



CITY OF NAGASAKI

MESSAGE

On behalf of the citizens of Nagasaki, it is my great pleasure to have this opportunity to send you a message on the occasion of the 2007 Peace Lantern Ceremony, held in the city of Berkeley.

In April of this year, Iccho Itoh, former Mayor of Nagasaki was shot dead in a wanton act of violence. We were greatly comforted and encouraged by the warm sympathy and words of condolence sent to us from your city and many others around the world. I would like to express my deep gratitude for your kind gesture.

On August 9, 1945, the city of Nagasaki was instantly transformed into ruins by a single atomic bomb, killing 74,000 and injuring 75,000. Those who narrowly survived were afflicted with deep physical and mental wounds that could never be healed. It has been 62 years since the atomic bombing, many people are still suffering from radiation-related disorders and anxiety that accompanies them.

In today's world we see that no attempts at nuclear disarmament being made by the nuclear-armed nations, and conversely even more countries are becoming nuclear powers. We cannot help feeling a strong sense of crisis that the world is again moving towards nuclear proliferation and a nuclear arms race. To make Nagasaki the last place on earth to be subjected to an atomic bombing, we have decided to carry on former mayor Itoh's commitment to the elimination of nuclear weapons which bring about such inhumane and atrocious results.

In order to achieve the elimination of the nuclear weapons, it is very important for us to understand the preciousness of peace and to share that feeling with as many people as possible, transcending generations and borders. I sincerely hope that the 2007 Peace Lantern Ceremony will serve to help make many more people in Berkeley aware of the earnest desire for a safe and peaceful world free of nuclear weapons embraced by the citizens of Nagasaki.

Lastly, I send my best wishes for the great success of the event and for the good health and happiness of all the people gathered here today.

August 3, 2007

田上 富久

Tomihisa Taue
Mayor of Nagasaki