

KRISHNA GAUR

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Municipal Corporation, Bhopal
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No. :1005

Date :14.12.10.....

To,

Mr. Tadatoshi AKIBA

Hon. Mayor of Hiroshima,

6-34 Kokutaiji-machi 1-chome, Naka-ku

Hiroshima 730-8586, Japan

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06 December 2010

Sub: Invitation to inaugurate the 'Bhopal 2011: International Students Workshop & Symposium' on 02 February 2011

Dear Mr. Mayor,

On behalf of the people of city of Bhopal, I would like to extend warm greetings to you and the people of Hiroshima. Often termed as the 'Hiroshima' of industrial disasters, the Bhopal Gas Tragedy of 1984 finds an immediate & deep-rooted connection with the history & people of Hiroshima. The shared feelings are emphatically reflected by a memorial built by the community living in the vicinity of the disaster site, which has a statue of a wailing lady with her children with the following words engraved on its base: **"NO HIROSHIMA.NO BHOPAL. WE WANT TO LIVE"**.

This poignant connection of loss can be a very powerful tool to connect the people of Bhopal with the people of Hiroshima and demonstrate that neither of their stories is unique. We feel that tragedies such as Bhopal and Hiroshima blur boundaries and differences. Their aftermath and significance rises above the immediate and become events in our shared common past from which our present and future must learn from.

The City of Hiroshima has dealt with loss and tragedy making peace & creativity its agenda & its message to the international community. The initiatives of the 'City of Peace & Creativity' involving children, artists, victims of the tragedy, government and the civil society at large, are commendable. However, if the Bhopal Gas Tragedy fades from public consciousness, we risk losing the vital lessons and legacy of the disaster that has affected millions of lives.

Keeping in view the aforesaid objective, the Bhopal Municipal Corporation is supporting the *"Bhopal 2011: International Students Workshop and Symposium"* organized by School of Planning & Architecture, New Delhi, modern Asian Architecture Network (mAAN), India and the International Committee for Conservation of Industrial Heritage (TICCIH) India from 02-04 February 2010 at Bhopal. This initiative is supported by the UNSECO Office in New Delhi, Norwegian University of Science & Technology (NTNU), Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Kyoto, University of Tokyo and University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

The agenda of this event is to look critically at the issues related to the social, urban and ecological consequences of the Bhopal gas Tragedy and the nature of its legacy. It aims to create awareness in order to initiate processes and involve stakeholders of the tragedy to contribute to the rehabilitation of the disaster-affected precinct in Bhopal. The other objective is to promote continued research around Bhopal on the themes of Development, Equity and Sustainability, which have global significance.

On behalf of the city of Bhopal, I would like to extend a humble invitation for you to inaugurate the Bhopal 2011 International Symposium on 02 February 2011. This exchange will be important to strengthen the confidence of the people of Bhopal while adding momentum to the cause that Bhopal today stands for. We hope that this event will become the first step towards continued exchange and cooperation between the two cities on creative grounds, sending the message of sustainable development & peace across the world.

We look forward to hearing from you regarding your confirmation for participation in the event.

Thank you
Warm Regards,


(Mrs. Krishna Gaur)

Mayor

Municipal Corporation of Bhopal,
Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India, 462003

