictory. Even though we are saying we are the victims of nuclear weapons, we also say we support having a nuclear umbrella. The Japanese government is not actively promoting a nuclear weapons convention, and is not even willing to act for reducing the role of nuclear weapons. For example, the Japanese government even opposed asking the United States to declare no first use of nuclear weapons. The Japanese government is still heavily dependant on the nuclear umbrella. Under such circumstances, researchers and NGOs in the United States have been raising their voices one after another, saying the Japanese government's attitude is a problem.

So the Japanese government has adhered to a nuclear umbrella for a long time and even in extreme cases called for nuclear armament. They only find security assurance in nuclear umbrellas or nuclear armaments. In other words, they are dependent on nuclear deterrence for national security and do not even think about another option.

However, there is a third way to independence from nuclear weapons, while still assuring safety. This has been suggested by peace activists including Peace Depot for more than a decade. NGOs, citizens, civil societies are calling for such a path to secure safety without nuclear deterrence.

Mayor Taue was also referring to the establishment of a Northeast Asian Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone, in his Peace Declaration announced yesterday at the ceremony. There are five nuclear-weapon-free zones in the world, in which several countries concluded a treaty to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones where production, possession and deployment of nuclear weapons are prohibited. At the same time, so-called "modest security assurance," or assurances of nuclear weapon states not to attack non-nuclear countries within the nuclear-weapon-free zones is important point. Instead of the threat by nuclear umbrella, nuclear-free zones can be described as "Non-nuclear umbrella" based on international laws. Many countries in the world are trying to secure safety without nuclear weapons in this way.

A nuclear-weapon-free zone is not a final goal and it is not a panacea, however, it is a realistic first step we can take. To establish a nuclear-free zone is a first step to go beyond and overcome the culture of threat backed by military power, a principle of the

Cold War.

For the Northeast Asian region, the Peace Depot has long advocated the “three plus three initiative,” meaning Japan, Korea, and North Korea have to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone together, and the US, China and Russia are to offer assurances of their safety. That is the “three plus three initiative” the Peace Depot is proposing, which has been supported by various people as a realistic plan.

What is needed in Northeast Asia can be described as “My safety is your safety.” This kind of common security assurance should be established. But currently we are playing a zero-sum game—if one country became safe, that would impact the neighbors. Because of these reasons, the six-party talks have difficulty in proceeding smoothly. What we learned so far from history is, with distrust, unfairness, inequality, and threat by power, you cannot get the assurance of safety for a long time.

This idea of Northeast Asian Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone is gaining support from various sectors. The mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are supporting this. I assume many municipalities participating here are also members of the National Council of Japan Nuclear Free Local Authorities, of which the Mayor of Nagasaki serves as the President. This National Council has 245 city members in Japan as of March 2009. This Council adopted a resolution to call on the Japanese government for the establishment of a Northeast Asian Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone.

In March 2009, they published this booklet for citizens and municipalities in Japan illustrated in easy-to-follow format about a Northeast Asian Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone. You can find this booklet on the website of the National Council of Japan Nuclear Free Local Authorities. I wanted to share this information with you that you can utilize it as a tool in promoting the Northeast Asian Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone in your communities.

Nuclear free is in our mind, but we may tend to think that this is an issue of the nuclear weapon states. However, it is not a problem only for the nuclear weapon states, but also for Japan, as the A-bombed country, which has a moral responsibility to step forward. A nuclear-weapon-free zone could be the first concrete step.

As my time is limited, I would like to present a specific proposal to you. First,

representatives of municipalities and citizens of Japan who are here today, please work on the Japanese government to establish a Northeast Asian Nuclear-Free Zone. Maybe you can work on by various means including adopting a resolution at your municipal council, sending opinion statements, declarations from your region or collect signatures. In this way, we can make an impact on the national government. We have to raise our voices.

80% of Japanese cities have declared themselves to be nuclear free. A Northeast Asian Nuclear-Free Zone can be a common topic and a way to show solidarity among these cities. The National Council and NGOs like us would like to support that initiative.

For the mayors of other countries, please also support the Northeast Asian Nuclear-Free Zone, and raise your voices. This initiative is not exclusive to Northeast Asia or Japan. The five nuclear-free zones around the world consist of 118 countries. As Mayor Akiba said, nuclear-weapon-free zones are actually the majority, and that is the Obamajority. Together, we can create a wave to make a nuclear-free world. I would like you to join us. I went over time by one minute, but I would like your support for this. NGOs are also supporting this initiative. Thank you very much for your attention.

Tsuchiyama

Thank you very much Ms. Nakamura for your presentation. Now I would like to call upon His Excellency Mr. Franz-Michael Skjold Mellbin, the Ambassador to Japan from Denmark. Before he became the Ambassador to Japan, he worked in Kabul, Afghanistan, so he has been very interested in peace issues. Recently, he climbed Mt. Fuji wishing for peace. Ambassador Mellbin, please.

“Have a Nice Doomsday!”

Franz-Michael Skjold Mellbin, Ambassador of Denmark to Japan

Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, it is an honor and privilege to be able to speak to you today.

On August 6, at 8:15 exactly, I held one minute silence together with a group of Japanese and international supporters at the summit of Mt. Fuji to commemorate the victims of Hiroshima. It was the culmination of a symbolic march to protest nuclear proliferation and to call for action. I thank each and every one who marched with me,

just as I thank all those who wrote to encourage and support the protest.

The slogan for our march was “Have a nice Doomsday!” A symbolic and ironic reference to the day, where we supposedly are going to be asked what we did – or did not do – during our lives. I fear the answer when it comes to nuclear proliferation is that we waited too long and we did too little.

The shadow of Pyongyang’s rocket over Japan was a rude awakening to all of us. Preparing, testing and threatening to use nuclear weapons increasingly challenges world peace. Sixty years after Hiroshima and Nagasaki, this is suddenly no longer about our past, but very much about our future.

Going nuclear seems to be a dream-come-true for every undemocratic regime. Their goal is to keep themselves in power by taking the rest of the world as their hostages. By playing the card of destruction, their leaders feign legitimacy where there is only corruption.

Thus, the very people of countries such as North Korea and Iran are the first victims of nuclear ambition as they suffer immense humanitarian hardships from starvation to despotism.

It sounds comical when North Korea says, and I quote, “will not miss the chance to mercilessly wipe out the United States.” But a government that lets its people starve is unlikely to joke about mass murder. And the fact that North Korea relentlessly has pursued its nuclear weapons program underlines that it means business.

I personally have visited North Korea several times. If a poor – even desolate – country such as North Korea can develop a nuclear bomb, it is only a question of time before every nation can.

And in fact, the knowledge, ability and opportunity to build nuclear weapons will increase dramatically, as lots of new countries will build nuclear power plants in the coming years. As a fact, I can mention that it will only take a highly developed industrialized country today 30 days to build a successful nuclear device. 30 days. A country like Denmark who has not prepared anything, 30 days.

We now desperately need to find new answers on how to stop nuclear proliferation. Time is short, and it is not on our side.

Governments will have to play a leading role in making sure that the international system is remodeled and made efficient. And fortunately, there are promising signs that the world community recognizes that the NPT is a dinosaur that must evolve in order to survive. Also the United States has recently taken several positive steps that amongst others may pave the way for a comprehensive test ban treaty.

But after pointing a finger at government, we also need to look toward ourselves as citizens. Here, it is essential that people all over the world say “no” to nuclear weapons. Because only self-restraint can ensure that nuclear proliferation does not continue. Thus, no government should feel comfortable or confident about pursuing a nuclear weapons program, because it will not increase the safety of anyone, but instead put all of us at risk.

A first step is to focus on the current root cause of nuclear ambition: the desire of undemocratic regimes to cling to power regardless of any cost of its citizens. Democracy, freedom and self-determination could easily prove our best protection against nuclear proliferation.

Here, non-state actors such as municipalities, NGOs, and civilians can and should play an important role by upholding, supporting and spreading democracy and freedom. Freedom and democracy are not just ideals, but are reflected in the reality of our actions every day. For some of us it is easy, for others more difficult or even a struggle. But it is always important. And it is one area where civil actors often can and do achieve more than governments.

When it comes to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, I also believe local municipalities, NGOs and civilians can play an important role by critically examining and questioning governments, industry and power companies about how nuclear fuel is used and handled.

Finally, let me suggest that the nuclear industry, from the mining industry, over the contractors to the operators, all have a responsibility and a strong self-interest in engaging themselves actively in the question of how best to avoid building up new

bomb materials. Again, municipalities, NGOs and civilians can play an important role by critically challenging industry policies.

I know that many of you here today feel very strongly about total nuclear disarmament, and rightly so. However, it is important to not lose sight of the fact that nuclear disarmament cannot happen before we have an efficient way to stop nuclear proliferation. It will have to be the first step on the way.

After the march to the summit of Mt. Fuji, I continued directly to Hiroshima the same day, to meet with the *Hidankyo* (nuclear attack survivors) group there, and to participate with them in the Lantern Ceremony. It was a strong reminder to me of why we should never lose sight of the need to make sure that nuclear weapons are never used again.

So finally, let me quote a South African civil rights activist Steve Biko, who inspired me to call for the protest march to the summit of Mt. Fuji:

“Ask nothing, blame no one, do something.”

Have a nice Doomsday!

Tsuchiyama

Thank you very much, Ambassador Mellbin. Next, I would like to invite Mr. Soran Ali Hasan, Mayor of Khanaqin, Iraq. There are several participants from Iraq accompanying him who are at the floor. So during his speech, he would like to introduce the participants from Iraq. Now, Mayor Hasan, please.

Soran Ali Hasan, Mayor of Khanaqin, Iraq

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. In the beginning of my speech, I would like to thank the honorable Mr. Akiba, Mayor of Hiroshima, and the Honorable Mr. Taue, Mayor of Nagasaki, Vice President, Mr. Chairman, all executive members of Mayors for Peace, and all attendants to let me have this speech. It is a great honor for me to attend and have a speech in this conference, the 7th General Conference of Mayors for Peace. Maybe my speech has no direct relation with the subject of this section of meeting, but I would like you to know something about the city I came from.

Khanaqin City has 168,000 population, located in the middle east of Iraq, has more than

8 big fields of petrol, which was discovered by the United Kingdom in 1921, where dug 34 wells in one field named Nfutkhana. These wells have been neglected by Iraqi government, because it is in Kurdish area.

For your notice, we have in Khanaqin more than 450 engineers, 200 doctors, 10,000 teachers, more than 50,000 persons who get bachelor's degree in different fields, more than 1,000 people with master and doctor degrees. Also we have good soil for agriculture and industry.

Also I would like you to know something about other cities like Qaladiza, Dokan and Garmiyan State, which you may have no idea about them. I feel proud when I speak on behalf of those cities, which I mentioned above. Two of their mayors are here right now, Mr. Dalawer Qabad, Mayor of Qaladiza and Mr. Fraidoon Hama Ameen, Mayor of Dokan. We came to know about Mayors for Peace from Mr. Khder Kareem, Mayor of Halabja. Thankfully, he helped us to be a member in such great organization.

We are Kurdish people, citizens of Kurdistan region of Iraq. We have our own language, culture, and history. We have been known through history as folks who like peace and assist all democratic and freedom movement. Many times throughout the history, we have faced genocide and attacked by weapons of mass destruction by the series of Iraqi governments who ruled Iraq since 1921, especially by Baath regime and Saddam's regime from 1968 till 2003. And the effects are left on us till now. They used all kinds of terror and weapons against us like genocide, replacement, burial ground, and chemical weapons, as follows.

1. Qaladiza City

In 1893, the town was burned by soldiers of the Ottoman Empire. In 1922, the town was bombarded and damaged by the English fighter planes. In 1961 the town was bombarded by the Iraqi armies.

In 1974, the town was again bombarded by illegal weapons "napalm" by the Iraqi regime and more than 350 civilians were killed and injured.

In 1978, all the villages of Qaladiza City were destroyed and all the villagers were displaced and deported by Iraqi regime.

In 1988, Qaladiza town was completely damaged and all the buildings were exploded by TNT and all the population were deported for servitude. Even now some civilians suffer the effect of this great tragedy.

2. Khanaqin City

In 1955, Khanaqin was the biggest city in Iraq and it was planned to be a state but they neglected that because it was a Kurdish city. Therefore they cut a large area from Khanaqin for this purpose.

In 1974, big part of Khanaqin and more than 30 villages were exploded and destroyed their furniture by Iraqi regime and all people, more than 4,000 families, were displaced and deported into camps in south and middle-west of Iraq without any goods or furniture.

In 1991, the city was attacked by Iraqi army and more than 200 Khanaqin young people were killed by shot and buried in dark place.

In 1992, 500 families were displaced and deported into camps in south and middle-west of Iraq.

In 1998, 700 families were displaced and deported into camps in south and middle-west of Iraq.

Through the displacements, the Iraqi government brought Arab people to Khanaqin in order to change the demography of the city. And it is a big inequity against Khanaqin, Kurdistan and its citizens.

3. Dokan City

In 1988, the whole city was damaged by Iraqi army and part of the landmark damages is still there. 100 families were displaced and deported to camps near Sulaimaniya State. In the same year, all Dokan's villages were destroyed and exploded by TNT and bombs. Most of families were escaped and the others were captured by Iraqi army. They were killed and buried in the desert in south of Iraq, in Anfal Operations.

In 2008, in a desert near Najaf City they found remains of 258 people of Dokan who were captured in 1988 by Iraqi army. The government of Kurdistan region brought

back those remains and buried them in Dokan graveyard, made a new graveyard to them and named Doli Jafayaties Anfal Graveyard with monument for them.

4. Garmiyan State

This state was terribly attacked by Iraqi Army in 1988 where more than 182,000 people were captured and displaced into the desert in south of Iraq, where they have been killed and buried. Until now, we do not know where they were buried exactly. Nobody talks about this genocide. Do you estimate this huge number? 182,000 old men, women and children are killed. 8,000 villages were damaged also. Also in Doli Balisan, Shekh, Askar, Goptapa were attacked by chemical weapons.

Lastly, you know about Halabja and what happened there. Till when we will be considered second degree people? Don't we have rights to live in peace on this planet? Aren't we human beings? I will let you answer these questions.

Dears, we came here to declare to you that all citizens in Kurdistan, especially Khanaqin citizens assist you in your campaign, because we are the nation who faced genocide and bombarded by illegal weapons of mass destruction, so we recognize the importance of this association and feel tired of destruction.

After 2003, after the Operation of Iraqi Freedom, Mr. Jalal Talabani, President of Republic of Iraq and Mr. Masoud Barzani, President of Kurdistan region have agreed on rules to make peace in Iraq and approaching all religions, nations and political forces together. All Iraqi citizens and politicians call Mr. Jalal Talabani, a peace maker. That is referring to that Kurdish people love peace and want to live together with other nations in peace.

