

The 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace

Press Conference

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International Conference Center Hiroshima (Himawari)

[Executive Cities of Mayors for Peace]

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Vice President (Manchester)	Mark Hackett Councillor, Manchester City Council, UK
Vice President (Akron)	Donald L. Plusquellic Mayor, City of Akron, USA
Vice President (Biograd na Moru)	Jasminka Bajlo Mayor's Counselor, City of Biograd na Moru, Croatia
Vice President (Granollers)	Josep Mayoral i Antigas Mayor, City of Granollers, Spain
Vice President (Halabja)	Khder Kareem Mayor, City of Halabja, Kurdistan, Iraq
Vice President (Mexico City)	Rosa Icela Rodriguez Secretary of Social Development, Government of Mexico City, Mexico
Vice President (Frogn)	Thore Vestby Mayor, City of Frogn, Norway

Mr. Toshiro Yuasa, Executive Director, Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, Japan

Now we'd like to start the press conference summarizing the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace. My name is Yuasa, and I am the executive director of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation. So in this press conference, we have executive members who have attended the general conference, and we are planning to allocate 45 minutes for this press conference. Firstly, we would like to explain the Hiroshima Appeal which has just been adopted, and then we'd like to have the participants to express their comments and impressions. Then we'd like to invite questions from the press people after that. Firstly, we'd like to hear explanation from Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima about the Hiroshima Appeal.

Mr. Kazumi Matsui, President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor of Hiroshima, Japan

Thank you. Now I am going to explain some major points about the Hiroshima Appeal which has been adopted in this general conference. So, we represent 5,712 cities from 157 countries and regions are the participants of this meeting. In order to achieve a world without nuclear weapons we try to convey the spirits of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to the world. So that was the purpose of the meeting. The result was please look at the appeal—the Japanese version—the first page, the fourth paragraph. It says, “The threat and use of nuclear weapons, euphemistically called deterrence and the unspeakable horror it implies is still the mainstay of the international security regime.” So we shared this understanding in this conference, and furthermore, nuclear proliferation remains a current and dangerous threat. Also, we cannot deny the possibility that a sub-national terrorist group might obtain nuclear weapons. So we had our discussions with a sense of urgency.

Moving onto the next paragraph, please look at the fifth paragraph. “Under the current unprecedented global economic crisis, and yet, fantastically expensive programs to use new tests to modernize nuclear weapon systems are underway in all of the states that possess nuclear arms. Misappropriating resources that are badly needed to fund basic human needs.” So this shows that we were aware of this point in conducting our discussions. That's expressed in this appeal.

So the next page, I would just like to focus on some main points. Another characteristic is if we skip to page three, the third paragraph, the first line, it was talking about the 25th anniversary of the Halabja gas attack, and also the commemoration of the centennial anniversary in 2015 of the first use of the weapon of mass destruction. So it

says, “Mayors for Peace will use these tragic examples of the use of weapons of mass destruction to further our goal of a nuclear weapons free world.” And moving onto the next paragraph, towards the bottom, it says, “Finally, whatever the source of radiation may be, we must do everything we can to prevent anymore *hibakusha* anywhere.” So again, this was the confirmation that we shared. So that was one important point.

In this context, Mayors for Peace calls on the United Nations and all governments to take the following measures. There are four points that we call upon the UN and other governments to heed. First, is to make sure that policy makers and officials will understand more profoundly about the tragedy of nuclear weapons. Policy makers and government officials would like to have them come to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, so that they can understand the heartfelt wishes of the *hibakusha* for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and we would like them to disseminate those wishes. The second point is building trust. Confidence building. So we want the policy makers and the international organizations to build an appropriate framework for confidence building so that nuclear weapons will never be used again. The third one is to aim for the early implementation of nuclear weapons convention or other effective measures, and we want them to start concrete negotiations towards the conclusion of such conventions. The fourth point is there are many initiatives attempted in the EU, ASEAN, and so on in these regional framework in establishing these organizations. We have learned good lessons, and also we should learn from negative lessons from the past, so that we can move away from deterrence based security regime to a new security regime that is based in the sense of brotherhood or sense of community as the same members of the human race.

