The 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace

Closing Ceremony

August 10 (Thu), 2017  12:15-12:45
Nakabe Hall, Nagasaki University Bunkyo Campus

Chorus Performance:
   Elementary School Attached to the Faculty of Education,
   Nagasaki University

Messages and Addresses:
   Eddy Newman
   Lord Mayor of Manchester, UK

   Tomihisa Taue
   Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor of Nagasaki, Japan

   Kazumi Matsui
   President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor of Hiroshima, Japan
Closing Ceremony

MC
Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for waiting. Let us now commence the closing ceremony. Before the closing ceremony, we would like to invite elementary school children from the Elementary School Attached to the Faculty of Education, Nagasaki University to sing songs.

Chorus Performance: Elementary School Attached to the Faculty of Education, Nagasaki University
(Performance)

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. It was A Thousand Paper Cranes. Every year on August 9, this song is sung at the Peace Ceremony. Every month on the 9th, at 11:02, when the A-bomb was dropped, there would be the broadcasting of this song. There is the aspiration for peace in each one of the paper cranes. We shall continue to sing this song. The next song is titled, Let’s Shake Hands. We would like to be closer to you. While we are singing song, we are going to give you a present. Let’s shake hands!

(Performance)

We shall see you again. Thank you very much.

MC
Thank you very much. Those were the children from the Elementary School Attached to the Faculty of Education, Nagasaki University. Thank you for your wonderful choruses.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, we would like to commence the closing ceremony of the 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace. On behalf of the participants, we would like to invite Lord Mayor of Manchester, Mr. Eddy Newman to address to us.

Address by the Representative of Participants:

Mr. Eddy Newman, Lord Mayor of Manchester, UK
Konnichiwa. Mayor Matsui, Mayor Taue, Secretary General Komizo, fellow mayors,
ladies and gentlemen. First thing I want to say was not in my written speech. That was such a wonderful performance from the children there. There is the saying common to all of us, I think, that children are the future. I’m sure that the future of Nagasaki is assured with the children like that.

I am delighted to be able to speak to you today in the closing ceremony of the 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace, here in the beautiful city of Nagasaki. I have listened carefully to all the sessions of the conference and can see the energy, determination and unity that exists in our large organization committed to peace and a world free of nuclear weapons.

This is my first visit to Japan and I have been very impressed with the organization of all of the events. It was a great honor to represent Manchester at the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Peace Ceremonies. I found them to be truly respectful and dignified events commemorating those who had died in the terrible attacks of August 6 and August 9, 1945. It is so important to also remember those whose health is still affected by the atomic weapon attacks and nuclear weapon test programs and to call for a different way of doing things—a peaceful way of cooperation, solidarity, mutual respect and understanding. That is why I came into politics and I am sure that this is also why you are here today.

In November 1980, 37 years ago, Manchester was one of the first local councils to declare itself a Nuclear Free Zone. I am proud that—as a young Councillor then—I was involved in putting forward that policy.

This year, on May 22 at around 10.30pm in my city of Manchester, thousands of excited children and their parents were leaving Manchester Arena Concert Hall after a wonderful concert by the American singer Ariana Grande. Seconds later a suicide bomber exploded a device near the entrance of the Arena, which adjoins one of Manchester’s main railway stations. Many received terrible injuries and sadly 22 people, including children and young people, were killed in this vile act of terrorism. My city, like many other cities around the world who have been affected by such incidents, was shocked to the core.
In coming here to Hiroshima and Nagasaki I have been touched by the spirit of the hibakusha, the survivors of the bomb. Their spirit of solidarity, of reconciliation, of caring for each other. Such a spirit has also come from Manchester after this terrible incident. I was honored to lead a vigil the day after the attack outside Manchester Town Hall in front of tens of thousands of people and I have been present at many other similar events. There has been a great sense of solidarity, love, grief and disbelief, but a common and joint desire that this incident would not divide our city.

Manchester is a very diverse city made up of people from many different ethnic origins. It is a very tolerant city where mutual respect remains the dominant theme. It is a true city of peace. The days and weeks after this attack have seen our city come together like never before, and I am sure that this will continue.

Through Mayors for Peace, Manchester has worked for a more peaceful world free of nuclear weapons. Now, more than ever, we will work for a world where mutual respect, co-operation, solidarity, and peace prevail, and we hope you will all continue to join with us in that challenge. Mayors for Peace can be a beacon for peace to the communities we represent. It has played such an important role this year in achieving the historic Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty, and now our challenge is to follow this up by persuading nuclear weapon states like the United Kingdom, my own country, to implement a policy of multilateral nuclear disarmament.

I would like to thank the organizers of this conference in Nagasaki for all their hard work in bringing us all together. I would like to thank the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Mayors for Peace Secretary General and the wider Secretariat and my fellow Executive Members for the very strong and good leadership they provide to our organization. I welcome the ‘Nagasaki Declaration’ that we have just agreed as our call to the world to change and to embrace peace. Let us all do that together in the spirit of solidarity that is at the heart of Mayors for Peace, is at the heart of the cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima as I’ve seen this week, is at the heart of the city of Manchester and all your own towns and cities. No one wants war, people want peace. Let us unleash the positive spirit of the hibakusha and the spirit of all those who campaign for peace.
Thank you, on behalf of the all the participants, for your attendance and I wish you well as you send this message back home to your families, your cities and your countries. Thank you.

