



## Mayors for Peace

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Secretariat

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Dear Members!

Please do not be surprised that I am writing to you in connection with Climate Change. Citizen after citizen, city after city, and country after country have said ‘this makes sense’. We have learned that, as miniscule as we are on the surface of this gigantic orb, we can nonetheless have a major negative impact on global natural systems. If we do not want to permanently damage the very environment we depend upon for survival, we have to learn to keep in check our collective behavior, and that means each one of us taking personal responsibility. As mayors, we know that there is a great deal we can do in our cities. But as we all know, there is also a limit to what we can do in the absence of national and international coordination. That is the key missing ingredient at this time.

To that end, Mayors for Peace has proudly become an International NGO Partner of Live Earth. This international concert event is an outstanding opportunity to remind people of their personal responsibility within a global context. Each of the International NGO Partners is helping to define that global context. Mayors for Peace has a special contribution to make, since part of that global context is clearly the threat posed by nuclear weapons:

- To sustain the level of international cooperation needed to address global warming, we must stop holding nuclear guns to each other’s head.
- We have awakened to our impact on the world’s climate through global warming; we must also awaken to the ever-present danger of a nuclear winter.\*
- To free up the resources needed to combat global warming, we must also be free of the fear of weapons of mass destruction that fuels regional and international arm races.

Members of Mayors for Peace have a special responsibility to get this part of the climate change message out.

I very much hope you are able to take up the opportunity presented in the attached letter from Live Earth, ICLEI, The Climate Group, the Sierra Club and Mayors for Peace.

Live Earth will be a seminal event in world history and your city can be part of it as a “Friend of Live Earth.”

I hope you will use any event in which you take part as an opportunity to declare your personal readiness to be held accountable for such crucial objectives as reducing carbon emissions in your city, improving energy efficiency, and applying the concept of sustainable building. And I ask you to also introduce the three points I make above about the nuclear threat. This will help your citizens see why their city’s affiliation to Mayors for Peace is so important to build a brighter future for all of us. I am sure they will appreciate your concern and commitment.

Sincerely yours,

Tadatoshi Akiba  
Mayor of Hiroshima  
President  
Mayors for Peace