The 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace

Session II
Roles of Local Governments

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Nakabe Hall, Nagasaki University Bunkyo Campus

Moderator:
Tatsujiro Suzuki
Director, Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (RECNA), Nagasaki University, Japan

Introduction of Peace Activities:
Thomas Hermann
Deputy Mayor of Hannover, Germany

Jaime Fresnedi
Mayor of Muntinlupa, Philippines

Michel Cibot
Honorary City Manager, Malakoff, France

Mr. Philippe Rio
Mayor of Grigny, France

Zenity Yamazaki
Mayor of Ayabe, Japan

Summary:
Yasuyoshi Komizo
Secretary General of Mayors for Peace, Japan
Ladies and gentlemen, now Session II begins. Director of the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (RECNA), Nagasaki University, Professor Suzuki, please.

Moderator: Prof. Tatsujiro Suzuki, Director, Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (RECNA), Nagasaki University, Japan

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Tatsujiro Suzuki, Director of the Nagasaki University Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, called RECNA. We are here to begin Session II. The theme of this session is “Roles of Local Governments.” What kind of image do you have when you hear such a phrase like “roles of local governments”? Nuclear issues are one of the policy agenda often discussed on national level, but indeed local governments have a role to play, and we are going to listen to the cities which are actually playing such a role in the field of nuclear issues. I’m looking forward to listening to their presentations.

First, we are going to start with the City of Hannover in Germany, and the City of Muntinlupa of the Philippines, and from France, the City of Malakoff and the City of Grigny, and from Japan, the City of Ayabe. Each of them is going to share with us their initiatives. And then, after that, we are going to open the floor for opinions. Toward the end, Mr. Komizo, Secretary General of Mayor for Peace is going to give us the summary.

Now, representing Vice President City, Hannover, we are going to invite Mr. Thomas Hermann, Deputy Mayor of Hannover for the presentation. Please welcome him with a big applause.

Introduction of Peace Activities 1:
Mr. Thomas Hermann, Deputy Mayor of Hannover, Germany

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary General, ladies and gentlemen, I’m attending the General Conference of Mayors for Peace for the very first time, deputizing for Hannover’s Lord Mayor Stefan Schostok. He has asked me to pass on his best wishes to all of you. As you mentioned in Session I, Mr. Secretary General, it would be a great honor for us to be the host city for the Executive Conference in 2019. I welcome the opportunity we
have during today’s session to share our experience of working for Mayors for Peace, to listen to each other and to exchange new ideas. Hannover has been the Lead City for Germany within our movements since 2015. Being invited to perform this role is a great honor for us. We want to deliver on this responsibility. And I would like to briefly outline what this means for us in practice.

Since 1983, during a time in which the Iron Curtain divided Europe into a western and an eastern sphere of influence, Hannover has been a member of Mayors for Peace, and both a Vice President City and an Executive City. And we also have ties of deep friendship with Hiroshima, with which we are twinned since 1983. Right from the start, the unit that coordinates the cooperative work with the Mayors for Peace Secretariat in Hiroshima was assigned to the Lord Mayor’s Office. Currently, it has a staff of two, who carry out the wide range of functions involved. These include modernizing the internet presence. We use this website to report on our activities, and those of various NGOs, to make background materials available, and to provide information on current developments such as the recent treaty banning nuclear weapons, and also, of course, this general conference. Public relations activities are extremely important aspect of our work as we seek to recruit new members.

Our commitment to Mayors for Peace is based on the appreciation that working for peace is an integral part of our local politics. Social justice, peaceful coexistence between people and democratic participation are foundational principles that create a harmonious environment for the people of our city. Maintaining and preserving this is one of our prime concerns. This includes raising awareness of the importance of safeguarding these values. Peace is something that must be secured afresh, time and again. It cannot be taken for granted. And that’s why it’s right to talk about the threat posed by nuclear weapons, to invite people to actively support the abolition of these terrible weapons, and to help pave the way toward a peaceful world without them. This also characterizes the motivation of many new members we have succeeded in enlisting for the work of Mayors for Peace. There are now more than 500 towns and cities throughout Germany that belong to our alliance.

Some words about how we collect the membership fees. In early January, member
towns and cities are requested to make a contribution by bank transfer. Alternatively for 100 EUR, they can purchase a flag for Flag Day. Hannover then forwards the fees collected to the secretariat in Hiroshima in the form of a collective bank transfer. This means international bank transfer charges are not incurred—charges that all the member towns and cities, even the smallest ones, would otherwise have to pay. This is a service we are very happy to provide and one that goes down well with our members.

As I have already mentioned, members can buy a flag for the Mayors for Peace Flag Day that we hold every year on June 8 with various NGOs. These flags are a highly visible way to draw attention to our cause. Some 240 towns and cities now take part in this campaign, and as before, still others have already expressed their interest in participating from next year. This special day raises the profile of our work, and by press releases we communicate to the public our conception of a peaceful world and encourage others to follow suit.

Another cornerstone of our member support activities is the German Mayors for Peace Conference which takes place every two years. Here we discuss topical issues with the representatives of Germany’s Federal Foreign Office and various NGOs. This enables us to adopt multiple-perspective approach and to give our members the opportunity to form their own opinions on the matters addressed. The present event, too, is a lively platform for sharing ideas on projects. Also, however, and above all, it is one that allows us to experience our movement as a community—a very large community—committed to the goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

One of these ventures is our gingko tree project. In cooperation with a Germany city of Erfurt, school pupils are nurturing gingko plants with a view to planting them at Germany’s National Garden Show in 2021. These plants are grown from seeds derived from blast-damaged trees regarded as living monuments to peace. They are a starting point for the pupils to explore the issue of the nuclear threat. We very much hope that these seeds of peace which have been sown will grow, and that in this way many young ambassadors of peace will join our cause.

Activities with young people are a very high priority for us. For example, we help
youngsters from Hannover take part in the Peace Programs offered by the Hiroshima Secretariat, and we always have more applicants than places. One reason this exchange scheme is so important is that the participants still have chances to meet survivors. The eyewitness accounts of the hibakusha have a profound impact on those who hear them. One participant was moved to get involved in a school project with contemporary witnesses. It is good that the young people tell their peers about their impressions here in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They can often achieve far more within their peer group than we adults can, which is why we also continue to support the participation of youngsters from our city to the international Youth Conference. After the event, they will share their experiences on our website.

There are two other aspects of our work I would like to introduce. We have, since 2015, hosted discussion events on current political issues under the broader heading of “war and peace.” Our topics have been “flirting with the bomb,” or “focus on the Middle East—the legacy of Sykes-Picots Agreement.” And this coming September, on the International Day of Peace, an event whose focal point will be survivor testimony in the form of Skype interview. These events will generate public interest in our work, enabling us to add information disseminators and supporters to our number.

However, one of our main priorities in the years to come will be an art exhibition called “50 Cities – 50 Traces.” It will open in the next year 2018, the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and we intend it to close in 2020, the year of the next Review Conference in New York. We want this artistic take on the issue to encourage debate on the prohibition of nuclear weapons. All of us want to make our mark and leave behind something, a part of ourselves that endures. This is the philosophy behind this project. These works of art featuring traces from 50 international Mayors for Peace cities show how even tire marks on asphalt can have an aesthetic appeal that reflects the world’s beauty. What, however, if the deployment of atomic weapons were to destroy this beauty, leaving traceless oblivion?

