



Mayors for Peace

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Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

Dear Fellow Mayor:

I hope this message finds you in the best of health and spirits.

Please accept my sincere appreciation for your support and cooperation with the Mayors for Peace initiatives.

This year, Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be facing the landmark 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings. Each city will hold a peace memorial ceremony respectively on August 6th and 9th. I hope this occasion serves as a chance to disseminate the *hibakusha* message that “no one else should ever suffer as we did” and their earnest desire that nuclear weapons be abolished throughout the world. May it be a time to renew our commitment to realize a peaceful nuclear-free world so that that hell we experienced seventy years ago will never revisit the Earth.

It is my sincere hope that this milestone 70th anniversary year will spur us to share the *hibakusha* message and strengthen our efforts toward these goals by working closely with the citizens of our member cities of Mayors for Peace, which has grown into a global network with over 6,700 member cities in 160 countries and regions.

In this context, we ask you to please consider remembering our common cause in your municipality by, for example, observing a moment of prayer on the memorial days of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We would be grateful if you could also implement measures listed in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2013-2017). I am pleased to inform you that a number of our member cities have informed us about various events they are planning. (See attachment.)

With the average age of the *hibakusha* now 80 years old, the fading of memories of atomic bombing is causing increasing concern. It is our urgent task to pass on the reality of the atomic bombings and the meaning of peace to future generations and across the world. Let us reinforce and expand our activities by actively exchanging our plans.

July 23, 2015

MATSUI Kazumi
President of Mayors for Peace
Mayor of Hiroshima