These are the points that we call upon the UN and international organizations and governments to implement. Then we address these and appeal these between the period of 2013 and 2017. Those are the main points of the Hiroshima Appeal.

Mr. Yuasa

Thank you very much. We heard the address from Mayor Matsui and Mayor Taue earlier, so we would like to ask other executive city members to say a few words from each of you. Starting with the representative of the city of Hannover, please.

Mr. Paul Burkhard Schneider, Head of the International Unit of the Lord Mayor’s Office, Hannover, Germany

In the first place, on behalf of the delegation from the city of Hannover, I would really like to give my deepest gratitude to the city of Hiroshima for hosting this conference in a really warm and excellent way. Thank you for that.

With regard to our conference, I would say two things. I have the feeling we had done a really major step forward within our organization. After having reached the 5,000 member goal almost two years ago, we started in the thinking shift from quantity to quality, and with deciding about regionalization of Mayors for Peace, we really got a big step forward. With that, we will be able to strengthening the network among the members and with that strengthening as well our voice towards governments, political leaders, and last but not least the United Nations and not to forget about our citizens as well. Additionally, with regard to the declaration, I'm really fond of one of the paragraphs at the end when it says and calls upon the leaders in the world to send all these people working related to the topic of nuclear disarmament once to Hiroshima and Nagasaki to deepen their knowledge about what happened 68 years ago. I myself had the chance, and several meetings to talk to ambassadors and staff of foreign ministries, and a lot of them took this issue we are talking about here as a technical issue. It is not so much time left that they have the possibility to talk to *hibakusha*. And we should force them to do so as well, and especially in the light of our 20/20 vision campaign. Therefore, I'm really happy for the outcome and the discussions here today and the last days. And once more, thank you very much for hosting and chairing as well in a very good manner, especially for yesterday night, thank you very much.

Mr. Yuasa

Thank you very much. Mr. Michel Cibot, Special Advisor to Mayor of Malakoff, please.

Mr. Michel Cibot, Special Advisor to Mayor of Malakoff, France

Thank you very much. I think I can make one comment. I could feel that we have established a close relationship with Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The threat of the nuclear weapons is what we are dealing with, and philosophically, this is about the human's killing human. Meaning that the humans have the capability to kill others unfortunately. With nuclear weapons, the existence of the possibility of nuclear weapons does influence the way of thinking of people, so we have to get rid of them. The Mayor for Peace is now aiming at regionalization, so that there would be regional activities as well. We are now faced with new sets of issues, and for Japan, we do have a serious problem that is Fukushima. And I think it's going to be necessary for us to deepen our discussion about the Fukushima. There are many crisis like financial crisis. We have

insufficient amount of financial resources available for us, but the crisis can mean something if we are able to find other available resources, we should be able to identify them if we are wise and intelligent enough. Of course we do have financial problem, but that should not hamper our progress in our mission. So the management of paradigm at the local government must be transformed.

Mr. Yuasa

Thank you very much. Next, the Head of International Affairs Office of Muntinlupa, Ms. Marissa Cole-Rongavilla.

Ms. Marissa Cole-Rongavilla, Head of International Affairs Office of Muntinlupa, Philippines

Good afternoon everybody. I, on behalf of my city, I am Marissa Cole-Rongavilla. I am giving you thanks for inviting me to come over, especially mayor of the two great cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. While on my way coming here in Hiroshima I was really nervous and I am still nervous. This is my first time to set my foot here, and this is my first time to attend such a big conference. I am an international affairs officer back in our city, but I am just barely a month in my office, and I really thank god that I was able to make it here. Why? I've learned a lot. I have so much to bring home, and I would like to share whatever I have learned here back home.