To accompany this exhibition, which will travel to some 20 towns and cities in Germany and Europe, we have put together an educational worksheet. This will enable school children to explore the exhibits for themselves. In this way, we will raise
awareness among the coming generations about the vital issue. And we believe we will succeed in this because we have recently seen a surge of interest in what we do, partly prompted by the latest missile tests and the modernization of nuclear weapons. This gives me confidence, despite our awareness that there is still a long road ahead of us. Germany’s former Chancellor and Nobel Prize Winner Willy Brandt elegantly put into words just how worthwhile these efforts are. He said, “Peace isn’t everything, but without peace everything comes to nothing.” Thank you very much for your attention.

**Moderator**

Thank you very much Mr. Hermann. Thank you very much for a very rich presentation and also finishing in time. I should have mentioned earlier, each person is going to have 10 minutes for the presentation.

Let’s move on. One of the Vice President cities, Muntinlupa of the Philippines. We have here with us Mayor Jaime R. Fresnedi, please.

**Introduction of Peace Activities 2:**

**Mr. Jaime Fresnedi, Mayor of Muntinlupa, Philippines**

(Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_EZjLyqljps](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_EZjLyqljps))

Mayor Kazumi Matsui, President of Mayors for Peace, Mr. Secretary General, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

The use of youth by ISIS to become extremists in the Philippines has been going on for years. From poverty, this young people are being lured to join the terrorists with pay, sometimes even under the guise of the Philippine army. The youngest recruit in Marawi, based on the documentary, is just 7 years old. These people, at their young age, are being radicalized with twisted ideologies.

Recent US intelligence reports say that ISIS has attempts to acquire nuclear arms in Pakistan. Furthermore, experts say that Islamic terrorists from Iraq and Syria are now migrating to Southeast Asia, especially in the Philippines. With this starting in Mindanao, one can just wonder how peace will be more elusive in the future.
Intelligence reports and experts say that the cities in the Philippines are now being targeted as caliphates by ISIS. The turnover in terrorism is high and that’s the reason why the recruitment of the youth is massive. The video that was just shown is just a testimony that the reports are true.

This, all the more, give us the reason to strengthen our social fabric in Muntinlupa, as the saying goes, “think globally, act locally.” Other than establishing the first Muslim Affairs Office in Metro Manila that addresses the particular needs of the Muslim community in the city, we had the initiative to partner with the Department of Education to integrate Peace Education Program in the social studies subjects of the junior and senior high school students in the city and organize events that complement the program.

The Philippines is a pioneering signatory of the Treaty of Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons since July 1968. As a ratifier to the Biological Weapons Convention, the state bans all production and import of biological weapons in the country. It also signed the Southeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, thus promoting a nuclear-weapons-free Southeast Asia. Our present Constitution, also known as the “Freedom Constitution,” is a pacifist constitution. The Article 2 of the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines in its State Policies under Section 8 states that, “The Philippines, consistent with the national interest, adopts and pursues a policy of freedom from nuclear weapons in its territory.”

The role of the local government, as an enabler, is to help mold the people and shape a peace-loving society. The city government of Muntinlupa initiated the partnership between the city and the Department of Education to integrate Peace Education Program in the social studies subject of the present 29,354 junior and senior high school students of the city and organize events that complement the program. This will be overseen by the following offices; 1) International Relations Office of the city government of Muntinlupa, and 2) the Social Studies Division, Department of Education. The partnership will have the following objectives; 1) to integrate the Peace Education Program in the social studies subject of the junior and senior high school students, 2) to foster the stake in the students to become promoters of peace and justice,
and 3) to organize peace advocates among the junior and high school students that would organize events on promoting peace.

The initial programs and activities of the partnership, the Social Study Division designed a module for the program that will be integrated in the social studies subject of the senior high school students. Muntinlupa Student Peace Advocates, overseen by the Social Studies Division, is an organization of all the students of Peace Education Program that plan and manage activities of the program. The organization will be connected with the Student Peace Advocates of Hiroshima for discussions and organization of international events.

The initial activities are following; 1) forums and round table discussions on peace, organized by the Araling Panlipunan Division, the Student Peace Advocates with other youths will participate in periodic forums and round table discussions with invited panel of experts, 2) exhibits, overseen by the division, the schools that offer the program will periodically host exhibits on the atomic bombing aftermath in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and art exhibits on the possible nuclear holocaust, and 3) film showing, organized by the Student Peace Advocates, documentaries on the weapons of mass destruction and its repercussions, including the documentaries of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be shown periodically.

To determine the interest of the students and the viability of the peace education in Muntinlupa, a survey was recently randomly administered to 500 student-respondents from the five major schools that offer senior high school in Muntinlupa on the following items; 1) on the awareness of the importance of promoting peace, 2) on the belief in the importance of peace education as a medium to promote peace, 3) on the necessity of the peace education to be integrated in the social studies subject in school, and 4) on the interest of the students to engage in the extracurricular activities of the Peace Education Program.

And the results; 1) 9 out of 10 students are either highly or somewhat agreeable with the importance of promoting peace, 2) the same ratio of students believe that peace education is an effective means to promote peace, 3) an overwhelming 100% of the
students are either highly or somewhat agreeable to integrate peace education in their social studies subject, and 4) all the students will engage in the extracurricular activities of the program.

Analysis. The result on the items 1 and 2 indicate that the students are basically believers of peace and that peace education is an effective means to promote this. And, 100% students would actively participate in the class discussions in the Peace Education Program and get engaged in the activities of the program. The results show that all students want the idea of integrating peace education in their subjects. And what is remarkable is that all these students would actively participate in the class discussions and engage themselves in the extracurricular activities and organize events of the Peace Education Program.

Conclusion. The Peace Education Program will be pioneered to the current 29,354 junior and senior high school students of the city. These students will be equipped with knowledge about the value of peace. Under the program, they will also plan and organize events—play a leadership role to include the rest of the youth of the city—to raise the stake on promoting peace. With the current junior and senior high school students of the city and an expected 3% increase in student population every year, we expect to propagate the advocacy of peace in the city starting with our youth.

With the current advancement of technology and globalization, peace seems to be more elusive to many. But if we can start to act locally, we can see the ripples of our impact eventually. Thank you very much.

**Moderator**
Thank you very much, Mayor Fresnedi. The first part was the serious issue of protecting young people from terrorists, and the last half was about the important of peace education. Thank you very much for giving us your presentation.

Now, from Malakoff, and also from Grigny, President City of the French Chapter of Mayors for Peace. Mr. Michel Cibot, Honorary City Manager from Malakoff, and Mr. Philippe Rio, Mayor of Grigny. Please welcome them.
Introduction of Peace Activities 3:
Mr. Michel Cibot, Honorary City Manager, Malakoff, France

Chairman, mayor of Hiroshima City, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for giving me this precious opportunity. Under the name of the City of Malakoff, and as the Vice President City of Mayors for Peace, and a pilot city, allow me to make a comment. For the newcomers, Malakoff is located nearby Paris, a small town. Mayor Jacqueline Belhomme sent best regards to all of you. I have been leading the administration department for 30 years. I attended the general conference in the past eight times, so it is rather legitimate for me to make comments. But it also means that time has passed. Therefore, with the help of my young friend, Philippe Rio, Mayor of Grigny and the head of AFCDRP (Association Française des Communes, Département et Régions pour la Paix), Mayors for Peace French Chapter, I would like to make the presentation.

