

Prospectus for Establishing the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation

(1) Meaning of the Establishment

To create a peaceful world without war by totally banning nuclear tests and abolishing nuclear weapons is an urgent wish of Hiroshima's citizens, based on their experiences of the first A-bombing in human history.

However, considering today's international situation, that is oriented toward continued expansion of nuclear powers and the development of nuclear weapons for mass murder, we are facing an alarming situation where the tragedy of Hiroshima could be repeated and involve the entire human race.

Moreover, actual global problems over the contamination of the natural environment and allocation of energy resources are becoming serious problems for the survival of human beings. These problems could be factors that obstruct peace in the present situation.

In such an age, the fact that peace studies are gaining momentum in many countries all over the world, must be taken as a necessity.

Taking this opportunity, our goal is to promote peace culture by establishing the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, as a citizen-wide peace promotion organization, closely cooperating with other peace research institutes in Japan and abroad, such as the Institute for Peace Science, Hiroshima University, in order to search for ways to realize world peace from Hiroshima's viewpoint.

Needless to say, this foundation stands apart from any political parties or factions, resting on a point of view based on all of humanity and on real experiences of the A-bombing in Hiroshima, rather than aiming at biased ideas and advocacies. This foundation is a peace culture promotion organization that aims to contribute to world peace and the welfare of human beings through earnest services for the missions of Hiroshima.

(2) Reasons for Establishment

Considering the mission of the first A-bombed city in human history, Hiroshima City inaugurated the Hiroshima Peace Culture Center as a peace promotion organization in October 1967. Since then, embracing citizens' strong desire for peace based on their experiences of the A-bombing, the center has advanced various programs to enhance public awareness of peace, including the implementation of measures to hand down the experiences of the A-bombing to future generations.

However, in addition to the fact that the number of nuclear weapons and nuclear proliferation have never ceased increasing, with the passage of time, people from post-war generations now outnumber the survivors among the total citizens in

Hiroshima. With the survivors aging, their experiences of the A-bombing are increasingly fading away from memory year by year.

At this point in time, it is vital to enhance public awareness for peace through renewed recognition of the A-bombing in Hiroshima. The Hiroshima Peace Culture Center was asked to cooperate with the Institute for Peace Science, Hiroshima University, which was created at that time, to put its peace theories into practice, to arouse international public opinion, and to conduct a wide spectrum of educational activities to develop renewed human nature, all of which can contribute to the creation of peace. To this end, it is desirable to develop the Hiroshima Peace Culture Center from a conventional Hiroshima City special administration organization into a free and flexible citizen-wide foundation.

It is also desirable to establish a sustainable peace promotion system on a stable base, being financially supported by Hiroshima City, and accumulating original financial resources widely collected from citizens.

For these reasons, we hereby establish Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation.