

TAUE Tomihisa

Mayor of Nagasaki City

I send my greetings to you all. I am Taue Tomihisa, the mayor of Nagasaki City.

On the occasion of the 2021 World Conference against A & H Bombs – Nagasaki Day Rally, I would like to extend my message on behalf of the people of Nagasaki.

I express my sincere respect to the organizers for their passion and effort and ingenuity in holding the World Conference, so as to keep moving toward the abolition of nuclear weapons, even while it is still difficult to meet together in one place for such an event due to the effects of coronavirus infectious disease.

Seventy-six years ago today, the city of Nagasaki instantly fell into ruins as a result of a single atomic bomb. Its fierce blast, heat rays, and radiation attacked residents mercilessly, claiming 74,000 precious lives and injuring 75,000 others. Those who barely survived the attack are still suffering from aftereffects of the radiation.

Hibakusha, who know the threat of nuclear weapons firsthand, have shared their heartrending experiences, even though they are painful to recall, and called for the abolition of nuclear weapons, saying, “No one else in the world should ever have to go through that.”

This small current has led to a major current covering the entire world. In January this year, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons came into force. The Treaty outlaws nuclear weapons for the first time in human history, marking a fresh start toward a world without nuclear weapons.

Of course, nuclear weapons will not immediately be eliminated from the world by the entry into force of this Treaty.

In order to develop this brand-new Treaty into a common global rule and to achieve

the abolition of nuclear weapons, we in civil society need to stand in solidarity and raise our voices more tenaciously than ever. I believe that the sharing of wishes for nuclear abolition by many people through opportunities like this event lays the foundation for such efforts.

I am convinced that all these individual irreplaceable actions will come together to create a major current and eventually build a force that changes the world.

I sincerely hope that you will expand the circle of peace widely. You are our powerful and important friends who continue to work together for a world without nuclear weapons.

In closing, I wish the organizers and everyone watching today continued success and good health in the future.