Before we start our presentation about the activities for culture of peace and nuclear abolition in France, I would like to say one thing. There were many debates about the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which was adopted on July 7. France does not have any intention to proceed with the negotiation. In such circumstance, it is not an easy job to promote disarmament in France. They are tenacious when it comes to the deterrence, but they don’t even know the difference between the nature of the A-bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Another reason is, in France, they think it is not very much relevant to their day-to-day life because nuclear weapons are not located in front of your eyes. Radiation does not have a smell, nor color, and are not visible as you know, but there is a high level of the risk of radiation. There is a deep concern especially after the Fukushima accident. In France, social psychiatry has been utilized to seek peace so that the citizens can live happily.

In order to reinforce the measures for peace, we need to raise awareness that the nuclear weapons is a threat to all the human beings, and their well-being. In this very limited time, I would like to touch upon some of the measures we are taking, and I would like to give you three appeals for the future. We hope that we will be able to have participation of more citizens then build up the pace and collaborate towards nuclear
First, I would like to talk about the nuclear disarmament activities and measures for culture for peace taken in cities and local authorities. AFCDRP was created in 1997 to enhance our efforts. It’s been 20 years since we created this French Chapter. We are participating in various activities. For example, we are participating in the activity of an organization called ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons), that is working for the ban treaty. However, our main activity is drawing up an action plan called the LPACP program, which the local governments in this network collaborate with other groups, schools, and companies to build up a culture of peace. Through our international network, we hold many exhibitions and also movies such as *In This Corner of the World*, which was mentioned earlier today. Those are utilized as teaching materials for peace for the young people.

Secondly, to give you a specific example, in Malakoff where I live, we have an action plan. For many years, there are various cultural events, and the Artists for Peace Exhibition is initiated by a local group. This is a gathering of artists. We only have a population of 30,000, but out of them there are 70 artists. Representatives from media, film, theater groups, unions, schools, music schools and the city hall are contributing to this event every year.

Together with other cities, we welcomed Hiroshima Junior Marimba Ensemble. Thank you very much, Ms. Mieko Asada, for your cooperation. Together with the artists in France and Hiroshima, we are collaborating on an event. In the town of Grigny, unprecedented sports event is going to be experimented this year. A race for peace and three month of educational cultural program for peace will be carried out.

Now, I would like to ask Mayor Philippe Rio of Grigny to present what they are doing in Grigny.

**Introduction of Peace Activities 4:**  
**Mr. Philippe Rio, Mayor of Grigny, France**  
President, Vice Presidents, mayor of Hiroshima and delegates. Grigny is one of the
youngest cities in France. Many of the inhabitants are from different regions and countries. The budget of the city is limited. Exclusion and social urban violence are rather prevalent in our city. However, our common humanity is shown in our creative intelligence and sociality that creates the spirit of collaboration and solidarity which is essential for harmonious coexistence. Immigrants escaped the misery, poverty, wars, and climate changes. In the developed cities, there are so many people who are excluded from the unfair global economy. We are receiving those people. The world is not able to accomplish MDGs and SDGs targets because of poverty, exclusion of others, wars, violence, and nowadays, terrorism. But we do have the obligation. We need to create inclusive cities which are safe and resilient. In order to do that, culture of peace is going to be our means to once again regain our humanity. Ecology and good environment is another means.

A US Film director, Oliver Stone, knows Hiroshima and Nagasaki very well. He said, “Nuclear weapons and climate change are the twin scars of the world we live in.” With this in our mind, we have to think about the local action plan for the culture of peace. Memories, education, sports and culture have to be connected. Concerts, Grigny songs, exhibitions, symbolic tree planting, debates and discussions are held with the participation of the local inhabitants. Retail shop owners, retirees and corporations are participating in those events to create a positive atmosphere. By sharing such precious time, we try to question ourselves about our actions, our relationships with others, and with the world.

Dunkirk experienced two world wars. They are trying to make recollection of the memories, and last year, there was a symposium of the memory cities. And the second meeting was held in Volgograd, sister city of Hiroshima. I’m sure that the representative from Dunkirk will talk about this later.

La Rochelle has also been hosting a peace event every year. Exchanges between the high school students in La Rochelle and Hiroshima has deepened relationship between the high school students and host families. Such exchanges and trainings, artistic encounters are important factors of our peace activities.
Vitry-sur-Seine has been participating in this general conference since 1989. Especially in African countries, they are promoting a distributive collaboration policy, and this year, five young people are visiting Hiroshima and Nagasaki. La Courneuve, located in the suburb of Paris, introduced culture of peace in their administration. I believe it is a good method to infiltrate culture of peace. Thank you very much. Mr. Cibot, I would like to give the microphone back to you. I’m sure Mr. Cibot is going to raise some issues before wrapping up our presentation.

**Mr. Michel Cibot**

I have already given you some of the examples of actions in France. From now, let’s talk about the future. I have three questions to ask you, just simple questions: We need to consider issues from a new perspective. First is about the nuclear weapons, which have destructive power. How are they affecting our lives and global violence such as terrorism?

My second question is, in regards to the violence with a global impact, especially terrorism, what kind of impact does nuclear weapons have on these violence?

My third question is about the culture of peace. Will it become the driving force for the collaborative, participatory and inclusive city development?

Sometimes, we are very much threatened by nuclear weapons because nuclear weapons are casting shadows over our lives. But not much studies or researches are done on the relative connection. If we are able to elucidate the cause and effect, I am pretty sure there would be more people participating in the action of the elimination of nuclear weapons. I would like universities, NGOs and organizations to start studies and researches to get the full understanding of the threats by nuclear weapons. And resistance against nuclear war needs to be the base for prevention. That needs to be fully understood. This new prospective can be possible on education. Geopolitically, economically, and environmentally, the world is changing so rapidly. Culture of peace is the only means by which we will be able to respond to the new challenges and save our humanity and our earth. Please cooperate with us in the search and the studies of culture of peace, and please join us in asking further questions. Please start your regional action plan. This is going to be my last words. Let’s build peace together. Thank you very much.
Moderator
Thank you very much for sharing with us the three important questions. I know that these are very challenging questions.

Next speaker is from Japan, representing the City of Ayabe, Mayor Zenya Yamazaki is going to address you.

Introduction of Peace Activities 5:
Mr. Zenya Yamazaki, Mayor of Ayabe, Japan
Thank you for the kind introduction. I am Mayor of Ayabe, a city in Kyoto Prefecture. I am Yamazaki. It’s a great honor to be given this opportunity. I’m from Kyoto. I wanted to come here yesterday but because of the typhoon, I had to wait and now I’m finally here in Nagasaki. As you can see here, the City of Ayabe is the first city in Japan which made the World Federation Declaration, and also a member city of Mayors for Peace. Hiroshima also made a World Federation Declaration.