Dear NGOs, thank you for your being here and thank you for listening to me. I hope that I didn't bother you. There are several NGOs working in Kurdistan, like Child Care, Mercy Corps, Red Cross and US AID. They are working and offering good assistance to Iraqi people but we need more NGOs to work in Iraq, especially in Kurdistan. And I assure you that Kurdistan is safer place in Iraq. We need your assistance to rebuild Kurdistan society and underground services.

Here now I would like to demand several things from you and all participants, ambassadors and mayors to help Kurdistan and Iraq:

1. Demand your government to send companies to have investment in Kurdistan.
2. Demand your government to erase their loans on Iraq to help it rebuild and grow.
3. Help Iraq to break the blockage put by FIFA and International Olympic Union against Iraqi sports since 1990 and allow Iraqi national teams to play their games in Kurdistan of Iraq.

Lastly, I would like to thank Ms. Nazanin Muhammad Waso, Minister for Municipalities of Kurdistan, Mr. Khasro Qamar Ahmad Jingrader, Municipality of Sulaimaniya, Kurdistan, for helping us to get to this conference. Thank you very much for listening. Thank you.

Tsuchiyama

Thank you very much, Mr. Hassan. Well, I discussed the time schedule with Mr. Umebayashi. We would like to change the way we precede the program. We would like to take 10 minutes break from now. Afterward, we would like to invite 10 speakers. After their presentations, we would like to receive your questions to the seven panelists. Let us break for coffee.

[Break]

Moderator: Hiromichi Umebayashi, Special Advisor, Peace Depot

Now we would like to start the second half. My name is Hiromichi Umabayashi, and I will be a moderator for the second half of this session. I am a special advisor to Peace Depot Japan. I would like to say something about Peace Depot. In seeking a nuclear free world, bipartisan efforts are required, in which many people are engaged in activities. We also need to be united, based on accurate information shared by all. Especially in Japan, we need to provide information in Japanese that can be shared by all in Japan. Peace Depot issues such information twice a month, with “Nuclear Weapon and Nuclear Test Monitor.” For example, when four American senior officials wrote an article on “A World Free of Nuclear Weapons” in the Wall Street Journal, we translated the full article into Japanese and distributed it to Japanese people as soon as possible.

In the second half of this session, we would like to hear presentations registered in advance. There are already 11 of them, so I would like to limit the time to 5 minutes for each, and ask them to do the presentation while seated. We will pass around the

wireless microphone.

The presenters are:

Mr. Michel Cibot, General Manager, City of Malakoff; Association Française des Communes, Départements et Régions pour la Paix (AFCDRP), France;
Mr. Yukio Isobe, Director, from the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo);
Ms. Yoshiha Arichi, Coordinator, Nuclear Abolition Network Kyoto;
Mr. Tomihisa Taue, Mayor of Nagasaki; President of National Council of Japan Nuclear Free Local Authorities;
Mr. Masayoshi Naito, Coordinator, Citizens' Network for Nuclear Weapons Abolition;
Mr. Toshihiro Inoue, Deputy Director, Japan Congress against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikin);
Mr. Yasunari Fujimoto, Deputy Secretary General, Japan Congress against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikin);
Mr. Philip Jennings, General Secretary, UNI Global Union, Switzerland;
Mr. Rafael de la Rubia, President of World without Wars and without Violence;
Mr. Hiroyuki Nakata, Vice Mayor of Sapporo, Japan, and
Ms. Tomoko Watanabe, Executive Director of ANT-Hiroshima.

After that, we would like to have a question and answer session. We would like to ask the speakers and those who have questions to try to make your speech or question related to what have been discussed during the first half of the session. First, I would like to invite Mr. Michel Cibot.

Michel Cibot, General Manager, City of Malakoff; Association Française des Communes, Départements et Régions pour la Paix (AFCDRP), France

Thank you very much for giving me a chance to speak. I would like to be very brief. It is about how cities and NGOs are working in France. It is very hard to get people together as Mr. Pol D'Huyvetter said, but it is very important to get as many people as possible. France is a nuclear weapon state and many political parties support possessing nuclear weapons. It is a special situation in France, and we have to take that into account.

In 1985, several cities from France first participated in Mayors for Peace. As it was better to have as many cities as possible participating, we were carrying out a campaign

to increase the number of member cities. In this complicated world, we need to be close to citizens. As mayors are responsible in providing services to citizens, they are very close to ordinary citizens. We can utilize such positions, and closely cooperate with local citizens. In this way, mayors can make special contributions.

Each city has local NGOs with their own rules and goals, and mayors can play a complimentary role connecting with NGOs. Our AFCD RP is setting the rules to facilitate collaboration between cities and NGOs.

There is also the financial concern. Sometimes the national government provides subsidies to municipalities, which may weaken the power of municipalities, so we should be careful about that.

Now that we are facing nuclear threat, I hope you will read the books written by a philosopher Gunther Anders. He says: human beings are good at destroying everything, and we have to wonder what the human wisdom is now.

Umebayashi

Thank you very much. We would like to ask each presenter to introduce their organization first. Next, Mr. Isobe from the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo).

Yukio Isobe, Director, Solidarity Activities Division, Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo)

I am from the Headquarters of Rengo, the Japanese Trade Union Confederation. I am in charge of peace-related activities. Rengo is the largest labor union center in Japan with 6.75 million members. Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to express opinion today.

In order to make the 2010 NPT Review Conference successful, Rengo is promoting joint activities with two other major peace NGOs, the Japan Congress Against A- and H- Bombs (Gensuikin), and the National Council for Peace and Against Nuclear Weapons (Kakkin), to arouse public awareness in Japan and the world. The three peace groups organized a joint peace assembly in Hiroshima on August 4 and 7,000 people attended, and 4,000 people attended another peace assembly in Nagasaki on August 7. Together, we have just appealed for strengthening activities for abolition of nuclear weapons and support for the A-bomb survivors, and realization for lasting world

peace.

We also collaborate with Mayors for Peace. Rengo representatives had a discussion with President, Mayor Akiba, and Vice President, Mayor Taue, and expressed our support for the 2020 Vision Campaign, aiming to abolish nuclear weapons by the year 2020. We are also undertaking a nationwide petition drive seeking nuclear abolition, targeting to collect 10 million signatures. We incorporated the idea of 2020 Vision Campaign into the petition form.

We also cooperate with other campaign activities including fund-raising efforts to support the 2020 Vision Campaign, and Orizuru Night Game (paper crane baseball game) at Hiroshima Mazda Stadium to promote the abolition of nuclear weapons.

In order to attract more people's participation, and to promote a Northeast Asian Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone, as a representative from Peace Depot mentioned earlier, the three peace groups are requesting to adopt statements and resolutions at municipal councils, to call for the Japanese government actively work in diplomacy for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. This initiative started last June and we are making efforts to ask municipal councils to promote their efforts for peace during the regular municipal council session in this coming autumn. In addition, we are encouraging municipalities to join Mayors for Peace.

As for international activities, we do belong to the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), and through the ITUC, we are trying to collaborate with other cities and trade unions in the world. Through the Internet, we are collecting signatures from the world to be combined with the 10 million signature campaign in Japan to submit it to the UN at the NPT Review Conference in May 2010. "No more Hiroshima, no more Nagasaki, no more *hibakusha*" is a heartfelt cry of Japanese citizens who are wishing for a peaceful world without nuclear weapons. As the representative of labor unions, we are committed to make solidarity with you and other peace-related organizations to continue our efforts for abolition of nuclear weapons and establishing lasting world peace. Thank you very much.

