



## Opening Address

**Tomihisa Taue**  
Mayor of Nagasaki

Hello everybody. My name is Tomihisa Taue and I am the Mayor of Nagasaki. I'd like to take a moment of your time to make a few opening remarks before we start the 5th Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

First I'd like to extend a heartfelt welcome and gratitude on behalf of the citizens of Nagasaki to Ms. Snøfrid B. Emterud, Counsellor at the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Japan, as well as representatives from Japanese and foreign NGOs and participants from outside Nagasaki City and Nagasaki Prefecture who have traveled a long distance to participate in the 5th Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

This assembly began in 2000 with the 1st Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. Despite the fact that this was the maiden voyage when it came to such an endeavor, the first assembly was met with much enthusiasm with almost 5,600 individuals participating. We've continued to hold these events, with the current assembly being the fifth such to be held. At the end of each assembly, we've adopted Nagasaki Appeal to be submitted to the world. These messages consist of a message that is the same for each assembly and another that varies based on the situation at the time.

It probably goes without saying that one of the constant messages involves a vow from atomic bomb victims to never again allow another human being to suffer harm from nuclear weapons. Moreover, this message includes the desire, as humans and citizens of the earth, to protect human life and our planet from nuclear weapons. Furthermore, this unchanging message serves as a means to communicate our unwavering determination to realize a world without nuclear weapons as well as a call to the people of the world to be cognizant of the importance of the power of civil society and to exercise this strength.

On the other hand, the messages specific to each Assembly reflect worldwide activities centering on the elimination of nuclear weapons at the juncture in time when the Assembly is held. With the dawn of the 21st century close at hand, the first assembly held in 2000 saw the pursuit of concrete initiatives aimed at the elimination of nuclear weapons, with these initiatives differing from those of the cold war era. In direct contradiction to these wishes, there was seemingly endless violence and retribution in the form of repeated terrorism and war and in 2003 the message put forth was one of impatience and protest against this. 2006 saw the Bush administration embroiled in turmoil

as well as the failures of the NPT Review Conference of the previous year. Nonetheless, the message from 2006 was one of strong conviction to not give up hope. Then in 2010, with President Obama having appeared on the scene, the NPT Review Conference was opened with much anticipation a guarded sense of optimism. Nagasaki Appeal 2010 was most memorable for the inclusion of a compellingly angry message that “only we know first hand the horrors of nuclear weapons” at the end of its appeals to countries with nuclear weapons and countries trying to attain such arsenals. This was a very forceful message unique to this assembly of gathered individuals and citizens of the world.

Today we will be talking about the current state of affairs as covered in the keynote report issued by the Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Prof. Tomonaga as well as the implications of this assembly. Subject matter to be transmitted as well as issues to be tackled in the future will also be accurately reflected in the composition of the current program. It is my sincere desire that the 5th Citizens’ Assembly serve as a reservoir of power for civil society, which remains the strongest force for change in the world, as well as a venue for communicating to the world the horrors of the atomic bomb.

Last, I would like to express my heart-felt appreciation for your cooperation and participation in all the events at the 5th Nagasaki Global Citizens’ Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

Thank you for your time.