I would like to talk about the activities of the City of Ayabe. The World Federation aims to realize objectives which are common to the objectives for Mayors for Peace. Ayabe is a small city and what we are doing for the world peace may be small, but I hope you will enjoy my presentation.

The City of Ayabe is located in the center of Japan, and also in the center of Kyoto Prefecture. We are right now here in Nagasaki City on Kyushu Island, the western part of Kyushu. The population is about 35,000. This is the view from a hill in Ayabe City. The city is located on a basin surrounded by mountains and this is Yura River running through the city. From the hill, you can see a white tower, which is named the “Peace Tower.” Next to the tower, we have trees that were planted by the children from Israel and Palestine. You may wonder why Ayabe has trees planted by children from Palestine and Israel. This is because we are conducting a Middle East Peace Project in Ayabe. On the left you can see the fireworks in summer festival, and youngsters from Israel and Palestine enjoyed the summer festival with their Japanese peers in yukata. They also enjoyed the performance of Japanese drums. On the right, a youth who participated 10 years ago came back as an instructor and I enjoyed seeing him again. These young
students are not ordinary children, they are the children who were orphaned because of the war. They are victims of war, and since they are from Israel and Palestine, they have hatred toward each other because that was how they were educated. But they were invited to Ayabe, Japan, and two groups of children stayed together for a week. I knew this was a challenging project. At the beginning, the Foreign Ministry of Japan opposed to the program, but the Foreign Ministry supports us now. In 2003, the project started in Ayabe, and the project has been held 10 times in the past 15 years. Not only Ayabe, but Tokushima City, Shizuoka City, Kanazawa City, and last year, Koya Town in Wakayama Prefecture hosted this event. So the project has been held 10 times. Ayabe City serves as the secretariat. The children from Israel and Palestine stayed in Japan for one week, enjoying their homestay.

Why was it started in Ayabe City? This is because Ayabe is the first city in Japan to make the World Federation Declaration. We believe that this can be one of the small steps toward a World Federation. Our declaration was made in 1950. This kind of project requires funding because we invite 12 children, and we need to cover their accommodation and travel expenses. So the issue is the funding. One dollar donation by local public servants who belong to World Federation Declaration Council is the source. One dollar or 100 yen donation collected from local public servants sum up to 6 to 7 million yen. This becomes the fund to cover their travel fee. After the project is over, we donate any residual amount money to UNHCR or UNICEF each year.

So, this project has been held 10 times, and there are some unforgettable words from the children who participated in this project. After a week in Japan, one boy said, “I thought that he was from a totally different world, but I realized that we are the same generation and share the same sense of value.” This kind of concept may be something taken for granted by Japanese children, but these are children who have hatred against each other and received such education.

Japanese host families are not good at using English, so the children need to find a way to communicate themselves. This is their first visit to Japan and first visit to Asia. On holidays, families often go to a rotating sushi shop, and the host family took them there. They really enjoyed and were surprised to see that you can take their favorite dishes by
themselves. There is a special type of noodle called *somen*, and there is a special device to flow the noodle down in bamboo pipes, and you pick up the noodle while it’s flowing down, but the children couldn’t understand what they were told to eat. So the children of Israel and Palestine started to cooperate together because otherwise, they did not understand what was being fed to them.

A boy said, “Before coming to Japan, I thought that realization of peace was impossible, but even though it may be difficult in my parent’s generation, I thought it may be possible in my generation.” These word made me grateful for continuing this project.

There is another incident I would like to share. They were on the same airplane when they went back. At Tel Aviv, children from Israel went through the custom smoothly, and their parents were waiting for their children’s return. Children from Palestine needed more time, sometimes they had to wait three hours for the custom, but children from Israel were waiting for their peers from Palestine. When they cleared the custom, they were hugging among themselves. This was communicated to us after they went home.

You may be wondering what the World Federation is. This is an international organization dealing with issues that cannot be solved in one country such as conflicts between nations and environmental problems. This is the World Federation. Conflicts can take place in any regions or in any cities. If there is a conflict between Ayabe City and a neighboring city, it will be mediated by the Governor of Kyoto. If there is a conflict between Kyoto Prefecture and other prefecture, the national government will mediate, but what about conflicts between nations? You may think about the United Nations, but there are some countries with vetoes. In that sense, there are limits to what United Nations can do in terms of finding solutions to the conflicts between nations. So the World Federation wishes to develop a mechanism that can govern all states. The World Federation believes that there should be only one mechanism, and the military should be controlled by only one person, although each state can maintain its sovereignty. As for the management of nuclear weapons, the World Federation advocates believe that the states cannot effectively manage them. Therefore, a supranational organization is needed in order to have effective management of nuclear
Physicists who developed nuclear weapons understood the necessity most deeply, and the World Federation Movement has been promoted by physicists who developed nuclear weapons. Einstein said that “preventing ruin on mankind must be given priority over anything. That is why I insist on the construction of the World Federation.” In tears, Einstein said, “because of my theory, the atomic bomb was dropped onto your country. I feel quite sorry for that,” and after that, Einstein started to work hard for the World Federation. Dr. Yukawa, the first Nobel laureate in Japan said that “the World Federation is dreaming of yesterday and it is the reality of tomorrow. Today is the first step to tomorrow.”

Japanese government made a commitment to World Federation in 2005. The two chambers of the Diet in Japan adopted a resolution to make a contribution to the World Federation. Former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu led this initiative. Ayabe is the first city which made the declaration. From above you can see that the park represents the symbol of World Federation. There are city-wide efforts for the World Federation.

Why is it that Ayabe took the initiative of starting the Middle East Peace Project? It is because Jerusalem is our sister city. This is Ambassador Kahanoff of Israel, and she often visits Ayabe. Representatives of Palestine also visits Ayabe.

There are municipalities promoting peace activities. For example, Mayors for Peace with Mayor Matsui as President, and National Council of Japan Nuclear Free Local Authorities, whose President is Mayor Taue of Nagasaki. I am the President of Japanese Council of Local Authorities for World Federation. All of these organizations are aiming to achieve the lasting world peace and elimination of nuclear weapons. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was adopted on July 7, needs to be accepted by the Japanese government, and this is what these organizations are trying to achieve.

We have the statue of Anne Frank and roses of Anne. There are many monuments in the city. GUNZE, a famous textile company, manufacturing quality underwear, originally started in Ayabe. They use silk from cocoon and cocoon is a symbol for Ayabe. This is
the character representing Ayabe City named Mayu-Pea. “Mayu” means cocoon and “Pea” here means peace. You can find the character on the slide.

There are things that are quite difficult for a national government, but may be easier for local authorities. Raising voices by local governments, for example, for the participation to the nuclear weapon prohibition treaty is one of them. Ayabe is now happy that both chambers of the Diet of Japan made a resolution to support the World Federation Movement. Diet members are elected from their electoral district and resolution taken by their electoral district would have a big impact on the elected officials and they will raise this at the Diet. Each politician has his/her personal views but they need to represent the voices of their local voters. I believe, through the activities of World Federation, the voices of local citizens can move the direction of the national government. The participation, or at least, the direction toward the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons should be promoted. Each individual city may be a small one, but if we get together, we can form a big river. We may be small, but we are not powerless. A big river starts with one drop of water. With this in mind, let us work together. Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Moderator
Mayor Yamazaki, thank you very much for your presentation. He has given us a very impressive presentation on the Middle East Peace Project and the World Federation and “Mayu-Pea.” Did you mention “Funassiyi”? I would like to see a nice and fairy battle between Funassiyi and Mayu-Pea, two interesting characters.

