



August 6th, 2011

Message from the Mayor

Today I would like to say a few words on behalf of the people of Nagasaki for the Japanese Peace Lantern Ceremony being held in Berkeley California.

I would first, however, like to extend my appreciation for the people of Berkeley California and their continued participation and support in lasting peace activities.

At 11:02 a.m. on August 9, 1945, Nagasaki was devastated by a single atomic bomb. With 74,000 people killed instantly in the explosion and a further 75,000 who suffered injuries, Nagasaki fell into ruin. Those who narrowly escaped death were dealt terrible incurable physical and psychological wounds caused by the aftereffects of radiation that they still suffer from even today, 66 years later.

While recovering from the devastation caused by the atomic bomb, Nagasaki has continued to appeal for the realization of everlasting world peace and the elimination of nuclear weapons together with the atomic bomb survivors and our citizens. However, more than 20,000 nuclear weapons still exist on the earth today. The nuclear issue is not only a problem among those countries affected by nuclear disasters, but also an issue common to all human beings in order to ensure a secure future.

Through the Japanese Peace Lantern Ceremony, I hope many people of Berkeley California can deepen their general understanding of the inhumanity of nuclear weapons, and help us work towards realizing a world free of nuclear weapons and everlasting peace.

In closing, I would like to extend my best wishes for the success of this event, and for the good health and happiness of all the people who gathered here today.

田上 富久

Tomihisa Taue
Mayor of Nagasaki