

Translation of the message by the mayor of Kamakura
(World Harmony Run 2009)

Let me express my respect from the bottom of my heart toward those who are participating in and supporting World Harmony Run 2009.

It is noteworthy and significant that your event, or your hope for true world harmony, has been taking place all over the world for more than 20 years. I understand that the Run is to show how important each person's contribution is and to make as many people as possible feel and experience "we are one," which is pure oneness and joy.

This is the 9th year of the 21st century. Yet, we still see repeated terrorism and hostilities in various parts of the world. In addition, there have been serious casualties as a result of natural disasters such as cyclones and earthquakes. More recently, fear has spread due to the epidemic of New Influenza.

In order to conquer these situations and to make this world more harmonious, as you all believe, each person has to feel, "We are members of the big family called the earth, and we are one."

If you can reduce hatred and doubt in each person's mind even a little bit by meeting local participants and children, then it will be an enormous confidence and encouragement for you as well.

Kamakura City proclaimed herself a Peace City in 1958 and has joined International Council for Nuclear-Free Declaration. We have made relevant requests to the government as well.

Also, every year, we invite public participation for peace promoting activities including talks, movies, concerts, and poster presentations. We offer various themes and opportunities to think of peace in people's daily lives.

I heard that many children of Kamakura are going to participate in your program this year. I hope that the event will contribute to this city's peace promotion and international exchange.

Lastly, I humbly pray for World Harmony Run's further progress and its members' health and safety.

2 June, 2009

Tokuichi Ishiwata, Mayor of Kamakura