

PEACE CULTURE



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Here Comes the Future



by **Steven Leeper**
Chairman of this Foundation

Project Now, the book, the art events, the building across from Parco. *Hiroshimajin Daigaku*, the new college that makes all of Hiroshima its campus. Peace Day Live, the global concert on September 21, 2012. Masterpeace, the movement, the clubs, the global concert in Cairo on September 21, 2014. The Shift Network, global telesummits for peace. Pathways to Peace, globally coordinated local programs for peace. Footprints for Peace, globally organized walks for peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons and nuclear power. Earth Village. Earth Charter. World Referendum, for global voting. World Federalist website, a government of the people, by the people and for the people. The Arab Spring. The Occupy Movement. So much is happening so quickly.

Young people are taking their future into their own hands. They are no longer waiting for the adults (governments and corporations) to decide. They are creating a better future for themselves. Some work politically, through protests, strikes, walks, recall elections, sit-ins, tent cities, noncooperation, and civil disobedience. Others deliberately avoid politics, seeking to change the world through massive outpourings of peace through art, music, prayer, travel, and person-to-person communication. One way or another, young people are waking up, looking around, and saying, “We have to do something before it’s too late.”

Tactics and messages vary, but certain universal themes are emerging.

- 1) This planet and human society were not created for the happiness of a tiny ruling majority, the 1%. We insist that our resources and our systems benefit everyone; the 99% need to be happy as well. We must change the current economic system.
- 2) We do not want to fight. We do not want violence. We are a family. We want to get to know each other, share with each other, and live together in peace. We must change the militaristic political system.
- 3) We do not want to destroy the environment that supports us. We want to live in respectful reverence for nature, and we are willing to live simply and use less energy and resources

to do so. We must change our way of life.

- 4) We love our world. We love nature. We love music, art, expression, growth, and love itself. We love each other. We do not want to fight or argue with anyone, and we will resist every effort to set us against each other.

As chairman of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, my view of the world is pretty biased toward peace. Still, my experiences in hundreds of schools with thousands of young people have convinced me that young people today (up to about 40) are the most peaceful, nonviolent, loving generation of human beings that have ever existed on Earth. They are certainly far more advanced than I was at their age. The question is, will the “adults” get out of the way and let them save the world, or will we kill them all on our way out.

This question will probably be answered in the next five to ten years, which is why Mayors for Peace continues its Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons (the 2020 Vision Campaign). A number of people have asked me lately, “What’s happening with Mayors for Peace? Haven’t been hearing much in the news.”

I guess it’s true that Mayors for Peace has been relatively quiet lately, but that’s not because we’ve been sitting around waiting for the future. We, like the young people who are helping and inspiring us, are busy creating it.

You have not been hearing much lately because our first steps have necessarily been internal. We are making deep, fundamental changes. Now that we have reached our goal of 5000 cities, we are preparing an important shift—from growing larger to growing stronger. Though we continue our recruitment efforts, we will be putting far more effort into creating and funding a powerful campaign organization capable of



The 8th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace held in Granollers, Spain

implementing campaigns quickly and simultaneously in many languages all across the globe.

The Executive Conference in Granollers, Spain last November was a remarkable turning point that confirmed and officially initiated this shift. For first time ever, we had participants from Africa and Latin America, and the energy from the “global south” was highly influential in all our discussions. At that crucial meeting, we decided to celebrate the 5000-city milestone with a global A-bomb exhibition campaign. We are preparing a new set of posters now that we will present to the world in Vienna this May, and we intend to have these posters displayed in as many of our member cities as possible during Peace Week (Aug. 3 to 10) 2012. Of course, we will be happy if the exhibitions are shown any time in 2012, especially around International Peace Day (Sept. 21) or United Nations Day (Oct. 24) and Disarmament Week (Oct. 24 to 31). But this project is not merely an effort to hold a lot of A-bomb exhibitions. It will test and foster our ability to stimulate and administer a global campaign. We expect to learn a great deal from this first truly global project.

