

Greeting by H. E. Mr. IWAYA Takeshi,

Foreign Minister of Japan

**A reception hosted by Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kingdom of Norway to
celebrate the reception of Nobel Peace Prize by Nihon
Hidankyo (Japan Confederation of A- and H- Bomb
Sufferers Organizations)**

Members of Nihon Hidankyo,

I offer my heartfelt congratulations on your reception of this year's Nobel Peace Prize. It is extremely meaningful that you have received such a prestigious award through your efforts of many years to eliminate nuclear weapons and to promote understanding on the realities of nuclear weapon use. It is also a great honor for Japan. I would like to extend my congratulations on behalf of the Government of Japan.

It is thanks to your testimonies about your experiences in the atomic bombings that allow later generations, including myself, to be able to learn how many precious lives were taken by the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and how much suffering was inflicted on those who survived. I would like to express my sincere respect for the efforts of the members of Nihon Hidankyo over the years, who have strongly conveyed to the world the earnest message that the catastrophes caused by the use of nuclear weapons must never be repeated.

As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings during war, Japan has a historic mission to lead international efforts to realize a world without nuclear weapons. Under such a belief, the Government of Japan has promoted realistic and practical efforts under the “Hiroshima Action Plan” to maintain and strengthen the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

Notably, conveying the realities of nuclear weapons use to the world is a starting point for all our efforts. Atomic bomb survivors, *hibakusha*, who have experienced the catastrophes of the use of nuclear weapons, and younger generations, who pass on that memory, are acting as “Special Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons” and “Young Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons”. In addition, the Government of Japan has called for and realized visits to Hiroshima and Nagasaki by leaders and young people all over the world. Furthermore, Japan is engaging in efforts to educate future generations through “Youth Leader Fund for a World without Nuclear Weapons”, a program organized by the United Nations with the contribution by the Government of Japan.

Japan would like to further strengthen the promotion of the understanding of the realities of nuclear weapons use, in

cooperation with Nihon Hidankyo and other atomic bomb survivors.

Regrettably, the circumstances surrounding nuclear disarmament have become even more challenging due to the widening division within the international community over approaches to nuclear disarmament and Russia's nuclear threat. However, no matter how strenuous the path towards a world without nuclear weapons may be, we are resolved to steadily follow the path step by step.

To conclude, I once again pledge to promote a comprehensive and accurate understanding of the realities of nuclear weapons use across generations and borders, and to continue unceasing efforts to realize a world without nuclear weapons.

IWAYA Takeshi

Foreign Minister of Japan