We've been hearing a lot of things about Hiroshima, and I read a lot of articles about it. But, it is really different when you set your foot here and be here and listen to the victims. So, from the bottom of our hearts, we will try and give our best to help inform all the people wherever I go about Hiroshima, about the nightmare that happened here, and how it helped the people to be the Peace center of the world. And I'm sorry that for so long our city had been delinquent being part of the Mayors for Peace. I think seven years we haven't participated in this conference, but no matter what, even if we change our mayor for say three, or six, or nine years, maybe personally as an individual I would come again and again to help this cause. I believe that we all come from different—we have our own social way of life. Economically we're all different, but one thing for sure. No matter how big, or no matter how small, no matter how poor, or no matter how rich a country is, we have a common thing, and we love peace. So this conference—I really pray to god that we could reach come 2020 or even earlier we would realize a nuclear free world for a peaceful and full of love world. Thank you so much. Again, thank you Mayor—the two of you—and to all my colleague executive members, thank you for making me a part of this conference, and I hope I can help in the near future, thank you.

Mr. Yuasa

Thank you very much. Next is Mr. Mark Hackett, Councillor of Manchester City Council.

Mr. Mark Hackett, Councillor of Manchester City Council, UK

I'd like to start by thanking our hosts and recognizing the fantastic work that the mayors in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and all their staff and supporters have made to put into making this conference a success. It's a big thing to organize, and I think it's all too easy to think that these things just do themselves. They don't. On the conference as a whole, I think we have made some real steps forward. We have an awful lot of members, and the drive to make that happen over the last few years has borne fruit. We now have to deepen that and professionalize that organization so that we can implement and work on that action plan. The appeal itself clearly focuses on some tasks for moving us towards a world without nuclear weapons, and conveying the spirit of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to the world. We've had some difficult discussions because as well as focusing on that, what are the consequences of nuclear weapons? Whether it's stockpiling of uranium, whether it's testing, whether it's the connections between nuclear power and nuclear weapons. All of these things we have to try and strike a balance as to what the members want, so that we don't lose the traditions of this organization, but we do make it relevant to our members, so the regional and national chapters. And I do know that if, you know, it's very sobering and moving, and I've got a tear in my eye, being here and thinking of recent events of Fukushima, which is part of perhaps the legacies that we have to deal with. But in the UK, where these matters are of an extreme concern, we are also facing the potential of a new generation of replacement for Trident missiles.

We have a job as part of Mayors for Peace for campaigning to stop that happening as well as working at the level of the United Nations and of the world. So we have complex tasks and it's not easy to bring all these things together. I think this conference and the appeal allows us a good starting point for the next four years, and if things were easy, we'd have already succeeded. They're not, and we have got to contribute in our different ways, in our different parts of the world, and learn from the good and the bad experiences so that we can deliver and help and support our executive cities, Mayors for Peace internationally, and help and support Hiroshima and Nagasaki over the next three or four years to deliver on the Action Plan. We must bring as much pressure as we can to bare on governments around the appeal which we've just agreed. So, thank you everyone that's been involved in the conference and all their contributions, and it's a

great and humbling privilege to play some small part in hopefully carrying this absolutely crucial work forward over the next few years.

Mr. Yuasa

Thank you very much. Next, Mr. Plusquellic, Mayor of Akron please.

Mr. Donald L. Plusquellic, Mayor of Akron, USA

I obviously had an opportunity to speak earlier, and I'm not going to repeat my comments except for one, which I think is vitally important. I want to thank Mayor Matsui for his hospitality and his city's hospitality, and thank Mayor Taue for their leadership of this organization. As I thought about that comment, I thought about in some ways the injustice of this. These two cities have had to experience all of the tragedy that we've heard so many comments about, and yet both of you have had to shoulder the responsibilities to almost carry this organization from the inception, and so I think each one of us here and others in our own respective countries need to step up and do more to make certain that we're leading and providing that information—the learning experiences and carrying forth the dissemination of the information that we talked about in several of these points to get our citizens. But most importantly to get our leaders to understand the importance of what we've asked for here in the Hiroshima Appeal. So mayors take many more words than we should, but I just should have said thank you.

Mr. Yuasa

Thank you very much. Next, Mr. Dominique Dehaene, Alderman of Ypres City Council.