The Executive Conference also decided to expand our petition campaign calling for an immediate start to negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention. This signature drive has been underway in Japan since 2010, but we all agreed to take it global and make it go viral on the Internet. For this, we will need the help of our young supporters, the ones who demonstrated an ability to use the Internet to gather hundreds of thousands of signatures in a few days.

Above all, we agreed that, for administrative and campaign purposes: we need to 1) define global sub-regions, 2) assign, authorize and define the roles and responsibilities of leadership cities to manage those sub-regions, and 3) find a way to get more of our members involved in funding the campaign. These agreements obviously imply profound management changes requiring careful consideration. Therefore, we came to another epoch-making agreement—to hold a staff-level working group meeting in Hannover, Germany, to overhaul our management and campaign systems.

In January, key staff from nine cities attended the first meeting of what we are calling the Hannover Process. We spent three days brainstorming, identifying good ideas, and exploring the cultural and organizational problems they raise. At the end, we all felt we had just begun, but we all agreed it was an excellent beginning. Currently, several concrete proposals are being deliberated within the nine Hannover Process cities. The Process will continue by email and Skype with the goal of presenting unanimously agreed proposals to the delegation of executive cities that will attend the NPT Prepcom in Vienna in May.

The ultimate goal of the Hannover Process is to develop a set of management proposals that will be formally approved for implementation at the 2013 General Conference in Hiroshima. Here, too, we are planning major changes. In addition to inviting member mayors from around the world, we intend to invite national government officials and all the top NGO leaders. Our intent is to make the 2013 General Conference of Mayors for Peace a substantive international disarmament conference that will establish shared strategies and tactics for a unified global campaign. This campaign will culminate with a disarmament summit in Hiroshima in 2015 attended by heads of governments, the launch a nuclear weapons convention process, and the total elimination of nuclear weapons by 2020.

To make this plan successful, we need your help. Please:

- 1) Go to your mayor and ask him or her to go to Hiroshima for the 2013 General Conference. (Mayors do not have to be members of Mayors for Peace to attend this conference, but we assume they will join as well.)
- 2) Go to your City Hall and ask them to sponsor an A-bomb exhibition in your city in 2012. For materials and details, contact: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp
- 3) Go to our website, sign our petition, and send it to all of your friends, relatives, acquaintances and enemies. Visit: mayorsforpeace.org or 2020visioncampaign.org.
- 4) Get involved in saving the world. Our Mayors for Peace website will help you help us rid the world of the nuclear threat, but hundreds of wonderful groups are doing wonderful things right in your area. Please look them over, choose the one you like most, and join the movement.

The “adults” (governments and corporations) don’t really want to kill us, but they are dominance-seeking war-culture dinosaurs desperately in need of enlightened, peace-culture guidance. They need to know another world is possible, that you are willing to sacrifice to move into that other world, and that you will resist wholeheartedly the destruction of this planet or any group of people on it. Please find any way you can to send them this message before their old war-culture habits carry us all right over the cliff. Thank you.



Mayors for Peace Web Site

Profile

Steven Leeper

Born in the U.S. in 1947; obtained a Master’s Degree in clinical psychology from West Georgia University in the U.S. Worked as English instructor at Hiroshima YMCA. Co-President of Transnet Ltd., a consulting, translation and interpretation business, Overseas Liaison Advisor for Molten Corporation, U.S. Representative for Mayors for Peace, and Expert Advisor for this Foundation. Took Office as chairman of this Foundation on April 23, 2007.

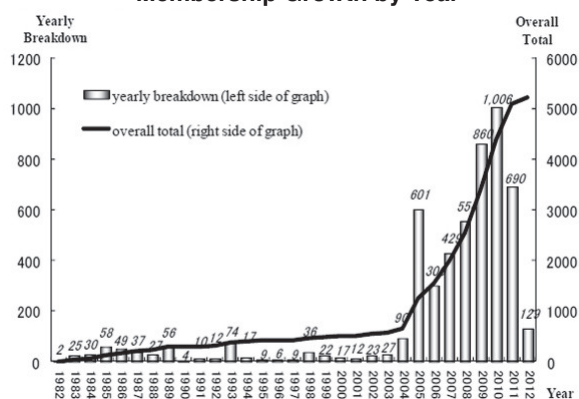
Mayors for Peace Membership Exceeds Its Target of 5,000

Mayors for Peace, a conference of cities established in 1982, seeks to eliminate nuclear weapons and build world peace through various activities. Membership in this conference exceeded 5,000 city members on 16 September 2011. On April 1 membership stands at 5,221.