Umebayashi

Thank you for your talk. Next is Ms. Yoshiha Arichi, representing Nuclear Abolition Network Kyoto.

Yoshiha Arichi, Coordinator, Nuclear Abolition Network Kyoto

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak. This morning, I will make a presentation on the network in Kyoto for abolition of nuclear weapons. I am a coordinator for this network.

This network is a loose association of organizations based in Kyoto that are regularly conducting international activities toward elimination of nuclear weapons, aiming to meet monthly to exchange information among these organizations. The following organizations are participating in this network:

Kyoto Branches of the IPPNW, the Japan Scientists' Association and the Japan Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikyo); Kyoto businessmen's group against nuclear weapons (Hankaku Kyoto Sangyojin no Kai), peace council of religious people in Kyoto (Kyoto Shukyosha Heiwa Kyogikai), and Kyoto A-bomb survivor's forum (Kyoto Gensuibaku Hisaisha Kondankai).

Let me introduce our activities. We invited Mr. Steve Leeper, Chairman of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, to our meeting in August last year and he talked about the 2020 Vision Campaign. We also had a small meeting with Mr. Pol D'Huyvetter from the International Secretariat of 2020 Vision Campaign, who visited us at the end of last summer, and discussed how we can pass the letter from Mayor Akiba to our mayors. In last December, we invited Mr. Masato Honda, Executive Director of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation as a lecturer and organized a study meeting on the 2020 Vision Campaign, informing broadly to various organizations in Kyoto that are involved in the movement for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

So we had many meetings with Mayors for Peace, and on June 18, we established an organizing committee to realize a lecture meeting with Mayor Akiba. We asked Dr. Ryuro Takagi, IPPNW Kyoto, to chair the organizing committee, and the Kyoto Medical Practitioners Association provided an office for us.

This organizing committee has two goals. One is to foster a campaign in Kyoto for the NPT Review Conference in May 2010. The other is that, when Mayor Akiba visits Kyoto for the lecture, we would like to invite all mayors in Kyoto Prefecture to come to the lecture meeting and join Mayors for Peace, and offer them an opportunity to exchange ideas on their peace policies or efforts for abolition of nuclear weapons.

In Kyoto Prefecture, there are various peace groups, and each of them supports different political parties. It was very difficult to coordinate those groups as some groups actually support opposite candidates against incumbent mayor of the city when it comes to the mayoral election. However, regardless of such differences, it was very significant that a variety of NGOs participated in the committee meeting to realize the lecture of Mayor Akiba. At the lecture meeting, we, citizens and NGOs would like to encourage and applaud the mayors of cities of Kyoto, Uji, Nagaokakyo, Muko, Oyamazaki, and Kyo-Tango, who recently joined Mayors for Peace and started activities for peace and abolition of nuclear weapons.

We have received confirmation from Mayor Akiba that he would come to Kyoto in the evening of November 25 for the lecture. So we booked the Silk Hall in Kawaramachi, most lively downtown in Kyoto for the venue.

In preparation for the lecture on November 25, we will visit municipalities to increase the number of member cities of Mayors for Peace. When we visit each city hall, we would like to raise this question, “Mayors are to protect welfare and health of the citizens. Don’t you think it is also the mayors’ job to protect your citizens from nuclear attacks?”

Actually Kyoto was one of the targets of the A-bombing, along with Hiroshima and Nagasaki. But thanks to the consideration for the cultural assets and tradition we had, Kyoto was luckily delisted from the targets and no A-bomb was dropped. Because of this, it is important for Kyoto people to participate in the activities against nuclear weapons. As mayors are closer to citizens, it will be very significant if mayors will work against nuclear weapons as well as NGOs. Now, it is important for citizens and NGOs to encourage and support our own mayors who are acting for the abolition of nuclear weapons, regardless of your political stance. Thank you for your kind attention.

Umebayashi

Thank you very much. Mayor Taue, can I ask for your comment?

Tomihisa Taue, Mayor of Nagasaki;

President of the National Council of Japan Nuclear Free Local Authorities

I am Tomihisa Taue, Mayor of Nagasaki. I also serve as a Vice President of Mayors for Peace, but now, as Ms. Keiko Nakamura introduced earlier, let me speak as the President of the National Council of Japan Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NCJNFLA).

About 1,500 municipalities, which are about 81% of all 1,800 plus municipalities in Japan, have declared to be nuclear-free local authorities. Among them, about 250 municipalities are members of the NCJNFLA. There are various activities going on, but I think there are three vectors. One vector directs toward citizens, trying to disseminate information to the citizens, the second vector directs toward national governments and the world including nuclear weapon states, trying to act on them, and the third vector directs toward colleagues, trying to expand further in collaboration with like-minded cities and municipalities as well as NGOs.

Among the three vectors, NCJNFLA is now focusing on the first vector directing toward citizens. It is truly necessary to reach out to cooperate with citizens. One example of our activities is tree planting. We send out A-bombed trees such as Chinese parasol tree (Aogiri) or camphor tree upon request to be planted in their communities.

Another example is a program called “parents-children reporters” to invite family with children to come to Nagasaki around August 9 and let them see and experience the situation here. They also meet and interview various people and write a newspaper. This year is the second time, and we invited nine families from all over Japan. And the day before yesterday, a group of them participated in the press conference of President d’Escoto of the UN General Assembly, and they directly asked some questions to President d’Escoto. He seemed to be surprised, but responded politely and took a commemorative photo with them. The “parents-children reporters” would make their own newspapers and bring it back to their home. Last year, I heard that once they went back, they talked about their experiences through local radio program or at their school, etc. Through these activities, we are trying to disseminate information on nuclear-free campaign to each town in Japan.

Starting from this year, we created a unit of the A-bomb photo poster exhibition, which can be easily lent out to those who wishing to organize such exhibition, for example, at their community hall. Now we are preparing for another type of unit good for lending our sister cities overseas. In this way, we can increase the knowledge about the

A-bombing among people in Japan and in our sister cities in the world.

The stagnation in nuclear abolition would be based on the insufficient knowledge and information about what nuclear weapons would bring about and the terrible damage nuclear weapons could inflict on people. To cope with this situation, the NCJNFLA would like to increase citizens' awareness through these activities.

In regards to the vector of expanding our colleagues, we are calling for other cities to join us. At the same time, we are collaborating with Mr. Umebayashi and Ms. Nakamura of Peace Depot, to complement our capacity in the field of research and collecting information. I think this kind of collaboration between cities and NGOs is very important, as it can bring synergy effects. Working together, we can fully utilize each other's strengths and get much better outcome than working alone. We should be always happy to work together if that would make our activities more effective.

In terms of the other vector directing toward national governments, we have been sending letters of protest to the country that conducted nuclear tests, and sending our members to attend every NPT Review Conference. The NCJNFLA should strengthen such types of activities. Also we need to further organize the way to cooperate with Mayors for Peace.

The history of nuclear weapons started from the development of A-bomb by the US. The US finished the A-bomb development ahead of Germany, in fear of they might use it first. After that, more nations came to possess nuclear weapons and the numbers in nuclear arsenals have also increased. That has brought a sort of negative spiral effect, increasing threats derived from distrust of each other. On the other hand, our collaboration among local authorities, citizens and NGOs could generate a positive spiral effect, increasing trust of each other.

