

February 21, 2016



To all the χ Mag2016 Symposium participants

I would like to express my sincere gratitude on the occasion of the χ Mag2016 Symposium, and offer a heartfelt welcome to each and every participant who has come to Hiroshima.

As you may know, Hiroshima City is familiar worldwide as a place of peace. Peace Memorial Park, home of Hiroshima's symbol – the UNESCO world heritage site of the Atomic Bomb Dome, draws many visitors from around the world, and there is no end in sight to the offerings of flowers and paper cranes at the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims and the Children's Peace Monument. Holding this symposium in such a city will undoubtedly help the event to deliver a strong impression to the world, in terms of the transmission of the symposium's outcome, etc.

Hiroshima originated around 400 years ago as a castle town, and has developed as one of the pivotal cities for industry, economics, and administration in western Japan. Six rivers flow through the city, which is blessed with a warm climate and rich nature. The riverside scenery, seen from tour boats and open cafes, changes with the four seasons, and the beautiful waterfront views of the "City of Water Hiroshima" delight citizens and tourists alike.

I do hope every one of you will take the time to experience Hiroshima's rich nature and city landscape, food culture, and traditional arts, so that you may feel the full satisfaction of Hiroshima's particular type of hospitality, and share the wish for peace that is Hiroshima's lasting hope. I would be glad if everyone could feel that they would like to come back to Hiroshima again someday.

In closing, I extend my best wishes for the success of this symposium, as well as for everyone's health and good luck in their endeavors.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the Japanese characters '松井一貴' (Matsui Kazumi) written in a cursive style.

MATSUI Kazumi
Mayor
The City of Hiroshima