

# Special Statement Calling for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons and Lasting World Peace

23 May 2016

71 years ago, an atomic bomb, the first nuclear weapon used in human history, was dropped on Hiroshima. In an instant, the scorching heat of the flash and the shock wave of the blast completely destroyed the city of Hiroshima. Many precious lives were lost, and numerous others sustained injuries.

A nuclear-weapon-free world is a long-term desire of all the prefectures of the Chugoku Region including Hiroshima Prefecture, a prefecture that has experienced firsthand the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons. However, there are still enough nuclear weapons in existence in the world to annihilate all life, and the risk of their proliferation and use is ever increasing on a global scale.

We believe that President Obama's visit to Hiroshima marks a historic resolution that inspires courage around the world at a time when progress towards the abolition of nuclear weapons is stagnant. We at the Chugoku Region Governors Association pay our highest respects to President Obama for his visit to Hiroshima.

We offer our condolences to those who perished by the atomic bombings, and appeal for the following:

## 1 Towards the abolition of nuclear weapons;

For world leaders to visit Hiroshima, see with their own eyes the inhumanity of nuclear weapons, and take new steps towards the abolition of nuclear weapons.

## 2 Towards lasting world peace;

For all people to endeavor towards the global abolishment of nuclear weapons and make efforts for the realization of lasting world peace

## Chugoku Region Governors Association

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| Governor of Tottori Prefecture   | Shinji Hirai      |
| Governor of Shimane Prefecture   | Zembee Mizoguchi  |
| Governor of Okayama Prefecture   | Ryuta Ibaragi     |
| Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture | Hidehiko Yuzaki   |
| Governor of Yamaguchi Prefecture | Tsugumasa Muraoka |