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10 April 2015

To all the people who welcome our representatives from Japan:

Thank you very much for welcoming our representatives from Japan and thank you for participating in this peace project.

As the Mayor of Yachiyo City, I would like to give an official message to you all. Since I cannot be here, I have asked Ms. Kotani, who is the only participant from Yachiyo on this year's global voyage, to read this message on my behalf.

Back in 1987, the Mayor of Yachiyo proclaimed Yachiyo to be a Peace City. In our Peace City Proclamation, we, the citizens of Yachiyo, declared that we desire world peace and that we will make efforts to abolish all nuclear weapons from this planet and to realise permanent peace in every country of the world.

Since then, Yachiyo City has held numerous events with the citizens of Yachiyo through which we try to tell the scale and horror of damage the atomic bombs caused in Hiroshima and in Nagasaki in August 1945, and to communicate how precious and important world peace is, to the general public, especially the younger generation.

In April 2010, the Mayor of Yachiyo joined the Mayors for Peace. I myself was elected mayor two years ago. I strongly desire world peace and firmly believe that Yachiyo City should continue to be a member until world peace is realised. Moreover, I wholeheartedly support the 2020 Vision which the Mayors for Peace endorsed in 2003, that all nuclear weapons should be abolished by the year 2020.

Last but not least, I ask all of you here to listen to the voices of the participants from Japan, especially Ms.Kotani. She is one of the victims of the atomic bomb that devastated Hiroshima when she was six years old, but fortunately survived and now lives in Yachiyo.

I hope that every one of you will listen to her and will, if possible, start telling what she says about world peace and nuclear weapons to your friends and relatives all over the world.

Wishing happiness and peace to you all,

八千代市長 秋葉就一

Shuichi Akiba  
Mayor of Yachiyo City  
Japan