

Message from the Mayor

I would like to say a few words on the occasion of the Hiroshima-Platz Memorial Completion Ceremony.

The fact that this memorial, which was built using A-bombed stone from the Hiroshima Electric Railway Co. streetcar line, is being placed at Hiroshima-Platz to remind the world of the tragedies that occurred in Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be a powerful source of courage and hope for the countless cities and citizens around the world who are working to bring about a nuclear-weapon-free world. I have the utmost respect for all who are involved with this endeavor.

The hopes for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the realization of lasting world peace held by Mayor Jann Jakobs and everyone else who lent their efforts for this project are the same as the hopes held by Hiroshima's citizens, especially the *hibakusha*. Through the leadership of President Obama and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who will be the first secretary-general to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki, our hopes have finally spread around the world.

The City of Hiroshima is currently working with the over 4,000 member cities of Mayors for Peace, their citizens, and peace-related NGOs around the world to realize our 2020 Vision. We are determined to abolish nuclear weapons by 2020 because we wish to enter a world without nuclear weapons with as many *hibakusha* as possible. Furthermore, if the current generation fails to eliminate nuclear weapons, we will have failed to fulfill our minimum responsibility to those that follow.

In order to realize our 2020 goal, we must put as much effort as possible into generating sufficient political will among governments, including those of nuclear weapons states, to launch negotiations for a nuclear-weapon-free world. To make this happen, we must also work to create even greater momentum by building the global consensus for this cause. The time has come to press hard for a Nuclear Weapons Convention or other legal framework and have states recognize the importance of our 2020 Vision time frame.

In closing, I sincerely hope that everyone in attendance at the ceremony will take into their hearts the same hopes for nuclear weapons abolition that were put into this memorial and join us in our efforts to create a nuclear-weapon-free world by the year 2020.

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