After passing 4,000 members on 1 July 2010, over one thousand additional cities have joined in the year and two months since, expanding the circle of solidarity for non-proliferation of nuclear weapons into ever more regions of the world.

Mayors for Peace will continue to grow and nurture cooperation among cities, creating strong local networks while promoting global unity.

Membership Growth by Year



Membership Cities (April 1, 2012)

Area	Member
Asia	30 countries & regions 1,583 Cities
Oceania	9 countries & regions 127 Cities
Africa	42 countries & regions 329 Cities
Europe (CIS)	45 countries 2,351 Cities
North America	3 countries & regions 288 Cities
Latin America and the Caribbean	24 countries & regions 543 Cities
Total	153 countries & regions 5,221 Cities

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

International Symposium for Peace “The Road to Abolition—What Civil Society Needs to Do Now”

Program

[Opening]

Opening Performance / BUNKEN (Guitarist)

Special Guest Speech / Yoko Ono

[Special Event / Passing On A-Bomb Experiences]

Introduction to Messages from *Hibakusha* Website “Memories of Hiroshima and Nagasaki”(Produced by the Asahi Shimbun Company)

Recitation of A-Bomb Testimonies / Hiroshima Ondoku-no-kai

[Panel Discussion]

(Panelists) George Perkovich, vice president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (U.S.A.) / Tilman Ruff, Representative of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) (Europe) / Kazumi Mizumoto, from Hiroshima University and vice president of the Hiroshima Peace Institute (Japan) / Motoko Mekata, professor at Chuo University’s Faculty of Policy Studies (Japan)
(Coordinator) Toshiaki Miura - Asahi Shimbun Editorial Writer

The speech in Prague by United States President Obama, the adoption of a new START (new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) between Russia and America, the adoption of a final document at the NPT Review Conference, with momentum growing towards the abolition of nuclear weapons, an international symposium for peace entitled “The Road To Abolition—What Civil Society Needs To Do Now” was held on the afternoon of July 31st (Sunday) at the International Conference Center Hiroshima. The goal was to discuss measures the international community should take to accelerate this trend and stimulate further international public demand. The symposium was hosted by Hiroshima City, the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation and The Asahi Shimbun, with support from Nagasaki City, the Nagasaki Foundation for the Promotion of Peace, Hiroshima Home Television Co. and Nagasaki Culture Telecasting Corp.

This was the 17th Symposium in this series, which began in 1995. (The Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation has been a sponsor 13 times.)

Special Guest

Yoko Ono, the recipient of the 8th Hiroshima Art Prize which is given to contemporary artists that have contributed to peace, offered a keynote message saying “No more Hiroshima” is not to remind us of the victims, but is something we want to do for them, give them a world with no more Hiroshimas. She strongly declared that if all the people who are pushing for a world without nuclear weapons do whatever small good deeds they can, they will lead us to world peace.



Yoko Ono (far right) happily receiving a paper crane lei from junior and senior high school peace club

Special Event / Passing On A-Bomb Experiences

After the introduction of the Asahi Shimbun website “Memories of Hiroshima and Nagasaki”, the testimonies of Kazue Sawada and Satomi Maeda were read from the site by Mie Morioka and Keiko Miyagawa, members of the Hiroshima Ondonku-no-kai (a storytelling club), and Ms.

Sawada and Ms. Maeda appealed for peace from the stage.

Panel Discussion



The Panel Discussion

Reports From Panelists

George Perkovich - Abolition of nuclear weapons is similar to the abolition of slavery. People who fear change refuse the abolition of nuclear weapons. Now is the time to tell the world the experience of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as the trend is moving toward abolishing nuclear weapons. It is important to build trust internationally so that “security” can be achieved without using nuclear weapons.

