

Mayor Taue of Nagasaki City and Mayor Suzuki of Fujisawa City (Kanagawa Prefecture) submitted the [signatures of the 409 mayors](#) to Vice Foreign Minister to adopt a policy establishing a Northeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (NEA-NWFZ).

On June 3rd 2013, Tomihisa Taue, mayor of Nagasaki city and Tsuneo Suzuki, mayor of Fujisawa city met Masaji Matsuyama, Vice Foreign Minister to hand the signatures of the 409 mayors across Japan which calls for adopting a policy to establish a NEA-NWFZ. This news was widely reported by Japanese newspapers.

Achieving a world free of nuclear weapons is an obligation not only of nuclear armed nations but of all nations, especially those whose security policy relies on a so-called 'nuclear umbrella'. In this regards, Japanese government have the responsibility to find a path toward a security policy without nuclear weapons. Many mayors convince that the NEA-NWFZ will provide a path in the most specific way. In the statement, a 3+3 arrangement proposed by Peace Depot is presented as a realistic scheme for a NEA-NWFZ in which the ROK, the DPRK and Japan would form the central parties of the zone and the neighboring nuclear weapon states (China, Russia and the US) would support it through the provision of security assurances.

The number of 409 signatures which includes Hiroshima and Nagasaki is equivalent to 23 percent of all local governments, and 26 percent of nuclear-free declaration municipality in Japan. The mayors of 12 prefectural capitals (Nagasaki, Hiroshima, Ibaraki, Niigata, Kyoto, Nara, Tottori, Kagawa, Kochi, Miyazaki, Kagoshima and Okinawa) are included in the signature as well. For the reference, Japan has 47 prefectures and 1789 municipalities and among them, 1556 local governments have made nuclear-free declaration as of April 1st 2012.

Vice Foreign Minister Matsuyama said that, 'Though we are facing some tough challenges such as continuous nuclear and missile developments by North Korea, I am willing to share the feeling of the mayors.'

At that time Mayor Taue also urged Japanese government not to conclude a Nuclear Cooperation Agreement between Japan and India. He handed in a petition to the Vice Foreign Minister which expresses their concern about signing nuclear agreement with India, a non-NPT state, insisting that which will ruin the NPT.

In March 2009, a group of Japan and ROK NGOs (Peace Depot, Peace Boat, Peace Network and People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy) had launched a campaign calling for endorsement to the 'Statement of Support for a NEA-NWFZ'. At the third Preparatory Committee for the 2010 NPT Review Conference, we called for an international signature to support the NEA-NWFZ and distributed the statement in English version at the UN headquarter in New York. In Japan, the signature has gradually expanded until mayors. In order to convey the common concern of the mayors to Abe administration in early timing, the 409 signatures became to be submitted asking for an appropriate position of the government. In the past, this signature was submitted to the Japanese government twice. On August 3rd 2011, Mayor Taue submitted one of 104 mayors to Matsumoto, Foreign Minister of that time. On March 29th 2012, Mayor Taue submitted 289 signatures of mayors to Yamaguti, Vice Foreign Minister of that time. And, this is the third time, which was prepared by Peace Depot as facilitating Taro Kono, a chairman of PNND Japan and a member of the House of Representatives in Japan to work together.

In the near future, we hope to increase the number of signature by mayors with an aim for spreading to majority of all local government and then, to other countries including ROK.

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