We know that there are many NGOs, medical doctors' associations and citizens groups engaged in various activities. We would like to work with you, whenever we can collaborate. By strengthening the collaboration with you, we can further promote our activities. As Mr. Tasaki, Secretary-General of the Organizing Committee of the Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly quoted from Dr. Tatsuichiro Akizuki's word, we need to overcome small differences and get together. Based on that idea, we can always focus on our common goal, not on small differences. I believe Dr. Akizuki's

words show the direction where we, various sectors in Nagasaki, should move forward. Thank you very much.

Umebayashi

Thank you very much. Now I would like to call Mr. Masayoshi Naito, representing the Citizens' Network for Nuclear Weapons Abolition.

Masayoshi Naito, Coordinator, Citizens' Network for Nuclear Weapons Abolition

Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak. My name is Masayoshi Naito. My profession is a lawyer. I am responsible for the liaison activities as the Coordinator for the Citizen's Network for Nuclear Weapons Abolition. This is a rather loose network embracing many different groups in Tokyo, including Peace Depot, Peace Boat, the Japan Congress Against A- and H-Bombs (Gensuikin), the Japan Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikyo), the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo) and Japan Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (JALANA) in which I belong. These groups worked on the Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and the Tokyo Forum for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, along with like-minded groups in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Today, I would like to talk about two points: the first point is that President Obama delivered a great speech in Prague, but we feel that Japan could be the biggest obstacle against him to change the US nuclear policy. The other point is, to overcome this situation, Japan can play an important role in talking to the world about human tragedies caused by nuclear weapons.

Let me elaborate the first point. President Obama's speech was a turning point for human history, and we must make it so. However, it is said that Japan is the biggest obstacle against the progress in changing the US nuclear policy. Now, until December, the Nuclear Posture Review, or fundamental policy making on nuclear weapons in the US, is ongoing. In this process, there is an argument that the role of nuclear weapons should be reduced, and more specifically, they should not be used unless first attacked by nuclear weapons. In other word, the US would be the first country to implement a so-called "no-first-use" policy.

However, Japanese government is against the US implementation of such policy. Even

if nuclear weapons are not used, there is a possibility that North Korea, China, or others might use chemical, biological, or conventional weapons against Japan. In that situation, the Japanese government argues for the need of nuclear umbrella, without the option of nuclear counter attacks, Japan's security cannot be guaranteed. Thus Japanese government is against the US "no-first-use" policy.

However, we still believe that nuclear weapons should not be used against conventional weapon attacks. If we admit using nuclear weapons against non-nuclear attacks, we cannot say to others not to possess nuclear weapons. I understand your stance for nuclear issue would differ, but at least, as the A-bombed country, Japan should not stop the "no-first-use" policy.

No use of nuclear weapons unless first attacked by nuclear weapons is the modest security assurance and starting point of the nuclear-weapon-free zones. For example, if China should declare "no-first-use" and US would declare the same, they could conclude an agreement for "no-first-use" with each other. Then, theoretically there will be no nuclear attack between China and the US. I think it is absolutely irrational that Japan opposes that idea of the "no-first-use" policy.

However, "no-first-use" is just a starting point. Nuclear-weapon-free zones are also a start for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Important thing is to let people know what will happen to human beings if attacked by nuclear weapons.

Here comes the second point. As a lawyer, I have had many occasions for consultations with *hibakusha* over the past 30 years. They are still suffering from various things. Some would vomit whenever they talk about or remember the A-bomb experience, others are still fearful of lights, even when turning on ordinary electric lights at home. Others cannot go out of the room except for to the restroom and always close the door of the room. Many of them felt fearful of giving birth to children, and gave up their marriage or married with serious anxieties. There are many other symptoms and many *hibakusha* are still suffering.

As a lawyer, I serve as a procedural attorney advocating the *hibakusha* in the collective lawsuits against the Japanese government seeking to officially recognize them as sufferers of A-bomb diseases, which continued on for many years. Recently, we have come to a certain agreement. The plaintiff of the Collective Lawsuit for the

Recognition of Atomic-bomb Diseases are said to be 306 A-bomb survivors, but please note that still there are so many *hibakusha* who have not joined the lawsuit. To become a plaintiff is a very big deal for those *hibakusha*. There have been a sort of discrimination against patients of A-bomb related diseases and it is a heavyweight decision for a *hibakusha* to talk about it.

Let me introduce to you some findings that have become clear through the process of the Collective Lawsuit for the Recognition of A-bomb Diseases. The Japanese government only designates cancer and leukemia that developed later for those who were exposed directly to the A-bombing at close range as the effect of radiation. However, through the process of the lawsuit, it turned out that whole city was radioactively contaminated by the residual radioactive substances and many of those who stayed there had been continuously exposed to a huge amount of radiation, at least until a big typhoon washed out those radioactive substances a month later. Another fact found through the lawsuit process is that radiation can cause many other symptoms before developing into cancer, such as fatigue, susceptibility to colds or bleeding. So cancer is not suddenly developed. The radioactive exposure can cause not only cancer and leukemia, but also heart attack and other various diseases. We have been asking the Japanese government to change the policy and recognize many other symptoms and diseases as the effect of the A-bombings.

Please remember that there are many *hibakusha* who cannot talk about their own symptoms and sufferings, and there are various facts that have been revealed through the process of the Collective Lawsuit for the Recognition of Atomic-bomb Diseases. I ask you to think about the issue of nuclear weapons based on the facts and suffering of the survivors.

I am not sure whether or not the Japanese government is aware of these facts, but they depend on the nuclear umbrella. We must change the Japanese government's policy. Today, we have representatives from the National Council of Japan Nuclear Free Local Authorities, and I know your stance might differ, but I hope you will support us in getting together and appealing to the national government to change their policies. Thank you very much.

Umebayashi

Thank you very much. Now I would like to invite Mr. Toshihiro Inoue from the Japan

Congress Against A- and H- Bombs.

Toshihiro Inoue, Deputy Director

Japan Congress Against A- and H- Bombs (Gensuikin)

As introduced, my name is Toshihiro Inoue. I am serving as Deputy Director of the Japan Congress against A- and H- Bombs. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

Let me introduce you to our organization. Under the principle of “Humankind and Nuclear Technology Cannot Coexist,” we are trying to abolish nuclear weapons and to try to support the *hibakusha* as well as to make solidarity with them. We are also working on stopping nuclear power generation.

From August 4 to 9, we organized the World Congress Against A- and H- Bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We are also collaborating with Japanese Trade Union Confederation (JTUC-Rengo), Mr. Isobe’s organization, as well as National Council for Peace and Against Nuclear Weapons (Kakkin), to collect 10 million signatures for the abolition of nuclear weapons and co-organized Peace Conventions in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

As Ms. Nakamura mentioned earlier, we are also promoting the Northeast Asian Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone. I would like to introduce what kind of activities we are taking for this purpose.

With President Obama’s words, the trend of nuclear abolition shifted. Yet in Northeast Asia with North Korea and South Korea, we still find a Cold War situation continuing. In order to make North Korea, South Korea and Japan a nuclear-free zone, the Peace Depot initiated the idea of “three plus three,” which was started in 1990s by Mr. Umebayashi and others, and our organization has been actively supporting it since 1990s and discussed in our world congress.

Now, discussions on this idea have almost been finalized, and we are entering into the phase of concrete actions. To change the idea into actions, it is important for us to promote such activities to make nuclear-weapon-free zones integrated into the current trend for nuclear disarmament.

At the end of this month, we have general election and it could lead to regime change. According to the manifestos of several political parties, all the opposition parties' manifestoes indicated that they support for the nuclear-weapon-free zones, including the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) and the Social Democratic Party (SDP). According to today's newspaper, Mr. Hatoyama of the DPJ spoke on legislation of the Three Non-Nuclear Principles. Under such momentum, realization of the Northeast Asian Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone is desperately wanted.

