Mayors for Peace

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Message for International Day of Peace, 100 Day Countdown

There are only 100 days left until the International Day of Peace, on September 21.

The International Day of Peace is an important day to have the United Nations, its member countries, and people around the world join efforts and think about the importance and preciousness of peace, spread the idea of peace, and express their intention to realize world peace. I would like to extend my heartfelt respect for the leadership of United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, who is strongly promoting this Day.

Mayors for Peace, consisting of 6,706 member cities from 160 countries and regions, supports the concept behind the International Day of Peace, and has been calling member cities to participate in this initiative. Last year, commemorative events were held not only in cities around Japan but also in Canada, the US, Argentina, Switzerland, Belgium, France, and other places, to pray for the realization of world peace. Mayors for Peace will make further efforts to commemorate this important day, following the adoption of our Action Plan in August 2013, which includes plans for carrying out events for the International Day of Peace.

In this context, we are calling upon our member cities in Japan and around the world to hold events at noon on September 21of this year in order to share a moment to pray and make a commitment for peace with as many people as possible.

The year, 2015, marks the milestone 70th anniversary of the foundation of the United Nations and also the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Throughout these 70 years, the common desire of people in all nations and all cities was the realization of a genuinely peaceful world without war or conflict.

Over the next 100 days, let each of us think about what we can do for lasting world peace. We intend to do everything in our power to realize this goal, joining hands with citizens in our member cities.

I close with my sincere hope that people's desire for peace will lead to a truly peaceful world without nuclear weapons at the earliest possible date.

June 13, 2015

MATSUI Kazumi
President of Mayors for Peace
Mayor of Hiroshima