Now I’d like to open the floor for questions or comments to those four presentations. We can accept one or two questions or comments. Please state the name of your city, your name and title.

Question/Comment from the Floor 1:
Ms. Keiko Kiyohara, Mayor of Mitaka, Japan
Thank you very much. My name is Kiyohara, Mayor of Mitaka City of Tokyo. I would like to thank Mr. President, Mr. Vice President and Mr. Chairman. Today, I was able to listen to the efforts by local authorities, and I see some commonalities among them.
That is the memory of peace, memory of atomic bombing, that are conveyed to the young generation and through peace education, they are trying to develop role of cities for the future. It’s been 72 years since A-bombing in Japan and its memories are gradually fading away, and that’s our concern. But it seems that there were many examples from the four cities and how young people are trying to receive those important lessons. Especially the mayor of Ayabe mentioned that they are doing a very important program to link the children of Israel and Palestine. Now I have a question to the mayor of Hannover. Earlier, at the NGO booth, I saw the “50 Cities – 50 Traces” exhibition. For peace education, young people from Hannover and Hiroshima are interacting, and based upon these examples, “50 Cities – 50 Traces” was organized. You are trying to use art as a way to convey the lessons for the future. So, could you tell us more about this art exhibition, the purpose of this? I think we will be able to also use art to transmit our message for peace to young generation.

**Moderator**

I saw one more hand in the audience. This is the last one. Please.

**Question/Comment from the Floor 2:**

**Mr. Laurent Wehrli, Mayor of Montreux, Switzerland**

Thank you very much. My name is Laurent Wehrli, Mayor of Montreux in Switzerland. I’m also a member of the City Assembly. First, I would like to thank all the mayors and representatives of the local authorities for their wonderful presentations. Through this conference, we have been engaged in the work of memories, but also prevention. There was an interesting talk from the Philippines, children being recruited into terrorist groups. Terrible incident. That was an experience in the Philippines. There were so many things we have yet to do. Our work is not complete. I have a question not only to those mayors but also a question to the whole conference. This is also a political question. Not just memories but prevention. We are members of the assembly and we are politicians, and a mayor talked about the World Federation. Switzerland and Germany are federated states so we have some experience, but as Mayors for Peace organization, what can we do through our national governments? Cities need to work upon their national governments so that they can do the right job in international negotiations, for instance, adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
But how can we approach and influence the foreign ministers or national governments in the process of international negotiations? How can we really approach and pressure national governments or diplomats?

One more question is about Mayors for Peace. We are here as leaders of local governments. This morning, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ms. Nakamitsu gave a speech. I should have asked this question earlier, but what I want to ask is, why don’t we, Mayors for Peace, propose to the United Nations to work together with the United Nations for a city project? More horizontal urban project, I hope, will be launched for disarmament and for involvement of cities. This is something I would like to propose; inter-city solidarity project, for instance, urban projects. I hope that Mayors for Peace is able to propose such a project to the United Nations, and possibly some funding sources.

Comment from Local Authorities 1:
Ms. Maria Fernanda Olvera Cabrera, Director of the Institute of Youths, Mexico City, Mexico
Good afternoon. Thank you for this opportunity. I would like to thank all the presenters for their wonderful presentations. I am from Mexico City. For a local government, what can we do? I believe local governments can make an important contribution. I have two points to make. First important thing for all the projects is that the projects are directed for young people and young generation. In order to promote the culture of peace, we need to understand the importance of peace education. And we are focusing on not only the current situation but also on the future. We are responsible for the future, so we have to make decision right now to fulfill our responsibility toward the future. Nurturing of the peace culture for the world can be done not only at local level but also at national level and global level.

In Mexico City, we have a big issue. Nuclear weapon issue is not so well understood because Mexico is not a nuclear-weapon state. On the other hand, conventional weapons are posing serious issues because people have conventional weapons at home and are handed over from parents to the next generation in an illegal manner. This is a big issue for Mexico. Conventional weapons and illegal possession of conventional
weapons must be criticized because conventional weapons can kill people. Accidental use of conventional weapons in your house can kill a person. We have to change this situation. There are 26,000 guns in families in Mexico, so we are trying to collect these guns and weapons from homes. I believe that the city must make a proactive contribution. Anonymously, citizens of our city can submit these weapons to the government without any worries about legal prosecution. This is a project done in anonymity. Anonymity is quite important to build a confidence and trust. This is the Mexico City’s project. Engaging citizens is quite important for the young people.

**Moderator**

Thank you very much. We have received comments, and also, earlier, we have received two questions. I would like to ask the five representatives here to respond shortly, one minute each, starting with Hannover City, please.

**Mr. Thomas Hermann**

About the project “50 Cities – 50 Traces,” you will get some more information at the exhibition in the library, and we will present this project on Thursday in Session IV in details. So I won’t say anything more about this. I think what you mentioned is that we need to get young people involved in peace education. We certainly need a peaceful society in our cities and create such society together. If we don’t have peace, the world will be in external fears without peace. So I think this is the work we can do to bring peace to our cities and create good conditions to live together in a peacefully. Thank you.

**Mr. Jaime Fresnedi**

Based on the documentary as presented, as young as 7 years old are recruited to become Islamic extremists. This is the way now going on, especially in Mindanao. Mindanao is in the southern part of the Philippines. The President of the Republic of the Philippines declared martial law. Because of the problem of extremists, in fact, Marawi City, for the past almost 70 days, fighting between the military and extremists is going on. Based on the explanation given by the authority, the reason why these children as young as 7 years old are being recruited is poverty. Also discrimination against those in Mindanao area. So, local governments are concerned, including the Metro Manila, the heart of the
Philippines. We are the first local government to establish the Muslim Affairs Office. Also, traders from Mindanao are now going or spreading to other parts of the country, especially in Metro Manila. We want to let these Mindanao or Marawi traders feel that they are also being protected by the city government through the office that we established. In fact, the first local government outside of Mindanao who donated money to Marawi is Muntinlupa. We donated 2 million pesos to start, at least to uplift the sufferings, and also, lighten the burden. Probably outside of Mindanao, the city council is discussing about the possibility of adopting 1,000 students. We will give financial assistance to 1,000 students so that they could go back to school and return to education. We believe, local governments in other areas needs to be involved as this is an issue of our country. Based on the discussion that we just had, inviting experts about Mindanao issues to come out with a solution. We are also helping through peace education. Now we are coordinating with the Department of Education on peace education for junior and senior high school students in the City of Muntinlupa. Thank you.

**Moderator**

Thank you very much. Mayor Cibot, please.

