



Welcome Greetings

Houdou Nakamura
Governor of Nagasaki Prefecture

In the opening of the 5th Nagasaki Global Citizen's Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, on behalf of the Nagasaki prefecture and citizens, I would like to congratulate this lively gathering and thanks goes to all the people who gathered from home and abroad.

I would like to extend my heart goes to welcome to all of you.

On 9th August in 1945, one atomic bomb was exploded in the air above Nagasaki. Instantaneously, it totally destroyed the town of Nagasaki and took so many precious lives. 68 years has passed, the town which was damaged so severely has rejuvenated completely into the beautiful town which wishes the peace. But sorrow and mourn of the bereaved family still deep. There are still a lot of people suffering from the aftereffects.

Last month, in the United Nations, many countries including Japan announced the Joint Statement on Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons. It is indeed the point which was strongly demanded by Nagasaki citizens to Japanese Government. For the first time Japan has signed in that joint statement. We welcome that move and expect Japanese Government to lead international community to realize a nuclear weapons free world. We are very much counting on that mood.

However, as the interest of taking the major of total elimination of the nuclear weapons is increasing, still there are some nations which are undertaking the nuclear efficiency testing such as in the United State as well as other different types of the development in the nuclear testing. The presence of nuclear weapons which can more than annihilate humans still is a big thread for the future of human being.

Use of nuclear weapons under the any circumstances is impermissible. Hibakusha is now becoming older and their experiences are becoming weathered. The messages of Hibakusha have to be strongly passed onto to the new generation as the prefecture which was bombed. We need to communicate atrocity and misery of the atomic bomb to people of the world, and appeal the total elimination of the nuclear weapons in globalization of the perpetual peace in the world.

2015, it will be Nuclear Proliferation Treaty Review Conference to be held, that is 70th anniversary of atomic bombing. The people of Nagasaki Prefecture will continue to appeal that we need to take Nagasaki the last atomic bombed place. We hope we will be able to send such message to the world so that we will be able to create the nuclear free world as soon as possible. To this effect, we determined to put our hand together with you to realize this.

I wish a lot of success out of this assembly and the good health and future prosperity of all the people who gathered here. I would like to conclude my remarks.