

Greeting Message

On behalf of the people of Hiroshima Prefecture, I offer my humblest condolences for the departed souls of the atomic bombing victims, and would like to give my heartfelt sympathies to the survivors of the atomic bombing who are still suffering the aftereffects today and their families.

I would like to put my full efforts into further improving the survivor support measures so that survivors both living in Japan and abroad can be provided appropriate care based on each of their circumstances as they continue to reach more advanced ages.

It has finally been 70 years since the first atomic bombing in human history took place here in Hiroshima. At this time 70 years ago, in a hell on earth, there were some who were instantly charred black and others who suffered vicious burns and sought water while enduring tremendous pain. In this area alone, thousands of precious lives were lost when they were reduced to ash along with the town.

The victims included numerous young girls, lively children, and innocent infants. When thinking on this fact, my heart is filled with the deep sadness which makes my chest tighten anew.

The terror of the atomic bombings did not end here. Ten years after the bombing, Sadako Sasaki, an energetic child talented in foot racing, suddenly developed leukemia due to the exposure to radiation from the atomic bombing, and her short life of twelve years ended even though she put her hopes for survival into folding paper cranes until her last. Even today, 70 years after the bombings, many survivors still suffer from and frightened by the aftereffects, being unable to escape the trauma of the literal hell on earth they experienced.

It does not matter who uses them, or for what reason, the use of nuclear weapons will result in the most inhumane consequences. As is engraved in

the memorial cenotaph, this must never happen again.

Nuclear weapons absolutely need to be abolished indefinitely.

The idea that we are able to keep the security because we have nuclear weapons is simply an imaginary *theory*.

In stark contrast to this is the *reality* of consequences of nuclear weapons use evidenced in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The wisdom of humankind should not be used for a literally “MAD” idea as the “Mutually Assured Destruction”, which pays attention to how to avoid the use of nuclear weapons on the premise that they exist. Instead, it should be used to think of how we can eliminate nuclear weapons from the earth.

Hiroshima is the place where the *theoretical* myth that *security can be achieved through nuclear weapons* will be changed into *reality that nuclear weapons result in hellish consequences*.

I am certain that Hiroshima must concentrate the wisdom of humanity and become a hub for global peace, a central location in realizing world peace.

In recent years, regarding approaches taken toward the abolition of nuclear weapons, the gap between nuclear-weapon states and non-nuclear-weapon states has widened and it has led to a stalemate in the progress of nuclear disarmament. This is only because nuclear-weapon states continue to possess nuclear weapons.

Accordingly, the responsibility for bridging this gap falls heavily on states that continue to possess these weapons. What they must accomplish is not the modernization of their nuclear weapons, but they must think on what is needed to bring about a security that does not rely on the existence of nuclear weapons. Also, non-nuclear-weapon states must bear a portion of the responsibility for filling in this gap by patiently encouraging nuclear-weapon states to pursue the previously mentioned efforts, lending

their knowledge to them and supporting them.

It is precisely because there is presently a lack of progress in nuclear arms reduction that we must gather together the wisdom of all of humanity to find a solution to this problem.

I, as Governor of an atomic-bombed land, urge political leaders around the world to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Then, I am sure they will become determined to work to eliminate all nuclear weapons after seeing the *reality* of these inhumane weapons.

The Hiroshima of today has achieved a miraculous recovery, looks stunning, and gives hope that prosperity is still possible to people suffering from conflict around the world. The cornerstone of this prosperity is nothing other than *peace*.

As a hub for global peace, we in Hiroshima would like to make an international contribution to rid the planet of nuclear weapons, and to progress toward a world built on peace.

I would like to conclude my message by pledging that we in Hiroshima will act in cooperation with the international community in order to achieve this goal.

August 6th, 2015

Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture
Hidehiko Yuzaki