However, the current Japanese administration is largely depending on the nuclear umbrella, with the contradictory policy of calling for nuclear abolition while depending on nuclear umbrella, and not really supporting the "no first use" policy. In order to make a Northeast Asian Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone, Japan has to change and at the same time it needs to work on its neighbors. This is because we cannot establish such a zone without the cooperation of our neighbors, including North Korea. Japan should first make efforts to normalize diplomatic relations with North Korea to make this region nuclear free.

Japan inflicted a lot of sufferings on so many Asian people during the World War II. In regards to the issue of compensation after the World War II, we have not really completed the compensation for Asian people yet, even for South Koreans. For North Korean, no compensation was given at all. In regards to the *hibakusha* in North Korea, there are 382 of them right now, but 64 years ago, the number was 1,911. Even though they are the same *hibakusha*, they have not received any assistance or compensation. So, they are discriminated against. Even though it was due to lack of diplomatic relations between the two countries and because of complicated historical background, *hibakusha* assistance and compensation policy has to be changed based on a humanitarian standpoint and should be extended for North Korean *hibakusha*. By fulfilling Japan's compensation for those war victims, mutual trust could be built and it may lead to the successful establishment of the Northeast Asian Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone.

Gensuikin will work on the promotion of the Northeast Asian Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone, as well as legislation of the Three Non-Nuclear Principles, war compensation and assistance for North Korean *hibakusha* and restoration of diplomatic relations between Japan and North Korea. We will continue to deal with these issues comprehensively to realize the Northeast Asian Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone.

Finally, let me mention the issue of nuclear proliferation. There are about 44 tons of plutonium in Japan, of which more than 30 tons are fissionable plutonium. In other words, Japan has more than 30 tons of plutonium that can be used to make nuclear weapons. Once Rokkasho nuclear fuel reprocessing plant in northern Japan is in operation, more and more plutonium will be generated. In view of nuclear proliferation as well as in order to make Japan nuclear free, the plutonium issue along with nuclear fuel reprocessing issue needs to be addressed further. I would like to conclude my talk by raising this point. Thank you very much.

Umebayashi

Thank you very much. From the same organization, to talk about a different topic, Mr. Yasunari Fujimoto of the Japan Congress Against A- and H-Bombs, please.

Yasunari Fujimoto, Deputy Secretary General,

Japan Congress against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikin)

Thank you for your kind introduction. I am Yasunari Fujimoto from the Japan Congress Against A- and H-bombs (Gensuikin), and also from the Forum for Peace, Human Rights and Environment, a network in which Gensuikin affiliate as a member. Upon this occasion of the 7th General Conference of Mayors for Peace, I would like to talk about our activities in support of the 2020 Vision Campaign and related efforts of Mayors for Peace, as well as our own peace building efforts, representing the Forum for Peace, Human Rights and Environment.

September 25, last year, the US Navy nuclear-powered aircraft carrier George Washington arrived at the Yokosuka Port, where I live. This is due to the retirement of the conventionally powered aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. We are heavily concerned about the safety of that nuclear carrier, as well as the deployment of the nuclear carrier would strengthen the attack capability of Task Force of the US Navy's Seventh Fleet. The carriers could be deployed to the East China Sea, Sea of Japan, up to Persian Gulf in the Middle-East, so I think it is a big problem.

Washington is starting military reorganization worldwide. 70% of all US bases in Japan are located in Okinawa. There is an argument to move some of the US Marine Corps in Okinawa to Guam. Originally, the idea of transferring them to Guam was considered to solve the problem of US bases in Okinawa and minimize the burden on

Okinawa. However, as conventional Futenma US Marine Corps Air Station Base will be transferred to Henoko, another area in Okinawa, a new base is planned to be constructed there and the burden on Okinawa will not be alleviated. In addition, the US Army 1st Corps opened its new headquarters in Camp Zama, Kanagawa Prefecture near Tokyo. At the same time, the Central Readiness Forces' headquarters of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Forces relocated to Camp Zama. The direction for coalition of the US-Japan military affairs has been shown clearly through this process, and we started to see strengthening military expansion.

We, citizens and the Forum for Peace, oppose these military activities. In Yokosuka City, we sought a referendum on citizens' idea on deployment of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier and questioning security and safety of such carrier. 15,000 people from the Forum for Peace and Gensuikin gathered in Yokosuka and demonstrated to oppose the deployment of nuclear carrier, but our voices were rejected by the City Council and the Mayor of Yokosuka, who support the deployment.

Despite of the citizens' movements opposing it, these protests were neglected by the national governments and the US and Japanese governments are building-up military forces in East Asia, and it stimulated North Korea, which cannot establish peaceful and friendly relationships with other countries, and became one of the causes for them to launch missiles and conduct nuclear tests. In Japan, such attitude of North Korea is widely trumpeted as a huge militaristic threat to Japan. It caused controversy on strengthening nuclear deterrence and expanding nuclear umbrella, even an option to attack their bases.

We oppose the nuclear umbrella. We think it is necessary to establish national relationships with North Korea. We organized the National Association for Normalization of Japan-Korea Relations, focusing on the principles that aim to make North Korea not isolated in Northeast Asia, and to guarantee human rights of North Korean nationals in Japan, who have to live in Japan due to the complicated historical background. As Mr. Inoue mentioned earlier, talks for normalization of diplomatic relationships will be the first priority to solve problems between Japan and North Korea.

During World War II, Japan had much impacted East Asia, invaded their countries and inflicted terrible atrocities to people there. However, a historical perspective is becoming conspicuous that glamorizes the war as a means of national defense and

releasing Asia from colonization by the Great Powers of Europe and the US. Some textbooks of our schools are based on this historical perspective and say that the war was for the protection of our country. Even though that interpretation was protested by people in neighboring countries including China and the Koreas, the Japanese government approved some of those textbooks. This historical view is contrary to former Prime Minister Murayama's words regretting the Japanese war of aggression and establishing new friendships with Asian countries that still remain as the official perspective of the Japanese government. On August 4, Yokohama City's Board of Education adopted such textbooks for their junior high schools in 8 school districts out of their 18 districts.

This attitude of national government and educational board is encouraging extreme nationalistic groups and leads to the movement to amend the pacifist constitution. These movements support nuclear umbrella and even admit an idea of attacking enemy bases. We have to oppose this kind of narrow-minded nationalism.

We have listened to a lot of argument in Hiroshima and Nagasaki as well as during this conference of Mayors for Peace. I believe that intertwining various efforts for peace and nuclear abolition, as well as people's desire for peace will lead to realization of world peace. With these remarks, I conclude my speech. Thank you.

Umebayashi

Thank you very much. I would like to invite Mr. Philip Jennings, UNI Global Union.

Philip Jennings, General Secretary, UNI Global Union, Switzerland

Good morning everybody. My name is Philip Jennings. I am the General Secretary of UNI Global Union.

It is normal in the union conferences when your time is running out and someone rings a bell. So, if there is a minute left in my time, if you could just bung the table, we are very well accustomed to it, and suddenly sitting down almost like an automatic response.

So, good morning, everybody. It is a pleasure to be here in Nagasaki. This morning I bring the voice of the global trade union movement to your discussions and to your deliberations.

My organization is UNI Global Union; we represent 20 million workers in 1,000 trade unions around the world. We have globalized the trade union movement. I am also speaking this morning, for the International Trade Union Confederation. And we represent all the trade union centres around the world. If you add all the members and the family members that we represent, we are talking about a billion people.

