



August 6, 2006

A Message from the Mayor

It is an honor and a pleasure to send a message to the 2006 Japanese Peace Lantern Ceremony in Berkeley.

Based on our experience of the world's first atomic bombing, the city of Hiroshima has called continually for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the realization of genuine and lasting world peace. Unfortunately, many areas of our world remain trapped in cycles of hatred, violence, and retaliation. Our planet still bristles with vast arsenals of nuclear weapons, and the probability that a nuclear weapon will be used is actually growing. In May 2005, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference ended with no progress whatsoever toward disarmament.

In response, the city of Hiroshima and the Mayors for Peace, which now boasts 1,350 city members, is conducting what we call our 2020 Vision Campaign. Working with cities, NGOs, and citizens around the world, we are campaigning for the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020. As a part of this effort, August 6, 2005 to August 9, 2006, has been declared a Year of Inheritance, Awakening, and Commitment. During this time, cities around the world will be implementing a diversity of campaigns in association with countries, NGOs, and individuals to abolish nuclear weapons.

In this context, the fact that many people in the pace-setting city of Berkeley are participating in Peace Lantern Ceremony like Hiroshima's is deeply meaningful, and I hereby express my admiration and gratitude to the organizers. I hope you will all continue to work with us and do everything in your power to abolish nuclear weapons and build a genuinely peaceful world.

I close with my best wishes for the success of the Peace Lantern Ceremony and for the continued good health of all involved.

Sincerely yours,

Tadatoshi Akiba
Mayor
The City of Hiroshima