



Jens Lorenz  
Founder of the Berlin Peace Clock  
Rotary Global Peace Forum, Hiroshima  
Peace Clock Award-Ceremony  
18 May, 2013, 15:00-15:15 - The spoken word applies.

Dear Rotary Friends,

Dear **Mr. Tanaka, President of Rotary International**,

“Peace through Service” was and remains the guiding star of your presidency.

It was with this in mind that the three Rotary Peace Forums, initiated by you, first headed for **Berlin**, then **Hawaii**, and now **Hiroshima** – like a ship seeking three protected anchorages of peace.

However, all these places were – each in its own way – once scenes of war. Yet today, each one of them is a testimony to the fact that war DOES NOT have the last word: but that with the passage of time, peace will come and peace will stay through us.

It is true: peace calls upon us to serve, to give all our energy, our courage and our skill. But it is equally true that our “service” requires, above all, time – and often so much time that one life alone is barely enough.

Time is a powerful resource for establishing peace: it took forty-four years before the Cold War was overcome without war; and twenty-eight years for the Berlin Wall to collapse peacefully.

Dear **President Tanaka**,

It touches me especially deeply, here in Hiroshima, to be able to present a very special contemporary witness of peace: the **Berlin Peace Clock**:

The Berlin Peace Clock was designed to show, that the forces of peace can unfold only with the passage of time – and never in opposition to it. Hence, the golden message in the architrave: “

**Time bursts all walls asunder.”**

It was in the heart of a walled-in West Berlin that the Peace Clock came into being. Invented in 1989, it stood three metres high, and weighed over two tons – a reminder to strengthen the peaceful hope of transcending the division between East and West and to hasten the Fall of the Wall.

And at the very same time as this specimen of clockwork art was being presented *inside* before 250 guests on **9 November 1989**, something inconceivable was happening *outside* – only a few hundred metres away:

As if by miracle: When we in Berlin were setting the Peace Clock in motion, the cold war ended and the Berlin Wall collapsed peacefully.

No contemporary witness has ever come closer to this epochal moment, as the Berlin Peace Clock – a moment, in which people experienced a unique sense of peace and reconciliation.

The sparks of joy on the **9 November 1989** really are present in the Berlin Peace Clock. The Berlin Wall's hour of death signalled the birth of the Berlin Peace Clock. For at the very moment it was proclaimed, its promise started to become true: “**Time bursts all walls asunder**” –

Ever since 1990, we have been seeking opportunities to proclaim this joyful message of peace everywhere: From 1992 on, small replicas of the Berlin Peace Clock have been made. They went first to the East and the West: to those politicians of international



standing whose temperance had done so much to help end the Cold War and bring down the Wall. In this context, I should like to mention Mr. Gorbachev, the General Secretary of the CPSU, and President Bush senior.

Furthermore, in 2002, a “Berlin Peace-Clock Prize” was founded in co-operation with the Berlin UNESCO Committee and with the support of the Berlin Senate. Peace Clocks have gone to those who have sent signals of hope on the road to peace: to personalities and institutions that have been exemplary in overcoming the walls between people, classes, races, states, peoples, nations, cultures, religions, ideologies....

In almost twenty-five years, the Berlin Peace Clock has been awarded to fourteen recipients. And all this has made the Berlin Peace Clock even more important and its message more urgent. We can and we must choose the path of peace – but we shall arrive only if we move with time. The Berlin Peace Clock is **the** timely symbol of hope for peace.

Dear Rotary friends, dear **President Tanaka**,

Rotary International has been pursuing this very path of peace for more than a century now: its present number of 1.22 million “friends” in almost 200 countries were united from the very start by the idea of “Service above self”. Rotary International has a “Peace-History” of its own.

And this exemplary service has always been first and foremost a Good Deed, performed in the service of our fellow human beings and in working for peace. – Whether it be in the founding circle of the “*Friends*” of 1905; in Rotary's co-operation in establishing *UNESCO* in 1942/45; or in the *Seven Paths to Peace*; the great *PolioPlus* enterprise launched in 1985; in the presidential campaign motto of 2012/2013 of *Peace through Service* and, of course, in the three great *Peace Forums* called into being by President Tanaka in Berlin, Hawaii and now in Hiroshima, which is “only” the most recent tip of the iceberg in Rotary International's precious peace work. The magnificent gesture in which you, **revered President Tanaka**, bring together the three locations of Berlin, Hawaii and Hiroshima to engage in a global discourse on peace: it is a gesture that breathes the **spirit of reconciliation** ---

I have become acquainted with so many wonderful peace activities here at the Rotary Peace Forum in Hiroshima: the peace work of Rotary International and, above all, the Rotary presidency of Mr. Tanaka show us just how close together these two messages belong. “**Peace through Service**” AND “**Time bursts all walls asunder**” or – in German –

“**Zeit sprengt alles Mauern**”.

Dear **President Tanaka**:

I bow out of deep respect for you, for the dedication shown by our peace friends and for the peace work performed by Rotary International; I thank you with all my heart for your invitation to Hiroshima; I am delighted that I am able to award you – here and now – the Berlin Peace Clock.