Tilman Ruff - Nuclear reactors and spent fuel storage pools can become terrible weapons producing radioactivity. Wherever you are in the world, if a nuclear weapon is used, you will be harmed. Let’s make a strong appeal for the abolition of nuclear weapons from our civil society.

Kazumi Mizumoto - Japan has four nuclear-related policies: the three non-nuclear principles, the defense policy relying on the U.S. nuclear umbrella, promotion of peaceful use of nuclear energy (nuclear power generation) and foreign policy seeking for nuclear disarmament. We need a broad national debate to align the four policies in the same direction.

Motoko Mekata - As with the abolition of anti-personnel mines, in regards to nuclear weapons, it is important for many people to share the idea of spreading internationally the new value of abolishing nuclear weapons internationally. With respect to the nuclear damage experienced in Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Fukushima, all citizens of the world must raise their voices and say that frightening things are frightening, and bad things are bad urging substantive advances by the Japanese government toward nuclear disarmament.

Discussion by Panelists

After the panelists gave reports on their areas of expertise, the coordinator, Toshiaki Miura, led discussions on the meaning of the accident at the nuclear power plant in Fukushima, what’s going on now with disarmament in the international community, and what we can do as a civil society. A variety of proposals and opinions were given by the panelists.

Kazumi Mizumoto - We must accurately report what we learn from the Fukushima situation. The military and peaceful utilizations of nuclear energy are inextricably linked, and the risks of both are very high.

George Perkovich - President Obama tried to show leadership in his speech in Prague by advocating a nuclear-free world, but there is a lot of resistance. Civil society needs support and leadership from leaders like President Obama in other countries.

Tilman Ruff - To spread understanding of the humanitarian aspects of nuclear weapons, it is necessary for civil society to strongly influence each country’s government to begin negotiations for a nuclear prohibition treaty.

Motoko Mekata - Perhaps a single person has little power, but everyone acting with a single mind can bring about a big change in society. This year, in a positive meaning, is the starting point for nuclear disarmament, with each person thinking of a message he or she definitely wants Hiroshima to send to the world.

Toshiaki Miura - Foreigners have used the word “resilient” to extol the people of Japan. This means not giving up under any condition, to remain resolute. Hiroshima and Nagasaki were also “resilient”. I think it would be great if one frame of today’s symposium was “resilience”. I want to keep conveying it this way in the future.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

Hiroshima Peace Forum

The Hiroshima Peace Forum, which is co-sponsored by the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation and Hiroshima City, has been held since 2002 and is an opportunity for citizens to take another look at Hiroshima as the “home of peace” and think about what can be done regarding peace and atomic bombs. It was held six times, from May to July this year, on every other Saturday, and there were 94 attendees, ranging from teenagers to 70-year-olds.

As in the previous year, a Hiroshima City University course “Peace Studies in Hiroshima: Learning Practical Measures” was held in conjunction with the forum, to learn from outside specialists about the inheritance of A-bomb experiences and hands-on peace activities, and the two complemented each other, enhancing the content of the course. In addition, the results of the group discussions were presented in a symposium format, so there was a very lively exchange of views.

“We heard speakers from a variety of fields relevant to peace. I learned many valuable things,” and, “it was very helpful, as a wide age range of people participated, and we were able to exchange diverse opinions” were among the impressions received from participants in the survey.

(Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Outreach Division)



Group Discussion at the first meeting of the Peace Forum

Conveying the “Spirit of Hiroshima” to Junior Diplomats in the Field of Arms Reduction



Participants visiting the A-bomb Dome

Participants from the Arms Reduction Fellowship Program, a group of specialists from the governments of twenty-five nations to promote arms reduction, learned about the “The Spirit of Hiroshima” and truth of the effects of atomic weapons through inspections and seminars during their visit from 23 to 25 September.

The program has been a training scheme endorsed by the United Nations since 1979. Participants have been visiting Hiroshima annually since 1983. More than 750 people have participated in the program in Hiroshima thus far.

The evening of the 23rd the participants were greeted by Major Matsui of Hiroshima, and met with atomic bomb eye-witnesses and members of the public at their welcome reception.