**Mr. Michel Cibot**

I think there is one thing which is very clear. I think it was a very valid question. For instance, a mayor from Switzerland asked what political role cities can play. In the case of French government, we are a nuclear-armed state and the national government has been supporting nuclear policies, and they have influenced public opinion. I think the issues of violence need to be systematically analyzed. Violence are all connected, and the starting point of violence is poverty. In France, 3 billion euros have been spent on nuclear weapons, and the new government is planning to double the expenditures. That amount of budget could be used for eradicating poverty. So we need a systematic comprehensive approach. Violence is related to nuclear violence. Radiation will kill our future. We have to thoroughly look at all those issues systematically.

**Mr. Philippe Rio**

Mayor Cibot already expressed what I wanted to talk about, so it’s difficult but still, I would like to say a few words. We are here on this stage and we all are connected by
our wishes for peace. Memories and prevention should not be separated. In order to inherit the memories you need peace education, and a systematic approach. The representative from Mexico City mentioned that there are violence in your neighborhood. Weapons in Mexican families or the cases in the Philippines. These cases are related to nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons are the most destructive weapon, but biological weapons and chemical weapons are also very devastating. We have seen the cases of the use of chemical weapons in Syria. We need to exchange ideas as to what can be the best practices, and we have to apply pressures on our national governments. Education for peace must become part of the national curriculum of education. In the French Chapter, this is what we are trying to achieve. Although the national curriculum is not responding to our request yet, we are going to take all the opportunities to promote education for peace. There are series of war happening in the world. There are new types of warfare, including terrorism, and terrorism can happen or is happening in many places in the world. Our weapon is intellect and this can be used only through education.

**Moderator**
Ayabe City, please.

**Mr. Zenya Yamazaki**
I don’t think I have the capability to cover the whole world, so I will talk about Japan. I am a politician, and for politicians, elections are quite important. We need to secure votes to be elected. That means it’s quite important to bring budget from the national government to your local cities, attract industries or get road construction project. They may not be directly related to peace-related activities. However, I feel changes are coming. Especially, I see a few changes are happening among young people. The material affluence alone no longer their aspiration. They ask for psychological and spiritual richness. I see that there are more and more young people who would like to achieve spiritual richness, especially after the big earthquake in Japan with the nuclear power plant accident. They now realized that their urban life is quite vulnerable. So, they would like to go back to rural areas. They feel that there is a need to go back to the rural way of life. So this is the change we are seeing among young people. When we think about world peace and lasting world peace, the change of attitude among young
people makes us optimistic because we believe that younger generation can do something, but we need gradual efforts. As the mayor of Grigny mentioned, education is quite important. And it’s important for each local government to raise their voices so those voices will be heard and communicated by mass media. We need steady and continuous efforts to shape the concept of the future generations. In that sense, I believe that Mayors for Peace is making a great contribution. In Japan, I think there was an effect to some extent in the changes of the values among young people, at least in Japan. This is what I believe to be true. Thank you very much.

**Moderator**

We are gradually running out of time. Already, we received many requests for comments from the floor, many from local authorities. The time is of course limited, but as you can see, we have four speakers. First is Mr. Michel Tomasek, Dunkirk Urban Community of France.

**Comment from Local Authorities 2:**

**Mr. Michel Tomasek, Dunkirk Urban Community, France**

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Twice in the 20th century, there were terrible recollection and memories in the inhabitants in Dunkirk. In 1940, 1944 and 1945, our town was destructed. We stood back up on our feet with resilience and solidarity. There has been a rise in nationalism, and we have to come up with a solution. One of the solutions I can think of is try to focus on the memories, try to recover the memories. Our memories are fading. For us, because we have experienced destruction, our Mayor of Dunkirk Urban Community, Mr. Patrice Vergriete has issued a statement to create the Memory Cities Network in 2016 in May. Hiroshima, Ypres, Rostock, Gdansk, Saint Petersburg, Volgograd, Guernica, Caen, and Oradour-sur-Glane participated. In Volgograd, there was a meeting held on Memory Cities. Indeed the objective is a quite common with Mayors for Peace. The towns, which were once destructed, to be resuscitated. How are we going to reconstruct towns once ruined into ashes? If there are culture and heritages we need to regain, how are we going to do so? And how can we have the balance between memories and remembrance? In the rise of nationalism, we have to have a solid understanding and approach. Once again, we have to regain our memories. That’s for our future. Based on the foundational memories, we have to stand
Christopher Nolan, a director, shot the film *Dunkirk*. Last month, it made a box office record. I believe this movie will attract visitors to our city. It may offer an opportunity to think about the memories of the war. We need to fight against wars. We have to communicate the message for peace. It is not a simple thing, but for us living in this world, we have to look at what’s happening in reality, and we have to have a clear-cut analysis. Young people have the responsibility for the future. Where are they from? Where are their parents from? Where were their ancestors from? What were their experiences? That has to be known to the young people. That is going to be their commitment for the future.

**Moderator**

Thank you very much. From India, Mr. Thomas Mathew, please.

**Comment from Local Authorities 3:**

**Mr. Thomas Mathew, Mallapuzhasserry, India**

Good afternoon, respected mayors, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. There are many definitions and suggestions about peace. But the horror of wars, civil unrest, authoritarian rules, poverty, political agendas, etc. are mainly behind the difficulty of peaceful coexistence of humanity. At the same time, using science and technology for developing more sophisticated weapons, nuclear bombs, missiles, submarines, etc. taking away the efforts to make more advanced life of common people. We need to overcome it by common citizen’s awareness; they are the force behind the success of democracy and for a more peaceful world through electing their leaderships. Peace education through grass root level movements and educational institutions are very important to spread the importance of world peace and the methodology to achieve it. Ordinary citizens have been accessing to only limited information about the world peace problems or nuclear threats which may destroy the planet once and forever. Peace education is the tool for common people to fight against the thirst of the war or war mania. We have successfully organized more than 400 Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Education exhibitions and seminars across India and few in Nepal and Sri Lanka since 1990. My city Mallapuzhasserry, Kochi Metro City and YMCA India were fortunate to welcome Peace Boat Global Voyage for a Nuclear Free World in 2015 and 2016 in India, and participated in “I was at her age” project. Our NGO SEEDS-India in
Mallapuzhasserry, a small city in India, also organized Hibakusha Peace Tour in India in 1990, 1995, 1996, 1998 and 2012. Our city and 2020 Vision Campaign collected 10,000 peace signatures from India and handed over to the Honorable Mayor of Hiroshima City, Mr. Kazumi Matsui on August 5, 2015 at Mayor’s Chamber, Hiroshima. Today, I am proudly handing over another 10,000 signatures collected from different cities of India by last one year to enhance our efforts for a nuclear free world. I admire all the efforts and guidance of Mayors for Peace for a better, peaceful and just world. Now may I invite the honorable mayor to receive the peace signatures from India?

**Moderator**

Please give a big applause. Thank you very much Mr. Mathew and Mayor Matsui. Now, going back to Japan, Mr. Kenji Kitahashi, Mayor of Kitakyushu City, please.

