

Greeting by Vice Governor Susumu Satomi on the Occasion of the Visit to Nagasaki Prefecture by Professor Paolo Cotta-Ramusino, Secretary General of Pugwash Conferences, and Party

Good afternoon. I would like to warmly welcome you all to Nagasaki Prefecture.

I apologize if I pronounce any of your names wrongly.

Over your four day visit to Nagasaki, I know that you have a very busy itinerary, including giving a talk looking ahead to the NPT Review Conference which will be held in New York in April and May. I am sure that your visit will serve as a great motivating force for the development of ideas and leverage here among the people of Nagasaki.

I must also express my great respect to you, Professor Cotta-Ramusino, for your tireless work on global nuclear arms reduction over many years, including your role since 2002 as Secretary General of Pugwash Conferences.

We the people of Nagasaki Prefecture, in our determination to make sure that Nagasaki remains the last place ever to experience an atomic bombing, strive to communicate to the world the cruelty and the inhumanity of the atomic bomb. We appeal continually for the abolition of nuclear weaponry and the establishment of lasting world peace.

This is a milestone year, with the 70th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Nagasaki, and the NPT Review Conference which occurs once every 5 years. Therefore I think that it is highly significant that the 61st Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs will be held in Nagasaki this year. Taking this conference as an opportunity to think as a prefecture about the abolition of nuclear weapons and permanent world peace, we will continue to cooperate to achieve these aims.

The Nagasaki Prefectural Government is also participating in the Pugwash Conference planning committee, and intends to be proactively involved, and to provide support, in order that this international conference, which is being held in Nagasaki for the first time, will be a success.

Professor Cotta-Ramusino, even though your visit this time is short, we hope that when you come to Nagasaki in November, you will be able to enjoy each of our regions, our beautiful coastline with many islands, and our prefecture's many treasures including plentiful seafood.

May I close my greeting by expressing my hope that your visit to Nagasaki will prove to be most fruitful, and offering my best wishes for your health and happiness.

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