The next day the participants visited the A-bomb Dome, the Children’s Peace Monument and offered flowers to the victims of the atomic bomb. They then visited Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum as well as Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims.

In the afternoon the participants were given an explanation of Mayors for Peace by Steven Leeper, the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation Chairman. After this they watched the film “Hiroshima – A Mothers’ Prayer” followed by a talk given by Mr Kejiro Matsushima, a survivor of the atomic bombing appointed a special envoy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They gained much important information during their study program.

Feedback from participants included, “the tragedy of the atomic bombing from the perspective of the victims was fully conveyed ... this program is well constructed”; “Mayors for Peace is an important initiative for world peace that all people should support”; and “I must convey to my government the things I have learned here and push urgently for them to play a greater role in bringing about the end of nuclear weapons”.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

The 66th Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony

Sharing the experiences of *hibakusha* and thoughts of peace

On August 8th, the City of Hiroshima held the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony in Peace Memorial Park, marking the sixty-sixth year since the dropping of the atomic bomb. Surviving family members were joined by nearly 50,000 people in praying for the souls of A-bomb victims and eternal peace.

The ceremony began at 8 a.m. with the mayor of Hiroshima, Kazumi Matsui, and two representatives of the victims’ families placing three volumes of the Register of the Names of Atomic Bomb Victims, containing the names of 5,785 victims confirmed to have passed away during the past year, into the stone coffin in the Cenotaph for the A-Bomb Victims. The addition of these names brings the total number of victims recorded in the register to 275,230 people and the number of volumes of the register to 100. In addition, one name was added to the single volume of the Nagasaki Register of the Names of Atomic Bomb Victims (for those desiring dedication at Hiroshima), bringing the total to nine people.

The ceremony continued with an address by Takashi Kijima, head of the Hiroshima City Council, and flower offerings from each of the representatives. At 8:15, Shinobu Nakane, representing the victims’ families, and Shota Tanaka, the children’s representative, rang the Peace Bell, which was followed by a moment of silence.

This was followed by Mayor Matsui’s first Peace Declaration, which included an account from an A-bomb survivor. In the Declaration, the mayor stated strongly that “the time has come for the rest of us to learn from all the *hibakusha* what they experienced and their desire for peace. Then, we must communicate what we learn to future generations and the rest of the world.” In addition, he expressed his condolences for those whose lives were lost in the Great East Japan Earthquake, calling for a revised domestic energy policy in light of the nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station.

After the mayor’s Peace Declaration, children’s representatives Masahiro Fukuhara and Nanoka Fujita read the Commitment to Peace and promised “to act to create a future overflowing with hope and dreams.”

The entire contents of the Peace Declaration are available on the City of Hiroshima home page. From the main page, click on Peace Declaration, Protest Letters, Etc. and then on Peace Declaration. Clicking Peace Declaration again will take you to this year’s Peace Declaration. It can also be viewed on the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum web site (http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/index_e2.html).

(General Affairs Division)

The 9th Meeting to Commemorate the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Victims

Renewing our commitment to future generations and the abolition of nuclear weapons



A presentation by Tomo-minami Elementary School Student Council

Since 2003, this Foundation has held the Meeting to Commemorate the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Victims on August 9th, the day the A-bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. The purpose is to express our condolences for the victims of the Nagasaki bombing and our solidarity as a city that suffered a similar fate. We also reaffirm our commitment to peace.

At this year's meeting, around 150 people gathered in the Memorial Hall of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. As they watched the live feed of the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Victims Memorial Peace Prayer Ceremony, they joined in the moment of silence at 11:02, marking the exact time the bomb was dropped. They then watched a DVD of Katsuji Yoshida recounting what he witnessed in the bombing of Nagasaki.