Mr. Dominique Dehaene, Alderman of Ypres City Council, Belgium

Thank you very much. I of course subscribe to all the remarks that have been made by my colleagues. Just a few personal remarks. For Ypres, this event was a bit of a turning point. We have a new mayor I'm proud to represent him here at this meeting. It also means that we renew our engagement for Mayors for Peace for the coming years of course, and we hope to continue to take on the leadership as we did in the past amongst others by hosting the Secretariat for the 2020 Vision Campaign, and having that further implemented. I think that this was also, although it was my first time here, a turning point for Mayors of Peace. It has been made clear that we had a long and fruitful discussion on the Appeal, which we gladly and fully subscribe of course. I thank executive cities for the recognition they make of Ypres in that text, and I of course would like to take the opportunity to invite everyone to one of the commemorations in

Ypres in the upcoming years of the hundred anniversary of WWI. Especially on the 22nd of April 1915, when we will remember the first ever gas attack in the world. And then to the executive committee which will take place in Ypres as well.

I would, on a personal level, like to thank Hiroshima for the warm welcome, for the professional organization. As I said, it was my first time here. I had the chance to visit the museum and it made a deep personal impact on me. Not only because of the horrors of what happened here 68 years ago, but especially because it reminds me also of the link between Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Ypres—where the horrors of war are tremendously recognizable. I thought of the stories my grandparents told me long ago about the first World War, and it's terrifying how similar they are to the stories the *hibakusha* tell us. So that was for me very revealing. So I feel very connected with Hiroshima and Nagasaki, not only because of the horrors of the past, but also because of the goals of Mayors for Peace. I think we, as executive cities, must continue to take up our leading role in spreading the word and trying to abolish nuclear weapons. It was for me, personally as well, a warm meeting with both mayors of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, and the other executive members, so thank you for the welcome we had on this 8th conference, and I hope to see you again if our mayors should not be able to make it on the next meeting.

Mr. Yuasa

Thank you very much. Ms. Bajlo of Mayor's Counselor of Biograd na Moru please.

Ms. Jasminka Bajlo, Mayor's Counselor of Biograd na Moru, Croatia

Greetings to you all, and thank you very much to our host Mayor Matsui and to all those who have been in the organization, because this was really very well organized. It was very nice to be back here again. I was here four years ago when we had the general conference in Nagasaki, but we had our 2020 Vision here in Hiroshima, so we were in Hiroshima and in Nagasaki our delegation. This time I've come alone. Biograd na Moru is a small town in Croatia, and to tell you the truth, Croatia is a very small country. We began with our participation in Mayors for Peace about seven years ago, and four years ago at the General Conference, which was held in Nagasaki, we became executive members. With Mayors for Peace, I have been to Semipalatinsk, and I have seen the horror that has happened there. I've been to Ypres—we all know that from history—but when we go straight on the spot, then we know actually we see what has happened. Then I also went to Iraq, I went to Halabja this year for the 25th commemoration of the

genocide that happened there, and was appalled at all the stories that I heard there. It just gave me more fuel to fight, as I should say it.

Since Croatia is such a small country, I thought to myself, what can I do besides all these meetings and various actions that we are doing. But how can I get the message through, because every time I get home, I feel so unsatisfied that I haven't gotten the message through to the citizens. And so, it came to my mind with the help of Ms. Mihoko Sakamoto, who has become a very dear friend of mine, who was earlier working for Mayors for Peace, and now she's working here at the memorial museum. I proposed whether Hiroshima would accept having the official A-bomb exhibition in Croatia, and then having an A-bomb exhibition in Biograd, which is quite a small town on the coast. It wouldn't have much meaning, so I asked my mayor, since he is the friend of the mayor of Zagreb, the capital city of Croatia. We only have four million inhabitants, but the capital city has one million. So we asked whether he would host this A-bomb exhibition, and then it would come to Biograd. So, they accepted and I am so satisfied because finally people are going to be able to see pictures, to read, and what's even more important, the *hibakushas* are coming. Every time I mention the word *hibakusha*, tears come to eyes because I have heard *hibakushas* speaking in New York, I have heard them speaking in Manchester, and I have heard them speaking here. When you hear their testimonies it makes a big, difference, particularly after you've seen the exhibition, and then the *hibakushas* will come at the end of the exhibition, and they will be in Zagreb, and they will come to Biograd.

