

March 8, 2022

The Honorable Alexander Beglov
Governor of Saint Petersburg

Dear Governor Beglov,

On behalf of the citizens of Osaka, I must duly convey to you this urgent letter.

Ever since the sister city affiliation was established between Saint Petersburg and Osaka in 1979, the two cities amassed meaningful sister city exchanges in various areas for over 40 years. Moreover, on the 40th sister city anniversary year, I led the City of Osaka delegation to visit Saint Petersburg in September 2019. It truly was a commemorative occasion, in which I was obliged to interact with you in person and it bestowed fruitful opportunities to reaffirm mutual understanding and trust at the inter-city level.

Henceforth, I still believe in the notion of continuously bolstering cordial ties between the two cities. However, due to recent events involving the Russian Federation's launch of military operations in Ukraine, I am gravely concerned that this could induce adverse consequences on our historical sister city relationship moving forward.

It must be profoundly stated that the Russian Federation's current act of aggression against another country by the use of force is a clear violation of international law, and the international community will not tolerate unjustifiable actions of any kind. Thus, it is imperative that the Russian Federation immediately cease the entirety of its military operations in Ukraine, withdraw all military forces, and bring the situation to an end.

Nevertheless, I firmly believe that the citizens of both Saint Petersburg and Osaka stand in solidarity when longing for peace in our world. In this regard, I strongly hope that the current situation will be resolved through peaceful means as soon as possible, and that both cities can continue toward a future-oriented path of fostering robust sister city relations.

Please accept this in the form of an open letter to extensively reach the citizens of both cities so that they can understand my views.

Sincerely yours,

MATSUI Ichiro
Mayor