Now in our work we know that if you do not try, you don't succeed. But if you don't fight, you don't win. And if you don't know the sense of struggle, then you are not going to succeed.

When I look back over my years in the trade union movement, and looking forward, it is clear that we have brought our energy to a whole range of issues that impact the global economy, but there has been one missing link. And the missing link has been peace.

We fight for jobs. We fight for fair trade. We fight for ethical trading of multinational companies, and succeeded. We change the nature of debate. We fought child labour. And now we have international conventions where there were no conventions before. We fought for trade union rights everywhere. Everyone is aware of the situation in Columbia now, where hundreds of trade unions, if not thousands, more than two and a half thousand trade unionists were assassinated. The world knows about the story. The problems in Burma and the trade boycott that we have organized. The world knows about the story.

What we are not doing is saying that peace is a worker issue. That nothing that we do – we can't organize the workers, we can't negotiate collective agreements, we can't bring jobs and a sense of security, and understanding and tolerance into our societies, if peace isn't there.

Therefore, we have to bring this energy. We have to bring this energy that we bring to so many other issues into this world, into your world, to Mayors for Peace. That we are the workers for peace.

We received in my union office the peace ambassadors from Nagasaki. And we realized that union members can be peace messengers in their own right. We have

children the same age as these here. They came to our office. They gave us the peace cranes. And we saw it and said, "There is something here, these are children telling senior union leaders that we are missing something."

So now, when the peace messengers come to our office, the next time, in two weeks time, they will not just meet us, they are going to meet the Mayor of Nyon, where our office is. They are going to meet school children. And they are going to be invited to speak at a big festival next year, which brings together 250,000 people in Nyon. A small step: five children came to our office, and the policy of our organization has changed.

Mayor Taue, five children from your city came to our office, and next year, we are bringing our World Congress to Nagasaki. We realized that we can make brochures, that we can make websites, but unless people come here, unless the people experience what Nagasaki has to say to the world, so they can listen to the stories of the survivors, about what it means to live through nuclear Armageddon.

We know that when we are bringing 2,000 leaders to this city from 150 nations across the world, those leaders will not be the same person again. We are going to have 2,000 leaders, making more than 2,000 steps and we are going to say that, before you come to Nagasaki, next year, you have to do something on this subject, you have to talk about this subject with your members, and you have to energize your members on this subject.

Yes, we are helping the signature campaign. Yes, we will be at the NPT Review Conference next year. Yes, we are organizing a world congress here. And yes, we want to help Mayors for Peace and your 2020 Vision. So, to our slogan for rights, jobs, justice, we have to add peace.

And we do take our message to the highest people in the land from the lowest people in the land, from the working people.

We were at the G-20 Summit. We were at the G-20 Summit in Washington. We were at the G-20 Summit in London. We are going to be at G-20 Summit in Pittsburgh.

We ask for a meeting with President Obama. He agrees with us that there should be a worker dimension. And I can tell you Mayor Taue when workers of the world meet

with President Obama, we are going to say “Come to Hiroshima, Come to Nagasaki.” Let’s see the next step from the Prague speech. Thank you.

Umebayashi

We only have 15 more minutes to go, and there are three people to talk, in addition to that, we have two more people who want to speak. So I would like to ask each speaker to make your speech within 3 minutes rather than 5 minutes. Next person is from “World without Wars and without Violence,” Mr. Rafael de la Rubia.

Rafael de la Rubia, President of World without Wars and without Violence; Coordinator of the World March for Peace and Nonviolence, Spain

Firstly, I would like to thank Mayors for Peace, Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima, Mayor Taue of Nagasaki, the mayors of other cities, and everybody with us today, for opening their doors to the humanist association World without Wars and the World March for Peace and Nonviolence.

In order to establish a world free from violence, free from wars, we have conducted a march. We are here sharing a common interest in which the horrors experienced on August 6 and 9, 1945 should never again be repeated. For that purpose, we have to raise our voices. This is the intention that moves us to act. We should not repeat that terrible time again. We have to be capable of transmitting to the world a call so that an atomic bomb will “never again” be launched on a civil population.

There is no possible justification for it, because to unleash the use of weapons of mass destruction today in conventional wars could be a direct path towards the abyss. That monstrosity of 1945 has led to a threat much greater of which, with total certainty, you are aware.

The challenge for those of us who are here is to mobilize the population or the institutions in our reach so that they can pressure governments and the powerful move to stop this situation. Our challenge is to encourage various organizations and our citizens work on to change our national governments, so that we can change the world trend. This is the only real way out that we see. If not, governments alone, far from putting on the breaks, will continue to feed the race to destruction. Urgently, we have to create good consciousness in this respect.

For that purpose, for the sake of peace, we have to conduct a march. Our contribution is the call for a World March for Peace and Nonviolence, demanding from decision makers:

- Disarmament in the world and nuclear abolition has to be implemented,
- The immediate withdrawal of troops invading occupied territories,
- Progressive and proportional reduction in military and conventional weapons,
- The signing of non-aggression treaties between countries, and
- The renunciation by governments of the use of war as a means to resolve conflicts.

The World March for Peace and Nonviolence is a call to the personal conscience of each one of us, it's the voice that we need to raise together, it's a moral proposal and it's what we need to do in this difficult moment we are going through.

It gives room for all organizations, individuals and institutions who believe that it's possible to put a definitive end to the barbarity and for those who want to demonstrate it. There are more than 2,000 organizations working toward the same goal.

March will start on October 2, and will be finished at the final destination of Argentina, next year. It will cross almost 100 countries and in its path it will move thousands of people from the whole planet in a single common intention: so that violence ceases as a form of conflicts resolution. More than 1,000 people across the globe are participating in this march for the purpose of the elimination of violence and not to solve problems with wars. More than 300 cities are hosting this marching event.

The horror of Hiroshima and Nagasaki has not been left behind in history. We should not leave Nagasaki as a history. It feeds our most profound aspiration to put a definitive end to pre-history.

Today we remember the people from Hiroshima and Nagasaki to dignify their memory and to strengthen a worldwide movement that is open and diverse, which rejects all forms of violence and affirms the human being as the highest value. We have to encourage the people to move toward total nuclear abolition. Various forms of violence should be eliminated and we should bring love to others, instead.

For these purposes, we are conducting a marching event. We have to convey our

wishes to others. The Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol should be introduced to various national governments. Along with the peace march, we are promoting the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol.

Finally, it is my pleasure to share my aspiration and opinions with you all. For all the participants, I would like to thank you for your support. Our website is available in 27 languages for your access. Thank you.

Umebayashi

Next is Mr. Hiroyuki Nakata, Vice Mayor of Sapporo, Japan.

Shigemi Osaki, Manager

Ward Administrative Section, Community Promotion Department
Community Development and City Planning Bureau, the City of Sapporo

Good morning, I am Shigemi Osaki, from the City of Sapporo, in charge of peace activities. I deeply appreciate giving me your valuable time to talk in front of you. We have Deputy Mayor Nakata who is participating in this Conference, and I accompanied him. Originally, the deputy mayor was supposed to speak in this session as well, but he was very generous to give me an opportunity to speak on this wonderful occasion. Thus, as a person in charge of peace activities of the City of Sapporo, I would like to share our efforts.

The City of Sapporo hosted the Winter Olympics in 1972, and also hosted the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships Sapporo 2007. Our population reached 1.9 million as of January 2009. Located in the northern part of Japan, depth of snow in winter time can reach 4 to 6 meters in Sapporo.