So I think that is going to make a very, very, big difference. Then I hope that after that, we're going to have many more members. We are a small country—we have 35 members—but with a population of four million, I think 35 is quite a sufficient number. So thank you once again Mayor Matsui, thank you everyone in Hiroshima for making our stay so very comfortable. Thank you.

Mr. Yuasa

Thank you very much. Mayor of Granollers, Mr. Mayoral i Antigas please.

Mr. Josep Mayoral i Antigas, Mayor of Granollers, Spain

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. At the outset, I am very much grateful, and it was a great honor that we got to attend together with you in the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace and in the 68 years anniversary I was able to attend this meeting together with you. My thanks deeply goes to Mayor Matsui as well as the staff members

of Hiroshima City. This very important meeting is now being held in Hiroshima, and I am very much appreciative that this has completed with success. I believe this was the very matured, growing organization, and it has been almost thirty years since the foundation of the Mayors for Peace. It has a very strong foundation with that of a potential development. I believe we are now making the very good turning point. This has been demonstrated already by the data. This is the gathering of the local authorities among which there are that of the local authorities who have participated with their own will in this Mayors for Peace. They're seeking for peace among the representatives of the world, and also what's important here as the representatives of the local authorities are the determination to seek for peace. I said this is the matured organization because you can tell from the content of the Hiroshima Appeal. We have adopted this Appeal and we have also adopted the ambitious action plan, and we do have the calendar for the future.

Now as to how we are going to go through from now on, the destination and the goal is very clear, which is the total abolition of the nuclear weapons, and we are going to go through the roadmap we have said in search for peace. Those are the activities we are going to implement. Unfortunately because of the economic issues we are faced with the recession, in some of the countries they are putting a lot of money in the defense budget instead of putting a lot of investment in the infrastructure development and social welfare. In such circumstances, we have to take responsibility to tell the others, especially to the central government, don't be silent. While the central government is silent, we local authorities in cities have a louder voice in the region in the local cities we have to voice out our input to seek for peace, and we have to bring and communicate the voices of Nagasaki and Hiroshima. Nagasaki and Hiroshima have been taking the leadership to create peace in the world. This is the indispensable contribution they are making—I am very much appreciative, thank you very much.

Mr. Yuasa

Mayor of Halabja, Mr. Kareem please.

Mr. Khder Kareem, Mayor of Halabja, Kurdistan, Iraq

I would like to thank the Mayor of Hiroshima and mayor of Nagasaki, for their hosting. I am in Hiroshima, and in here I don't feel I am guest—it seems my city, because the massacre that happened also in our city, Halabja. And I see that the Hiroshima has developed and reconstructed very good, and we also as Halabja city, we will get their experience to reconstruct our city. This is my first trip to visit to Hiroshima city, and I

feel that I am in Halabja city. I am so thankful for the secretariat for their efforts for this great conference, and I am also thank for their support and effort to Halabja, and mention the Halabja name in the Appeal of Hiroshima City.

I hope that we will not get tired to work for peace and for a peace especially for the next generation and for children. As we see, especially as Southeast Asian countries, and especially Middle Eastern countries, is the fighting area and is destroyed too much. And to add, I am so thank you for all participants, and I hope the nuclear weapons will be abolished in 2020. Thank you very much.

Mr. Yuasa

Thank you very much. Next, Mexico City please, Ms. Rodriguez please.

Ms. Rosa Icela Rodriguez, Secretary of Social Development of Mexico City, Mexico

To the sponsoring organization, Hiroshima city and Nagasaki city—I would like to commend you for the great success of the conference because this wonderful conference has borne the very great fruits for Nagasaki city and Hiroshima city and Mexico city. Amongst three cities, we do have the very strong solidarity even inside of the cities, and also amongst the countries. Especially in Mexico city, at the time of the anniversary of the A-bombing of those two cities, we share and sympathize saying that we should not admit the reuse of the A-bombs anywhere in the world. At the same time, on the part of the local authorities, we need to expand the membership in Mayors for Peace especially from Latin America and Caribbean nations we hope that we will able to make the best efforts to contribute to increase the membership. Lastly, in the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace to all the participants of this, and also we hope that we were able to build up the confidence among the cities, and we will continue to do that. By so doing, we will continue to have the success in the Mayors for Peace series, and next year with the same objective and goal we are going to have the very big meeting. Therefore, lastly, I would like to thank you two mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki city. Thank you very much.

