
A Message from the Mayor

It is a great pleasure to send this message to mark the completion of the film *Atomic Wounds* directed by French film artist Marc Petitjean.

Since the atomic bombing of Hiroshima 61 years ago, Hiroshima has continually appealed for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the realization of lasting world peace. It is a terrible shame that despite worldwide longing for peace, our planet still bristles with vast arsenals of nuclear weapons, and many regions remain trapped in cycles of hatred, violence, and retaliation.

The present generation borrows this Earth for a few brief moments from future generations, and it is our shared responsibility to the future to build an affluent world for today's children. At a minimum, we have a duty to create a safe environment and protect the lives of our children. We must also work to ensure that leaders of the world listen sincerely to the voices, memories and prayers of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, maintain the strong determination to abolish nuclear weapons, and display courage in emphasizing reconciliation and morality to achieve a truly peaceful society.

In that sense, a film that seeks to direct our attention to the lessons we still need to learn from the dropping of the atomic bombs 61 years ago is profoundly meaningful and valuable. I hereby express my admiration for the film *Atomic Wounds* and my gratitude to Marc Petitjean. I believe this film will help to expand the circle of solidarity for peace and generate a powerful force for a "21st century of peace and humanity."

I close with my best wishes for the success of the film and continued good health and success for all involved.



April 2006

Tadatoshi Akiba

Mayor

The City of Hiroshima