

**January 28, 2021**

### **Important Notice Regarding the Nagasaki Peace Marathon**

The Nagasaki Peace Marathon was originally planned to be held on November 29, 2020, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic we were forced to postpone it for a year or so. Although we were planning to hold the event in 2021 or later, we have decided to temporarily suspend all work on the marathon, as a result of discussions regarding the execution policy of the marathon at the Nagasaki Peace Marathon executive committee.

Our reasoning is as follows:

- 1) In the event that we were to hold the race while adhering to COVID-19 prevention measures, we would have to reduce the number of runners by a large amount or scale-down events. This would largely impact the goals of the event which are sharing a message of peace and increasing the number of visitors to Nagasaki.
- 2) Even if the Marathon were to be held while adhering to prevention measures, it would not totally eliminate the risk of infection. We cannot ensure the safety and peace of mind of everyone involved in the event, above all the runners.
- 3) As this is the first full-marathon that Nagasaki City will be holding, it will be hard to predict accidents even under normal circumstances. Conducting infection prevention measures in tandem with conducting the first full-marathon in the city is very risky.

As the Nagasaki Peace Marathon was a project to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the atomic bombings, we are considering holding the marathon in 2025, for the commemoration of 80 years since the atomic bombings.

Our sincerest apologies for everyone who was looking forward to the marathon, but we would appreciate your understanding. We hope that the pandemic resolves soon and that we can go back to life as normal and we will strive to provide a marathon in 2025, which marks 80 years since the atomic bombings, where everyone can share their wishes for peace to the world at the atomic bombing site Nagasaki.

Sincerely,

TAUE Tomihisa

(Mayor of Nagasaki)

Nagasaki Peace Marathon Executive Committee President