Collaborating on the commemoration for the first time was the citizen's group *Hiroshima to Nagasaki wo tsunageru puro-jekuto* (Connecting Hiroshima-Nagasaki Project), and many events by younger members were on the day's menu, such as presentations by Tomo-minami Elementary School student council and The No Nuke Network: Students of Hiroshima Against Nuclear Weapons, an organization created by junior and senior high school students from Hiroshima intent on abolishing nuclear weapons. The commemoration concluded with an address from Sunao Tsuboi, Director of the Hiroshima Prefectural Confederation of A-Bomb Sufferers Organizations.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

Completion of the "Images of the A-bomb Holocaust": Experiences of the Atomic Bomb Victims

Since 2007, the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation and the Hiroshima Prefectural Motomachi High School Creative Expression Course have brought student volunteers and A-bomb eyewitnesses together to create the "Images of the A-bomb Holocaust", a graphic record of the experiences of the Foundation's official *hibakusha*.

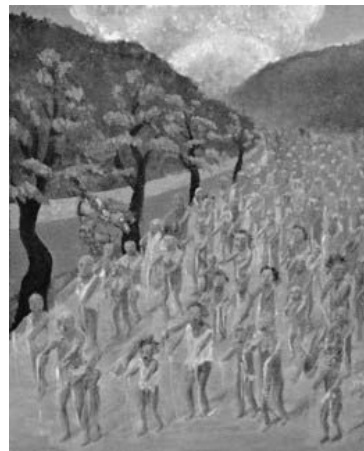
Since 2010 five *hibakusha* and eleven students have worked in five groups to produce the drawings. They recently presented eleven completed drawings to the Foundation.

On 4 July, the five *hibakusha* – Shinichiro Arai, Sadae Kasaoka, Kenji Kitagawa, Masahiro Kunishige and Takashi Teramoto – together with the eleven Creative Expression Course students attended the completion ceremony at the Motomachi High School Gallery.

"This opportunity to work together with the *hibakusha* has changed the way I understand atomic weapons. I see now how utterly terrifying and regrettable it is that something as horrible as this should have ever happened," said one student. "Thinking about the survivors and all those who died in agony because of the A-bomb I feel nuclear weapons are something we should never maintain or use again," said another. Yet another student explained, "Not only a sense of straightforward fear but also a sense of duty to never to let such a tragedy happen again welled up in me". "I want to work for peace," said another student, "so that the world will be filled with expressions of happiness". "I strongly feel our generation must continue to spread the message that war is wrong," was the opinion of another student.

These drawings given to the Foundation were presented by the *hibakusha* in order to help us better understand the horror of the atomic experience. They are also given to us so that we can understand the true suffering that nuclear weapons cause while teaching us what Hiroshima was like at that time.

(Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Outreach Division)



"Departed souls under a row of pine trees on the Sanyo Highway."
Natsu Nishiie
(Motomachi High School, Standard Stream Creative Expression Course, 2nd Year),
Shinichiro Arai
(Eyewitness to the Atomic bomb)



"The day the bomb was dropped – Seeing A-bomb victims for the first time."
Saki Mukaida (Motomachi High School, Standard Stream Creative Expression Course, 3rd Year),
Sadae Kasaoka (Eyewitness to the Atomic bomb)



"The utter transformation of busy downtown Hiroshima – Shintenchi."
Ami Yamanaka (Motomachi High School, Standard Stream Creative Expression Course, 2nd Year),
Kenji Kitagawa (Eyewitness to the Atomic bomb)



“Screams, suffering, and finally anger.”
Haruka Nomura (Motomachi High School, Standard Stream Creative Expression Course, 2nd Year),
Masahiro Kunishige (Eyewitness to the Atomic bomb)



“in the Brack Rain”
Momo Onaka (Motomachi High School, Standard Stream Creative Expression Course, 2nd Year),
Takashi Teramoto (Eyewitness to the Atomic bomb)

Let's Convey Our Message in English Hiroshima Seminar

At the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum we conduct the “Let's Convey Our Message in English – Hiroshima Seminar” to impart fundamental knowledge of what a nuclear weapon can do and how to express this in English.

On 29 May, 2011 and 24 July, 2011 approximately 100 people participated in the “General Public” seminars. These were mostly Japanese who will have the opportunity to meet foreigners because they are planning to go overseas or to do homestays.

In both of these sessions, the first half was given by Craig Nevitt, an English language instructor from the US. He explained to the participants how to answer frequently asked questions by foreigners.



