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## Peace Boat - Request for Support

Dear Peace Boat friends, partners and participants,

Warmest greetings from Peace Boat. We hope this finds you and your loved ones well and safe in these challenging times.

Since 1983, Peace Boat has been sailing around the world empowering participants and building people-to-people connections beyond borders. We are very grateful that over 80,000 participants have joined our voyages, creating life-long friendships and connections. As our goal is to offer a space where people meet and inspire each other for a peaceful and sustainable world, this includes 170 Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors), whose journeys with Peace Boat contributed to the momentum for The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; youth from opposing sides of conflicts, and leaders from the frontline of the climate crisis.

Over the years, Peace Boat has faced many challenges. There were times when we thought they might be too great, but our determination to provide a space to build a better world and the support from our friends gave us the strength to continue. And today, we are impacted by the global pandemic, and indeed, facing one of the most difficult times in our 37 years of existence.

Just this past year, we chartered our second ship, the Zenith, and were positioned to be the world's first organization with a fleet of ships carrying out peacebuilding activities at sea. However, the outbreak of COVID-19 has unfortunately prevented us from taking these crucial next steps in building our organization's future. We have had to cancel six cruises so far. As an NGO Peace Boat operates on the income generated from the activities and tours carried out on our chartered vessels, and this has had a considerable impact on our operations. Currently, maintaining sufficient funds for the salaries of our 150 employees, and the upkeep of our offices located around the world is of paramount importance. In addition to maintaining our core organizational infrastructure, we also strongly believe in continuing our internationally recognized work for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as our peace efforts including with Nobel Peace Prize winning organization ICAN. Yet, we are faced with the difficult challenge of sustaining these activities without the revenue from our voyages.

Peace Boat has been able to continuously sail thanks to the love and support of our participants over the decades. Our founders started this organization with the belief that each and every participant plays a crucial role in building a culture of peace, and we are proud that our voyages have always been built for and by a larger Peace Boat community. Out of utmost respect for each and every person that has supported us over the years, we believe it is our responsibility to continue building upon our existing work, and ensure the continuation of our voyages into the future.

Today, we ask for your help in gathering two hundred million yen, or operating costs for half a year, to allow us to continue our peacebuilding efforts. We ask for your help in weathering the storm of this historically unprecedented crisis so we may sail for change again when the time comes. We will do everything in our power to welcome you onboard in the future, and with your support today, we hope to make every effort count.

We appreciate your continued support and compassion for our organization.

Sincerely,  
Peace Boat