Last year, we organized an A-bomb exhibition co-sponsored with the cities of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and the National Council of Japan Nuclear Free Local Authorities. It was a good opportunity for the city and many citizens to realize the importance of peace education and how various efforts for peace have been prevailed.

I would like to talk about how the activities are going on in Sapporo city, and I would like to report three major programs of the city that citizens of Sapporo participated in or jointly organized with citizens.

First is the sharing of war experiences. We ask citizens to talk about their war experiences, by visiting schools, and at programs for children. Lessons from their war experiences can be conveyed directly to children. They were young when they experienced war, and the children of around the same age as they were will listen to their stories with reality. That makes their stories very impressive for children's heart and wishes for peace will be conveyed to future generations.

Second is our activity to render graphic panels of A-bombs produced by Japan Confederation of A- and H- Bomb Sufferers Organization (Nihon Hidankyo) and the city bought 11 sets of them. We send them to schools and grassroots organizations. They do not feature scientific information of the A-bomb itself but its damages and human sufferings. So these panels are very good material for peace education in making each person think deeply on what nuclear weapons would bring about on human beings.

Since Sapporo is far from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, peace education that involves visiting there takes time and cost. So, all these materials are very good for schools and grassroots organizations working on peace. Sapporo has a plan to ask the City of Hiroshima to permanently render a set of posters and some other materials so we can use them for supporting peace education of citizens and children.

Third is, in collaboration with the Hokkaido *Hibakusha* Association, we invite the *hibakusha* who live in Sapporo City to talk about their experiences. This year, we asked to share their testimonies with young students in a class at Sapporo City University. Also at the venue of the A-bomb exhibition held in our city hall, we asked them to talk about their experiences to visitors to the exhibition. In addition, at the Hokkaido No More Hibakusha Hall, where the office of the Hokkaido *Hibakusha* Association is housed, there is a permanent exhibition of actual mementos of the A-bombings. This is the only permanent exhibition of A-bombed materials aside from Hiroshima and Nagasaki. From now on, the City of Sapporo will do our best to widely publicize these efforts including the No More Hibakusha Hall to inform citizens and children of Sapporo about the reality of the A-bombings and provide opportunity to think about peace.

The collaboration with citizens has just begun, but we hope it will flourish further. I believe that the city and citizens of Sapporo collaborate together to promote each

other's activities will be the best way to arouse momentum for peace with more citizens' participation. Thank you.

Umebayashi

Thank you very much. The next speaker is from ANT-Hiroshima, Ms. Tomoko Watanabe.

Tomoko Watanabe, Executive Director ANT-Hiroshima (Asian Network of Trust in Hiroshima)

My name is Tomoko Watanabe from Hiroshima. I have been working as the representative of a grassroots NGO that has been conducting activities seeking peace for everybody in the world for more than 20 years. Today, I would like to introduce you to a joint-project of various peace organizations of Hiroshima. This is called "Yes! Campaign," and we have formed the Yes! Campaign Committee.

Please look at this poster. This is a reversed image of an A-bomb and a mushroom cloud. We have long worked against nuclear wars, saying "No." However, we got this unique poster from an artist. So we also changed our point of view, from "No" to bad thing to "Yes" to good thing. We decided to be united under the motto, "Yes! – to a world without nuclear weapons," "Yes! – to a world without war" and "Yes! – to the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol." So we ought to get together for the same principles. This is the same idea with the idea of Nagasaki, "Get together for the greater cause regardless of small differences." First, we have to get together.

Secondly, the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol should be recognized internationally like the Kyoto Protocol in the field of environment, as a key document in the process of elimination of nuclear weapons. So when you talk about abolition of nuclear weapons, we need to promote the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol.

Thirdly, as we are the only country in the world where A-bombs were dropped, the Japanese government has to take initiatives in the international arena for promoting the abolition of nuclear weapons. In order to convey our voices to Japanese government, we established this Yes! Campaign Committee.

Unfortunately, however, the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol has not been as well known as the Kyoto Protocol. The content of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol is very difficult for citizens to understand. So, thanks to the cooperation from Mr. Seitaro

Kuroda, a famous artist in Japan, we have come up with this “Yes!” picture book that illustrates the ideas of the Protocol in an easily understood manner. I will circulate this picture book, so that you can get a feel for it. You will get a better idea about the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol when you read through it. I hope those who read the picture book would say, “Now I understand the idea of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol” and support the protocol; saying “Yes!” to it. This is why we published this “Yes!” picture book and are promoting it.

We are also starting a significant effort. Many *hibakusha* who sailed on the Peace Boat and shared their testimonies around the world are now back in Hiroshima and they are very enthusiastic to act for the abolition of nuclear weapons. To realize a world without nuclear weapons by 2020, we must make the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol adopted in 2010. In order to support this, we will organize a caravan of these *hibakusha* to visit cities and towns all over Japan, share their A-bomb testimonies and convey our voices.

Although we are a small group, we will do our utmost toward the abolition of nuclear weapons. But we cannot accomplish this alone, so we need your support. Under the motto of “Yes! – to a peaceful world without nuclear weapons,” I hope we can work together. In conclusion, I deeply appreciate this opportunity to express my wish to work together with you. Thank you very much.

Umebayashi

Thank you very much. Now, we would like to hear the voices of young people who are involved with the 10,000 High School Students Signatures Campaign. They will be the last speakers in this session.

Saori Yuji, the Executive Committee, the 10,000 High School Students Signatures Campaign to Eliminate All Nuclear Weapons and to Make a Peaceful World; 3rd-year student, Kwassui High School

Good morning everyone. As Mr. Tasaki mentioned a short while ago, we are the executive committee of the 10,000 High School Students Signatures Campaign to Eliminate All Nuclear Weapons, and to Make a Peaceful World. My name is Saori Yuji, a third-year student at Kwassui High School.

We have been doing these activities for nine years, mainly conducting a petition drive

seeking for abolition of nuclear weapons. So far, we have collected 450,000 signatures. On August 12, we are going to have our meeting and at which we will consolidate collected signatures for the past one year. The collected signatures will be directly taken to the United Nations by our High School Student Peace Ambassador.

Hikaru Owatari, the 12th High School Student Peace Ambassador;
3rd-year student, Kwassui High School

I am one of the 12th High School Student Peace Ambassadors in Nagasaki. My name is Hikaru Owatari. I am a third-year student at Kwassui High School. High School Student Peace Ambassadors from Nagasaki have been visiting the UN every year since 1988. So I will leave on August 17 with the signatures we collected. In Switzerland we are going to the offices of the UNI Global Union and the World YWCA. We will also visit Ypres, where the 2020 Vision Campaign Secretariat is located. As I heard our predecessors visited Ypres last year and conducted a signature campaign there, we would also like to do the same and share feelings with local people. Although senior high school students do not have much authority, and our contributions might be humble, but we are not helpless. Under this slogan, our activities have been on going, and peaceful waves are steadily spreading from Nagasaki. I would like to collaborate with the people participating in this conference. By doing so, we can spread out our peaceful waves further, and eventually we may eliminate all nuclear weapons on the earth faster. Let's work together. Thank you very much.

Umebayashi

Thank you very much. We learned a lot, today and I believe that we could share power and courage with each other. Originally, we planned to have a question and answer session, and comments from each panelist, but we have run out of time to do so. We would like to give a round of applause to the panelist, so please join me. Thank you for your support. With this, I would like to conclude this session.