Ms. Keiko Ogura speaking at the 29 May “General Public” seminar

In the latter half of the May seminar a lecture was given by Keiko Ogura, representing the Hiroshima Interpreters for Peace group, on the topic “Convey the Meaning of Hiroshima to the World”. She talked about her experiences as an interpreter and the message we should send out to the world.

In the latter half of the July seminar, a lecture was given by Steven Leeper, chairman of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, on the present state of affairs concerning nuclear weapons and why the time is right to fulfil the goals of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

Approximately 100 high school students, who are scheduled to go on exchange programs, also participated in student seminars held on 28 May, 11 June and 16 July.

We received such comments as, “I didn't know I knew so little about nuclear weapons,” or “I want to tell the world about Hiroshima when I go overseas”.

(Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Outreach Division)

Meeting via the Web Conference System



A-bomb Eyewitness testimony via the web conference system

At the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum we have presented A-bomb eyewitness testimony via the web conference system to people overseas. These videoconferences convey the facts about nuclear weapons and raise public awareness of the need to eliminate nuclear weapons.

The eyewitness accounts given by atomic bomb survivors are conducted live from the Museum, allowing us to experience the atmosphere in conference rooms on the other side of the world. The listeners in these conferences are able to talk live with the *hibakusha* and watch PowerPoint slides while listening to eyewitness accounts. Q&A sessions are also conducted in real time.

As of December, eleven web conference sessions had been conducted in 2011 with 9 cities in 6 countries, including the United States, United Kingdom and Russia.

A web conference was conducted at the Glasgow University Chapel, Scotland, with a researcher from the university in November. He had this to report to his sponsors: “The accounts I heard were very important experiences to me. The eloquent statements by the eyewitnesses were well balanced unbiased views which left a deep impression upon me”.

This use of technology for peace helps mutual dialogue and greatly reduces the physical burden upon the aging *hibakusha*. It is also cost efficient. We plan to pursue greater use of this method for disseminating atomic bomb eyewitness accounts.

(Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Outreach Division)

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers' Atomic Bomb Exhibition: Hiroshima Expressed Through Puppetry

by Miho Uematsu

Coordinator for International Cooperation,
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Sri Lanka is one of the destinations for the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers. Since its inception in 2008, the Atomic Bomb Exhibition has been held annually in various parts of Sri Lanka, mainly the regions to which the volunteers are dispatched. As the volunteers' term in any place is two years, the volunteers running the exhibition change each time. Nonetheless the aspirations for the exhibition are passed on and maintained. Ten volunteers took the lead to hold the exhibition in 2011.

One of the special features of the Atomic Bomb Exhibition held in Sri Lanka is the puppet show performed at the venue. In addition to the general public, many children from the local elementary schools and kindergartens come to the Atomic Bomb Exhibition to learn about peace. Unfortunately, however, the explanations provided by the posters on display are often too difficult for small children to understand.

The videos shown at the exhibition are also targeted toward the adult audience, and the shocking content has sometimes reduced scared children to tears. Since the children had made the effort to come to the exhibition, the volunteers tried to think of a way for the smaller visitors to learn about the atomic bomb and Hiroshima that was easier for them to understand and not as frightening.

The solution they came up with was a puppet show on the theme of Hiroshima, sure to be popular with the Sri Lankan children who love films and cartoons. The volunteers developed not only the scenario but also the puppets, the set, light-



The volunteers performing the puppet show



Children staring at the puppet show

ing, and everything needed for the puppet show. They even performed the show themselves in the local language. They prepared for the day of the show with many rehearsals.

Hiroshima, August 6. The people of Hiroshima, peacefully going about their daily lives, are suddenly hit by the atomic bomb. In that instant, homes and schools disappear. At the sight of so many people grieving at the loss of their family and friends, the children leaned forward, staring intently at the puppets. The puppet show was also popular among the adults accompanying the children, and is now a regular feature of the Atomic Bomb Exhibition program in Sri Lanka.

Every year, the exhibition is held at five or six locations around Sri Lanka, at venues including universities, city halls, and temples. The volunteers will continue to hold the exhibition, to communicate the sin of war, the tragedy of nuclear weapons, and the importance of peace.

