



THE CITY OF

**HIROSHIMA**

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### **Message from the Mayor of Hiroshima**

It is an honor and pleasure to send this message on the occasion of a planting ceremony at the International Committee of the Red Cross headquarters in Geneva.

We, the citizens of Hiroshima, hold a deep gratitude for the work of Dr. Marcel Junod, chief representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Japan, who through his devoted actions gave the *hibakusha* courage and hope to live amidst the ruins 68 years ago. Hiroshima being able to revive itself into the bustling city it is now is thanks to the support of Dr. Junod and many other people around the world, and I would like to once again express my gratitude. As mayor of the atomic bombed city that shares your peaceful intentions, I would also like to express my deep respect for all of you displaying strong leadership towards worldwide nuclear weapons abolition, focusing on the inhumanity of such weapons.

Now, 68 years after the atomic bombing, the *hibakusha* continue to age. The most important consideration at this point is to make sure that it remains possible to faithfully pass on and share their experiences of the bombing and their wish for peace, which I recognize as Hiroshima's mission.

At the NGO Session of the NPT Review Conference Second Preparatory Committee which was held in Geneva from the end of this April until the beginning of May, as President of Mayors for Peace, I emphasized the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and called for the necessity of working towards the earlier realization of a nuclear weapons convention, and I received strong endorsement. At that time, I also had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Christine Beerli, Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who shares my opinion that our cooperation towards holding an A-bomb exhibition to communicate the reality of the bombing must be developed even further.

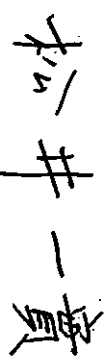
Mayors for Peace, of which I am President, now enjoys a membership of over 5,700 cities from 157 countries and regions around the world. The population of those cities makes up one-seventh of the total population of the world, or 1 billion people. With this collective power, the 2020 Vision, which aims to abolish nuclear weapons by 2020, is developing globally.

Along with advancing the initiatives of Mayors for Peace, I would also like to keep promoting cooperation with the Red Cross, which shares the goal of the elimination of nuclear weapons. Today, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August, you are planting a sapling of a tree which survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima to spread a message of peace to raise world public awareness for the abolition of nuclear weapons. This event has a great significance and I offer my utmost respect to you all.

The average age of the *hibakusha*, whose heartfelt desire is to witness the elimination of nuclear weapons within their lifetimes, is now over 78 years. In light of this, my earnest hope is that our concerted efforts will successfully eradicate the absolute evil of nuclear weapons and that we can realize a peaceful world if even one day sooner. Let us join hands and bring to life a new movement towards a bright future for humanity.

In closing, I extend my best wishes for the great success of the ceremony, and the good health and happiness of all involved.

August 6, 2013

Handwritten signature in black ink, reading '松井一實' (Matsui Kazumi).

MATSUI Kazumi

Mayor

The City of Hiroshima