**Comments from Local Authorities 4:**

**Mr. Kenji Kitahashi, Mayor of Kitakyushu, Japan**

Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, first I would like to express my heartfelt respect to all of you for your dedication to our work. Kitakyushu City is an industrial city, 200 kilometers to the east of Nagasaki. Seventy-two years ago, B-29 bomber aircraft flew not to Nagasaki, but to Kitakyushu. Because of the poor visibility with clouds, they couldn’t drop the bomb on our city, but they dropped it on Nagasaki. So we, the citizens of Kitakyushu feel equally deeply pained by the sorrow of Nagasaki and Hiroshima. Kitakyushu City declared itself a peace and non-nuclear city, and every year on August 9, in the central park of our city, in front of the Nagasaki Peace Bell, we have been holding the Peace Memorial Ceremony for many years now. Also on August 9, we send 150 pairs of parent and child as peace ambassadors to Nagasaki.

There is a girl named Kayoko Hayashi who died at the age of 15. In Shiroyama Elementary School, there is a cherry tree dedicated to her. Memories are gradually fading away, but we have a sincere desire to pass on the memory to the next generation. So our city decided to plant saplings, derived from this particular cherry tree, in all elementary schools and junior high schools with the involvement of citizens. We finished planting in all of these schools. In public spaces, such as parks, we are going to plant the saplings together with the citizens so that we can pass over our memories to
the next generation.

We have decided to construct a peace museum. It may take several years, but learning from the examples of the museums in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we are going to construct a peace museum to pass on the experience to the next generation. My mother is a hibakusha, so I am the second generation. Nuclear weapon abolition has been an issue which has been always close to my heart. Sometimes I feel difficulties, but by attending this Mayors for Peace General Conference, I am encouraged every time I’m here. Going beyond national boundaries, cities need to be united, and as we do so I’m sure that the ideal situation will come closer to us. Thank you very much.

**Moderator**

Thank you very much. The last speaker is from Iraq. From the City of Rawanduz, MP. Serwan Abdullah Ismail, former mayor, please.

**Comments from Local Authorities 5:**

**Mr. MP. Serwan Abdullah Ismail, Former Mayor of Rawanduz, Iraq**

Mr. Chairman, conference members, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. First of all, I would like to pass a warmest greeting from Peshmergas of Kurdistan to distinguished hibakusha and to soul of samurai, as well to the conference members. As an ex-mayor of Rawanduz City of Kurdistan, it’s a great honor to be here today to share with you the tragedies of the attack on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. During the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace, we provided a brief description of Kurdistan and our nation’s struggle and suffering from chemical attacks and genocide. Since then, we have suffered several tragedies. Many countries and cities have been destroyed, and we have lost so many loved ones, some Kurds, Arabs, Yazidis, Christians, and particularly among our samurai, the Peshmerga, Kurdistan’s international freedom fighters because they fought against ISIS for the last three years on behalf of the international community.

On the morning of June 9, 2014, we woke and realized that a new neighboring terrorist country on the border of Kurdistan with 1,050 kilometers was born. Meanwhile, Iraqi government put logistic and economic sanctions on Kurdistan. However, the brave
Kurdish Peshmerga, under the leadership of His Excellency President Masoud Barzani, fought ISIS, the most horrific and vicious international terrorist organization dangerous as atomic bombs. Eventually, Peshmerga defeated ISIS and extended extra guard to Kobane City in Kurdistan, and created great history as a symbol of international liberation.

After 13 years of bombardment, the City of Halabja was exposed to chemical weapons, and ISIS used chemical weapons against Kurdish Peshmerga and the Iraqi military. ISIS’s brutal actions against Yazidis and Sinjar City are considered as the 21st century genocide against humanity and Yazidis minority and Kurdistan. The Kurdistan region demonstrated a magnificent example of democracy and tolerance by welcoming 1.8 million displaced Iraqi people and 300,000 Syrians who fled from ISIS and gave them refuge in Kurdistan.

The war led hundreds of thousands of children out of schools. ISIS and some other militias, religious and sectarian’s groups were misusing young children, and put them in military bases and trained them how to use and to make weapons, including chemical weapons. Some of these children were involved in criminal and terrorist activities, and kids who survived from ISIS, needs psychology treatment. This is an extremely critical issue and we shall take it seriously, otherwise the entire humanity and the world will be at great risk. As Chairman of Education Committee, Iraqi House of Representatives, we strongly believe that the United Nations and International Committee should be more dedicated to support our tragedy. As mayors, we must all be involved and commit to our goal to convince our governments to invest on education sector. In this globalized era, education is the key solution for building nations and countries, and also for building a healthy society or raise our generations properly.

From the past century, Iraqi regimes persecuted brutally and after 14 years of the liberation of Iraq in 2003, the new centralized government of Iraq left no other choices for Kurds except for a referendum on independence, which is in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly resolution 1514 of December 14, 1960. Article 4 states, “All armed action or repressive measures of all kinds directed against dependent peoples shall cease in order to enable them to exercise peacefully and freely their right
to complete independence, and the integrity of their national territory shall be respected.”

In this regard, the Kurdistan Region Presidency decided to conduct and independence referendum on September 25, 2017. We ask for your support to influence your governments and politicians to respect our recognized result of Kurdistan’s referendum to exercise their simple right of self-determination.

We may have some irregular voices in our region that stands against Kurdistan’s referendum. However, whoever stands against the referendum, they should realize that they are against the principles of democracy that is contrary to international laws because they are seizing and violating the simple right of our nation.

Finally, the Kurdistan Regional Government and Iraqi government are fully supporting the aims of Mayors for Peace conference, and in order to execute these goals as mayors and world leaders, we should take more responsibility and put more pressure on world leaders to convince them to go toward banning nuclear and chemical weapons to save the world and civilization. The mayor and delegates of Kurdistan are standing with you in these efforts. Together we have a bright future ahead of us, and we look forward to the continued cooperation between our nation to prevent tyranny and to ensure global progress on the values that unite all of us to comply with the conference’s vision which is banning the nuclear weapons by the year of 2020. I wish you all the best and thank you for this opportunity.

**Moderator**

Thank you very much, Former Mayor Ismail. It has been extremely impressive speech which really weighs heavy on our hearts. Thank you very much. Please give him a big hand of applause once again.

Time to close the session is approaching near, but is there someone who has a burning wish to speak comment or quick question? We have five minutes. I see one person. Would you state the organization’s name and your name?

**Comment from the Floor:**

Ms. Mihoko Hamawaki, Japan
Thank you very much for giving me the floor. I do not belong to any organization. I’m just a citizen. I live in Nagasaki and I was born and grew up in this city. As a citizen, I would like to say a few words, and that is the reason why I took the floor. My grandmother was born in Shanghai and she was exposed to the A-bomb in Hiroshima and she came to Nagasaki. That was how our family started to live in Nagasaki. I finished my school education in Nagasaki until high school. So, I am one of those who received peace education you discussed about. I listened to the testimonies of hibakusha, and on August 9, we go to school and we assemble in the school gym, and for years and years, we continued to listen to testimonies of hibakusha in school. After finishing my high school education, I went to Nagasaki University for two years, and then went to a university in Tokyo. I’m really delighted that people highlighted and spoke very much about Nagasaki, but in Japan, there seems to be a big gap concerning peace education and how people think of peace education in Japan. For instance, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and also A-bomb, those words are part of our daily life, but that is not the case for people in Tokyo. For people in Tokyo, A-bomb is such a distant thing. It’s something they have nothing to do about. I studied law in university, and I have one experience at the University of Tokyo. Professor Michael Sandel came to Tokyo for a lecture, regarding the A-bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He asked whether we demand apology from the United States. I took the floor and I said, I am the third generation hibakusha and looking back on the education I received, I have some kind of hatred toward nuclear weapons but I couldn’t answer to the question. After I went to law school, I continued to try to find an answer to this difficult question, and one answer I came up within myself is that our country is under the rule of law. Each country has their own laws and rules, and we have conventions.

