

### **Message from the Mayor of Hiroshima**

It is an honor and pleasure to send this message on the occasion of the Tenth Annual East Bay Peace Lantern Ceremony.

On August 6, 1945, an atomic bomb reduced Hiroshima to ashes and took tens of thousands of precious lives. To this day, the *hibakusha* continue to suffer from the aftereffects of radiation. The pain inflicted on the citizens of Hiroshima is simply indescribable—their beloved hometown obliterated, family and friends lost forever.

With our *hibakusha* aging, I am determined to have their experiences and strong desire for peace absorbed and wholeheartedly accepted by future generations and to have the desire for peace spread throughout the world. I am convinced that disseminating the *hibakusha* message will eventually lead to the realization of their most cherished wish, the abolition of nuclear weapons.

To achieve this goal, the City of Hiroshima, together with Mayors for Peace members around the globe, has been promoting the 2020 Vision Campaign for the total elimination of nuclear weapons by 2020. After the bombing, it was said that nothing would grow in Hiroshima for 75 years. The year 2020 will be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing, and we are determined to achieve our goal by this target year to ensure that a substantial number of our elderly *hibakusha* will enter with us into a nuclear-weapon-free world. With more than 4,700 cities now members of Mayors for Peace, it is evident that people around the world long for freedom from the threat of nuclear weapons.

As part of my efforts to build global momentum for nuclear abolition, I am working toward a summit for nuclear weapons abolition that will bring the leaders of all nuclear-armed states to Hiroshima. I am eager for world leaders and millions of people from around the world to come to Hiroshima, where the tragic memory of the bombing is still a reality. I want everyone to understand the horrific human damages wrought by nuclear weapons and fully share the wish of the *hibakusha*.

I therefore ask you to make Hiroshima's wish your own. Please support the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign and strive with us toward lasting world peace for humankind.

In closing, I offer my warmest wishes for the success of the Tenth Annual East Bay Peace Lantern Ceremony as well as the continued good health and prosperity of all involved.

August 6, 2011

MATSUI Kazumi  
Mayor  
The City of Hiroshima