**MC**
Thank you very much, Lord Mayor Eddy Newman.

Mayor of Nagasaki, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Mr. Tomihisa Taue is going to address you.

**Closing Remarks:**

**Mr. Tomihisa Taue, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor of Nagasaki, Japan**

We are now concluding the 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace, and as we just heard from the Lord Mayor of Manchester, I agree with him about the wonderful performance by the children. Yesterday, at the Peace Ceremony, we heard children who joined us for the performance of songs as we enjoyed today. The stories are quite serious, talking about the tragedy, making us feel very low and down. And the children’s song and voices can purify our distress in our heart. I believe that children have a special power to encourage us to keep on working toward our aims.

We had four days for the general conference. I can say that we had a wonderful conference, rich in content, I would like to express my thanks to all the member cities, the three moderators, and all the supporting organizations and their staff. Thank you very much. Please accept my deep feeling of thanks.

We were able to adopt the special resolution. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is a treaty that illegalize nuclear weapons, and this is one of the positive outcomes of the efforts made by Mayors for Peace. This was possible because of the strong activities by the A-bomb survivors or hibakusha. Now that the treaty is successfully adopted, we could confirm that the role we have taken so far was in the right direction.

This general conference was able to adopt the special resolution and I believe this is one
of the important outcomes of our conference. We were also able to adopt the Nagasaki Appeal. We have more than 7,400 cities as members of Mayors for Peace. We have formed a very big network, and as we see this expansion of the network, we need to incorporate new types of activities. Our common and ultimate goal is the total elimination of nuclear weapons. In addition to that, creation of culture of peace and engagement in peace education is also mentioned in the Nagasaki Appeal. And also for each region, we decided to start tackling with regional issues as we stated in the Nagasaki Appeal. The Nagasaki Appeal clearly shows us the future direction of the activities of our organization. In 2020 and beyond 2020, what are we going to do? We need to start discussion about the future vision. I believe that the Nagasaki Appeal gives us wonderful suggestion about our future activities. We also adopted the Action Plan for 2017 to 2020. Again, the action plan is quite rich in content, and we have been collaborating and we have never given up. Small voices can be united into a larger voice, which clearly show that small pieces of voice are actually the biggest voice of humanity.

We were able to prepare the program to implement the action plan for the coming three years. The coming three years is quite important. Vision 2020 has been the target for us. But what is going to be our vision beyond 2020? I think we are at the important time where we need a serious discussion. We had a wonderful face-to-face talk with each other, had discussions, and deepened our friendship. I believe that we were able to strengthen the network of Mayors for Peace. Let us seek for another opportunity so that we can further deepen our friendship and have more discussion which will enlarge the many small voices. In the 9th General Conference, I was able to conclude with a wonderful outcome. I am proud of being a member of this wonderful team, and by taking one step at one time, let us continue walking with confidence in what we are doing. I would like to renew my thanks to all of you who made this general conference to be held in a successful manner. Thank you very much.

**MC**
In closing, on behalf of the organizer, President of Mayors for Peace, Mr. Kazumi Matsui, Mayor of Hiroshima gives us a closing address.
Closing Remarks:

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

In closing, please allow me to say a few words as the President of Mayors for Peace. I would like to be brief. Just a minute ago, we adopted the Nagasaki Appeal as the outcome of this general conference. We are about to end this conference, going over for three days. I would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to the member cities, governments, participants from NGOs, and all the staff and volunteers who have supported this conference. My deepest thanks go to all of you.

In this conference, we prepared a new action plan for the target year of 2020, and Nagasaki Appeal. Now is time for us to work together with all of you to achieve an early joining of all the states to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, along with our action plan, and also to work hard for the resolution of diverse issues faced by regions. Needless to say, our activities require partnership and collaboration with the citizens, as many citizens as possible, and working together with a wide range of entities and players, including the United Nations, national governments and NGOs. I would like to continue to ask for your kind understanding and cooperation.

The next general conference is going to be hosted in 2020 in Hiroshima. By that time, let us all make further efforts to make a sure step forward toward a peaceful world without nuclear weapons. Thank you very much once again. I would like to thank you once again for your very kind cooperation. This concludes my speech. I would like to see all of you again. Thank you.

MC

Now, as the finale of this general conference, municipal leaders and children are asked to sing together a song. Mayors, would you please come to the stage and join the children in singing this song *It's A Small World*?

(Performance)

Thank you very much. Three years from today in 2020, the 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace will be hosted by the City of Hiroshima. To pass on the Nagasaki’s
message, wishing for a lasting world peace, one thousand paper cranes made by the pupils of the elementary school are passed on to Hiroshima City. Members of the choir, would you please hand over the one thousand paper cranes to the mayor of Hiroshima?

Please give them a big hand of applause with our sincere wish for realizing a lasting world peace.

Ladies and gentlemen, this concludes the 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace. Thank you very much for your very kind participation in the four-day period. Thank you.