I think it is very important that we learn peace education with the importance on decision making in accordance with the laws and conventions. I recently watched a documentary film on Tokyo Tribunal, and there was a question dealt with that whether an individual is held accountable for what happened during a war. So what I want to ask you is to think about peace education not just about transmission of memories. For instance, knowledge about the laws, regulations and conventions, we need to understand how a certain convention is made, and also, peace education is about development at large. So for the future generations, I hope that they will learn what they can learn and
what they can use for productive discussions.

**Moderator**

Thank you very much. Would you please state your name if you do not mind?

**Ms. Mihoko Hamawaki**

Mihoko Hamawaki.

**Moderator**

Thank you. I think it’s now time to close our meeting, but before that, I would like to ask Mr. Komizo, Secretary General to give a wrap up.

**Summary:**

**Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, Secretary General of Mayors for Peace, Japan**

It’s an impossible job for me to give the summary. We listened to the presentations from five speakers. Hannover, indeed, starting from the membership fees with a lot of ideas started to have the succession and continuity of the memories including the youth education. They were all included in our action plan, indeed.

Muntinlupa is on the verge of difficulties. The city is close to Manila in Luzon Island, but you talked about Mindanao, where there are a lot of Islamic people who are faced with challenges and difficulties, and you also talked about the need of peace education. It is totally apart from the ideological importance of peace education.

And also Michel, our senior boss, maybe much younger than myself, but when it comes to your experiences in Mayors for Peace, and activities you are engaging, you know the power of nuclear weapons, much more than any representatives from any other countries because of your country. And you have been engaging yourself in the nuclear weapon abolition, as a super partisan representative of civil society. Be it terrorism, nuclear weapons, and peace education, seemingly, they might be separated out, but they are all interconnected. I believe that was the appeal you made. Through the activities in the past, we have discussed with representatives from different countries, in the past several years, about how we can create a nuclear-free world. Be it terrorism, immigrants
and refugees and environment, these have to be incorporated and embraced in our activities. Only we have the strong interest in these issues. We can understand the real threat of the nuclear weapons as well as the implications of the nuclear weapons.

From Grigny, Mayor, although you said you are young, or somebody said you are young, but still, you recognized the importance of the challenge, not only for the City of Grigny, but also you have given us the quick rundown of what’s happening in the other cities of France. Including the youth activities and also as well as exemplified by the statement by the lady from Nagasaki, it is not just keeping memories. What is a strong message and who are the receivers of these messages? It’s not just giving a message from one to the other.

Youths have to understand themselves through different ways: art, economy and laws. They would be able to create their model very close to them. There is a need for peace education. Otherwise, why do hibakusha keep sending their message? For them, they still have series of flashbacks and terrible memories which cannot be spoken of. But what is the messages they are sending? And what is the future of young people? We should never have to live in an era of war. Your hope, your wishes and children’s dreams and mothers’ dreams, how can we realize their dreams for the future? We have to have a good education so that young people would be embraced with such strength.

I’m not a descendent of hibakusha, but I interview and listen to their stories every week. The message of hibakusha is for the young people to have a bright future. That is the only wishes of hibakusha. In order to do so, we have to know what happened in the past. How atrocious, how miserable things one can do against the other. Terrible, atrocious acts can be imposed by a human against another human. That can happen in this human society. How can young people build up our future society? Only you can understand these things. You can understand why hibakusha share their experiences. They do have the feelings of retaliation. They do have hatred, but they know that the hatred and evil mind alone will not create a bright future. Unless you understand the feelings of hibakusha, you will not be able to put your hands together to create the future. These are the feelings which are kept in the minds of hibakusha. They are saying, “Do not let other people, young people go through the same suffering.”
We have 7,400 membership in Mayors for Peace. It was 4,500 five years ago, but it has increased to 7,400. It is expected to increase more. Why? Because the mayors are responsible for protecting their citizens for peace, for their well-being, and create vibrant cities with the sense of responsibility. They have to listen to the strong voices of hibakusha so that they can put their hands together to build a peaceful future. That is the reason why we are gathered here. There may be some objection in cities regarding attending this conference. Some even failed in the election because they were not in town. But in this kind of meeting, you will be able to listen to the voices of the others, they are standing on their feet right now, they are appealing to us all the way.

Mr. Mathew of India was once arrested. Majority of the people in India are happy, saying that, “We now have nuclear weapons.” But Mr. Mathew is a fair person. There was a person from Pakistan, and Japan was accused that they might resort to possess the nuclear weapons. This Pakistanis, after coming to the Peace Museum, said, “Nuclear weapons will not benefit anybody. Together, we have to create a world without nuclear weapons.” This is a person who is giving advice to the Pakistani government. Indeed, this is the spirit and wishes of hibakusha.

We have to have the understanding of young people and they need to think about with their intelligence and wisdom about the future. There is no guarantee, but in Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Dunkirk, there are many people who are trying to stand up on their feet and build a future. We can count on them. We have the confidence. We have the mayors gathered here, and some mayors who are not here share the same perception. If we cooperate together, have strong feelings to the people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, I think we will be able to do something. We have to create a peace model around us. Mayor of Ayabe said that Palestine is a far country, and we might not have close feelings as much as the examples of the children of Palestine and Israel, but it’s possible to invite those children to our place. That’s one good model. How can we create a model? Anybody can do this, and probably we would be able to achieve the objectives of Mayors for Peace.

In the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which was adopted, there were a lot of proposals made from Mayors for Peace. We were able to encourage and move the
leaders of states, and some additional provisions were added because of the proposals and suggestions made by Mayors for Peace. So the treaty is based upon the spirit of respecting diversity and to work toward the same goal of achieving nuclear weapons abolition from various pathways and perspectives. These are the spirits of Mayors for Peace, and that is why some of the draft wording of the treaty was amended in the process of negotiation. To each mayors here and to each one of you, I would like to sincerely thank for your dedication to this important cause. In order to realize a world where our wishes are realized and to celebrate our wonderful friendship, I hope all of us will continue to work together, and we will take care of ourselves. Thank you very much. I have spoken too long.

**Moderator**

Thank you very much Mr. Komizo, Secretary General. Thank you very much for the very passionate words. It’s really time, and according the scenario, I am to give the last comment, but I will not do that. Just one sentence. As I listened to the discussion, I saw a photograph of Dr. Einstein. Pugwash Conference was created based upon the Russell-Einstein Manifesto and I would like to quote one phrase from that. Let’s say this together. I think you all know this. “Remember your humanity and forget the rest.” These are the last words we would like to say together. Are you ready? Let’s say this together. “Remember your humanity and forget the rest.” Thank you very much. This concludes Session II. Thank you very much.

**MC**

Thank you very much, everyone. This conclude Session II. I would like to thank all of you for your cooperation for the smooth conduct of the discussion and meeting.