

Greetings from Nagasaki Mayor:

Taue Tomihisa

Mayor of Nagasaki City

On behalf of the citizens of Nagasaki, I'd like to welcome the holding of the World Conference against A and H Bombs in Nagasaki, and I'd also like to extend my cordial welcome to all of you who have come from throughout Japan and from around the world.

Two years have passed since the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted. As some speakers mentioned earlier, as of August 6 yesterday, with Bolivian participation, the number of ratifying countries reached 25. However, this is only half way. Ratification by 25 more countries is still a pressing need.

While the treaty has brought us hope, the world situation surrounding nuclear arms is becoming extremely severe: The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty is no longer effective; and the Iran nuclear deal is also in a parlous state. Under these international circumstances, we all must go back to our starting point and remember that civil society has power. In our "Peace Declaration" that will be issued the day after tomorrow at the peace memorial ceremony, I will call upon people to recall once again that civil society has power to bring about change and that we must build up our powers together.

The strongest power for the abolition of nuclear weapons lies in civil society, and one specific way to visualize such power is what was suggested earlier by Mr. Tanaka Terumi, Co-Chair of Nihon Hidankyo, i.e., the "International Hibakusha Appeal" signature campaign. I myself will work together with you to promote and spread this signature drive in order for more people to sign as a concrete action to raise their voices against nuclear weapons.

We are now coming to the end of the era where Hibakusha are still with us, and the start of the era without Hibakusha is approaching. I'd like to think together with you again what this really means. Listening to Hibakusha telling us of their experiences, we have been given a lot of opportunities to look at the issue of nuclear weapons. Entering the era without any Hibakusha, is it possible for us to really convey the horror of nuclear weapons to younger generations? This question is now posed to the whole world. There are many things that we must do while Hibakusha are still alive. At the same time, we must prepare for the upcoming era without Hibakusha. In cooperation with you, I will make sure to convey the dreadfulness of nuclear weapons to our children and will work even harder to make the best use of the power of civil society to achieve a world without nuclear weapons as early as possible, so that

nuclear weapons can never be used again in our childrens and grandchildrens times.

I appreciate that you gather here in Nagasaki every year to raise the cry, "No Nukes!" with us. It is very encouraging for us, Nagasaki citizens. The louder our voices in Hiroshima and Nagasaki sound, some people may misunderstand that this is a problem of our two cities only. However, that is not the case. It is the worlds problem and not a thing of the past. It is a present and future issue. That is why we should continue passing our message down from generation to generation. I believe the message will be passed on to younger generations when non-Hiroshima/Nagasaki citizens begin sending this same message as their own.

Please take what you have learned in this conference back to your communities and countries and expand the circle of "No Nuke!" as wide as you can. On behalf of Nagasaki citizens, and as your friend, Id like to ask you to do so from the bottom of my heart.

Earnestly hoping that our common efforts will bear fruit and a nuclear weapons-free world will be established without delay, let me close my greetings of welcome and solidarity to you all. We continue to count on your efforts. Thank you.