



CITY OF NAGASAKI

Mayoral Message

On behalf of the citizens of Nagasaki, I would like to extend this message to the “The Peace Lantern Ceremony”.

At 11:02 a.m., August 9th, 1945, Nagasaki was devastated by a single atomic bomb. 74,000 precious lives were lost, and a further 75,000 were injured. Those who narrowly survived carry deep mental and physical wounds that will never heal. Even today, 71 years after the bombing, many people are still suffering from the aftereffects of radiation.

In order to prevent a repetition of the tragedy wrought by nuclear weapons, the citizens of Nagasaki have continued to convey the reality of the atomic bombing, and have appealed for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Awareness is growing within the international community towards the inhumanity of nuclear weapons. In April 2015, I participated in the “Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)”, which was held at the United Nations headquarters in New York. There, I appealed to government representatives from around the world, urging them to make the Conference a turning point for a new world which denies the worth of nuclear weapons. At the same time, I requested that heads of state, and those involved in the nuclear problem, visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Following this, an Open-ended Working Group to debate a legal framework for the abolition of nuclear weapons was held at the UN General Assembly. The debate began in February at the UN Office at Geneva, and a report and a recommendation is due to be published in the fall.

The threat posed by nuclear weapons is not confined to Hiroshima and Nagasaki’s pasts. Nuclear weapons are a problem threatening both our present and our future. Nagasaki will continue to work with you for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and for the realization of lasting world peace.

Through “The Peace Lantern Ceremony”, I hope that the citizens of Berkley will share Nagasaki’s wish for peace, and spread the appeal for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

In closing, please accept my best wishes for the good health and happiness of all those present.

Tomihisa Taue
Mayor of Nagasaki
August 2016