Mr. Yuasa

Thank you.

Mr. Thore Vestby, Mayor of Frogn, Norway

It makes it very easy for me, because I support everything I've been saying. So there's almost nothing more for me to add. Except for one word—I would like to underscore the word humanitarian. It is a sentence on page three saying, "Mayors for Peace has been a humanitarian organization." I would say it still is, and it should be. I believe very strongly in that path. I think that is the track to so that we can reach our goals to abolish nuclear weapons. And there is also—I would not use the word weapon—but there is a tool that we should use more. We are and have been here been displayed by tragic horrifying stories, and it's not easy to smile. But I think a smile is a good tool to use if it's used right. Linking the smile and the humanitarian—it is very human to smile, and as a mayor, we are responsible for every citizen's well behaving in a way. We are also dealing with a serious business, in all our meetings. Let me give you one example. We have in my time as a mayor, made a decision that Santa Claus, as far as we know him, is borne in our city. And Santa Claus is the most human person in the world. That links me also to Oslo to what we call the ground-breaking conference. And that again links me to the two mayors and their visit in Geneva, which I think played a vital role in the run-up for this conference in Oslo. So I'm glad that we had found that path, and the best luck for the upcoming conference in Mexico. When this press conference is over, we can probably smile a little bit more to each other and to our citizens. I don't think that we should forget that. Thank you.

Mr. Yuasa

Thank you very much all of you. These were all the main panelists on the stage, the main participants, who have given us comments and impressions. Now I would like to open the floor for questions from the press. Please identify your organization and also to whom you would like to address your question. Please.

Question: the Yomiuri Shimbun

I have a question to Mayor Matsui. First question. For Japan, NPDI in April next year is going to be a very important meeting for Japan to lead to nuclear weapons abolition. As a host city, or as the Mayors for Peace organization, what kind of commitment is going to be made? That is the first question. The second question can be answered by anyone on the stage. 2020 Vision—in your session number two, Mr. Hackett talked about 2020 Vision, but the situation in the world is quite difficult. By two years, perhaps a successor vision needs to be prepared replacing 2020 Vision. In the directing committee of the Hiroshima appeal or in the executive conference was there any discussion concerning the successor vision to 2020 Vision? Realistically when you look at the world situation,

it doesn't look very easy to achieve your 2020 Vision, and is there anyone who can answer this discussion from anyone on the stage? So two questions.

Mr. Matsui

About your first question addressed to me, NPDI planned for spring next year. On the part of Hiroshima, we have to put together a conference as a host city, so we need to be fully prepared for good conference. So logistics and some substantial role what can be played by Hiroshima city. About the meeting itself, for NPDI, we are going to be the host city and perhaps this is one of the rare occasions that we can host as the city because this is a former ministerial meeting. In drafting Hiroshima Appeal, some discussion was made concerning the foreign ministers, and so far the nuclear weapon states among themselves had some skeptical ideas about each other and they mainly discussed nuclear disarmament or nuclear non-proliferation. Under the circumstances, there has been various serious and difficult situation to break through. So on the other hand, non-nuclear weapon states, not from the viewpoint of national security, but with a stance upon the human individual security we need to take a look at the nuclear disarmament issues. This is what we expect to take place at the NPDI, and this orientation is what we, the Mayors for Peace and Hiroshima city are seeking for.

Thank you very much, and the second question that is the 2020 Vision, and any successor vision or plan, anyone who would like to answer? With respect to 2020 Vision, basically we didn't have such an in-depth discussion, however by 2020, the *hibakusha* are still with us. We would like to really create the world free of nuclear weapons and that is the major goal of the 2020 Vision, and we still have a strong spirit and commitment to continue to move toward that goal by 2020. With respect to protocol, this is in the same direction with the CTBT, and we are still oriented toward that direction, but with respect to the 2020 Vision, are we going to have a new naming replacing 2020 Vision on what is going to be the next step beyond 2020 if that is necessary? You mentioned that Mr. Hackett mentioned this possibility, and I think we will enter into the time period where we might have to discuss such a point. Thank you. Any other questions?

