



## Mayors for Peace

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### Secretariat

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### International Day of Peace 2013

Dear fellow Mayor for Peace,

In 1981, the United Nations General Assembly, by unanimous vote, adopted a resolution establishing the International Day of Peace (IDP) which stated in part, "...to devote a specific time to concentrate the efforts of the United Nations and its Member States, as well as the whole of mankind, to promoting the ideals of peace and to giving positive evidence of their commitment to peace in all viable ways." In 2001, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution which established September 21 as a fixed IDP date and annual day of non-violence and cease-fire. The UN invites all nations and people to honor a cessation of hostilities during IDP, and to otherwise commemorate the International Day of Peace through education and public awareness on issues related to peace and wellbeing for all.

Since then, there have been many events around the world commemorating the International Day of Peace. Mayors for Peace has been a long-time supporter of IDP as a means to remind people of the inhuman suffering experienced by Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the urgent need to realize a world without nuclear weapons.

At IDP last year, the *hibakusha* and other people gathered in Hiroshima, and held a minute of silence at noon in front of the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims. Furthermore, a banner was raised calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020, and they prayed for the eradication of nuclear weapons and a lasting world peace. Commemoration events were carried out not only in Hiroshima, but also in many member cities such as Montreal, Chicago, Manchester, and Geneva.

The theme for the International Day of Peace 2013 is "Education for Peace." This theme offers us an opportunity to inspire young people to get involved in vital global efforts to abolish nuclear weapons and end war.

With this goal in mind, the City of Hiroshima will hold commemoration events involving *hibakusha* and young people once again this year. Additionally, in collaboration with the NGOs Pathways To Peace, Cercle de Paix – Circle of Peace and their many partners, including the International Day of Peace NGO Committee at the UN, the City of Montreal will hold a "Minute of Silence – Moment of Peace" ceremony and broadcast it via the internet. Furthermore, discussions are being held to relay to the world the efforts of various regions through the United Nations website.

In this context, we humbly ask that you pray for the arrival of a peaceful world without nuclear weapons, and hold an event to mark the International Day of Peace 2013. If you intend to organize such an event, I would be pleased if you could inform our office.

Sincerely yours,

MATSUI Kazumi  
Mayor of Hiroshima  
President of Mayors for Peace