



February 29, 2024

To: The Member Cities of the League of Historical Cities

Greetings on Resignation

Dear Mayors,

Upon my resignation as Mayor of Kyoto, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for having developed our true friendship for 16 years since my assumption through various interaction, being linked by our common bonds as historical cities.

It has been my great pleasure to be involved in such an important work with you to maintain and develop our irreplaceable culture and history, which are the fruit of wisdom shared among all mankind and inherited from our predecessors, and to pass them on to the next generation.

Looking back the history of the League, 37 years have passed since the first World Conference of Historical Cities held in Kyoto in 1987. All through the years, the League has conducted exchanges to resolve various issues such as preservation and development which historical cities are faced with. The environments for historical cities have been extremely severe not only due to global environment crisis but also to the pandemic, the division in international community, and conflicts.

In these hard times, it is important to learn from and cooperate with each other and strive for achieving world peace and happiness for people as well as for creating a sustainable society. Especially in a time when relations among nations are difficult, I believe that the League should play an important role to encourage cities and citizens to deepen mutual understanding and build bridges of trust.

Although I leave the League at this important time, I am fully convinced that my successor, Koji MATSUI, the new Mayor of Kyoto shall take over the role to be engaged further in developing historical cities as well as contributing to embodying the League's principle to achieve peace in international community, which is a precondition for the development.

I sincerely hope that our friendship will be further deepened through the League, and activities in the League shall be further developed.

Yours Sincerely,

門川 大作

KADOKAWA Daisaku