Question: the Kyodo News

I have a question to Mayor Matsui. Hiroshima Appeal—regarding one of the points you raised. Whatever the sources of radiation is, we must make all the efforts so that no more *hibakusha* can take place. So, regarding the Fukushima accident and *hibakusha* in

katakana in Japanese alphabet and not using Chinese characters, you decided to use *katakana* letters for *hibakusha* in Japanese language version.

Mr. Matsui

Yes, we took into consideration matters such as nuclear power generation.

the Kyodo News

Mayor, I believe that you have been talking about the differences between the nuclear weapons and nuclear power. So, with that distinction you have been making between the nuclear weapons and the nuclear power generation, don't you think it seems a bit contradictory?

Mr. Matsui

No, I don't think so. This is not a contradiction at all. As I mentioned in the drafting committee for Hiroshima Appeal, nuclear weapons are to kill people, and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The purpose and the intents are different. That is the starting point of our discussion, and that's what I explained at the drafting committee. However, radiation consequences, when that takes place, they are the same in terms of consequences of radiation exposure. So we have to make efforts so that no one is going to get exposed to radiation exposure or effects. That is what we are trying to do. We want to make efforts in our respective capacity not to create anymore person being exposed to radiation. In that sense, we are one in our thinking. But, on one hand, this is an issue of creating energy, and on the other, as is being discussed in NPT review process, some are in the orientation to admit the use of nuclear power for peaceful use. On the other hand, the nuclear weapons abolition, as the weapons to kill people, I think those two matters need to be understood separately, and I think I got the understanding of the other members.

Question: the Chugoku Shimbun

One of the main pillars of your action plan about the nuclear weapons ban treaty, but there was nothing new I found in your action plan with respect to nuclear weapons convention. The conclusion of the nuclear weapon convention has been demanded by NGOs and non-nuclear weapon states. So toward nuclear weapon states, in order to get their understanding toward the nuclear weapons convention, what kind of specific actions do you think are necessary? This is a question I would like to be answered by Mr. Mayor Matsui and also someone from the nuclear weapons state.

Mr. Matsui

In my understand, in nuclear weapon states, before they begin to take the concrete action, I think they really need to be once again made aware of the reality, and that is one of the points we try to make clear in our Hiroshima Appeal. Security system based upon the nuclear deterrence they think is useful. And that is why they have been spending so much money into modernization of weapons which could have been spent in other useful purposes. Financial resources need to be spent on other purposes. Then, we have to make sure that they understand that nuclear weapons as a nuclear deterrence measure is not useful at all. And this is what we need to try to make them understand. Not a makeshift measure, but the policy makers of nuclear weapon states really have to change their whole mindset regarding the nuclear weapons utility. Thank you very much.

Mr. Yuasa

Well this is August the 5th, the day before the important Peace Ceremony we are going to have tomorrow, and there are a lot of events we have to go through. So we can accept just one more question. Now if someone from the nuclear weapon state, would you like to mention to whom you would like to address this question to? Then Mayor from Akron, would you like to answer this question?

Mr. Plusquellic

In my comments I want to say that mayors can't speak for their federal government. We don't agree on half of the things that our own federal government does, so I'm not sure that I'm prepared to answer this specific question, and partly because I wasn't understanding what the question was. The obvious discussion that we've had, and the points lead in a simplistic way to first say that, people need to be more aware, and secondly I think we changed the order to say that there needs to be a level of trust, and then third point was we asked for people to get in a room and talk about how we could carry out some global nuclear disarmament, and I think each one of those points is vitally important. As I see it, one of the most important things that the Mayors for Peace are doing, is to make people more aware and continue to push our federal governments sit down collectively and figure out a way to do this. If I had the answer on how to do it, I should be paid a lot more money than they pay for being mayor.

Mr. Yuasa

As I have just introduced to you, this is going to be the last question. One more question, anybody from the press please? Are there any more questions? If there will be no more

questions, this concludes the press conference, thank you very much for your participation, and thank you for the panel and mayors.