Hiroshima Scholarship Award Ceremony



Commemorative photograph at the Scholarship Award Ceremony

As part of the Hiroshima Scholarship Program, this Foundation awards thirty privately-funded international students in the Hiroshima City area with a scholarship of 30,000 yen per month for a one-year period.

Thirty international students (from three countries) studying at ten universities in Hiroshima City were designated as Hiroshima Scholarship Students for this year, and on July 7 (Thursday), the Scholarship Award Ceremony was held in a training room at Hiroshima City International House. Six representatives of five organizations that make significant donations to the Hiroshima Fund for Foreign Students attended the ceremony as guests, in addition to guests from the universities (nine people from nine universities) that regularly look after the scholarship students.

After the ceremony, participants moved to the hall at the venue, for a gathering with the guests and the other participants from universities. Each of the scholarship students gave a speech where they introduced themselves, spoke of their impressions of Hiroshima, aspirations for the future, and expressed their gratitude for the scholarship they had been awarded. With a saxophone performance by Mr. Archimedes, an international student from the Philippines studying at Elizabeth University of Music Graduate School, participants enjoyed themselves in the friendly atmosphere.

We look forward to continued strong support and cooperation from Hiroshima's citizens for the Hiroshima Fund for Foreign Students, to ensure that privately-funded international students can concentrate on their studies without concerns about financial issues, and become a bridge of international exchange with the people of Hiroshima City.

(Hiroshima City International House)

Peace Forum for Foreign Students: Toward A Lasting Peace

Peace Forums for Foreign Students were held to convey the reality of Hiroshima in various forms to foreign students who have chosen to study here so that they would come to regard the atomic bombing as an issue not of the past but of the present and future and to foster young people who will work toward lasting world peace. A total of 236 people, including 67 foreign students, participated in forums on Saturday, July 30 and Friday, August 6.

Considering Peace Through Images

At the first forum, "The Back of Destiny," an independent film directed by Tomoki Deyama, was screened (with English subtitles). In a new endeavor, local residents were invited to participate in the forum along with the foreign students with the idea that providing an opportunity for people from different countries to put their heads together on the issue of peace would deepen understanding of Hiroshima and lead to lasting world peace.

"The Back of Destiny" depicts the lives of a Hiroshima couple before the dropping of the atomic bomb and how they find the strength to survive afterwards. Following the screening of the film, producer Hisako Deyama described the difficulties encountered while making the film and gave a slide presentation on the subject. A video message from Tomoki Deyama was also shown.

During the discussion and question-and-answer session that followed, local residents offered their opinions, but unfortunately the foreign students said little. But this forum, which was not limited to foreign students and included local citizens

for the first time, had such an impact that the number of participants exceeded the capacity of the original venue so an additional site had to be used. This suggested the depth of Hiroshima residents' interest in peace and their strong desire to convey the spirit of Hiroshima. Some people were seen to cry during the screening of the film.

In their reports, the foreign students said that seeing the film allowed them to gain a better understanding of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and learn the importance of peace. This forum demonstrated that images can sometimes convey the need for peace better than words.

Attendance at Peace Memorial Ceremony

On August 6, a date annually dedicated to peace in Hiroshima, the foreign students attended the Peace Memorial Ceremony. Those who were attending for the first time as well as those who attend every year looked a little nervous amid the solemn atmosphere of the ceremony site and the elderly participants offering prayers.

By attending the ceremony the foreign students gained a strong awareness of peace and seemed to recognize the importance of passing on the spirit of Hiroshima in the context of the aging of the atomic bomb survivors.

Regardless of race or gender, all those who desire peace, must pass on the reality of the atomic bombing, so we will continue to carry out projects that will encourage foreign students to think about and take action on global peace.

(Hiroshima City International House)



Forum participants listen to a description of the film "The Back of Destiny."



Forum participants attend the Peace Memorial Ceremony

Please Take Advantage of This Foundation's Scholarships Provided for Privately Funded Foreign Students

This Foundation has established a Hiroshima Scholarship system for privately funded students, graduate students or research students from foreign countries who are enrolled in undergraduate or graduate courses in universities or colleges within Hiroshima City and are living in the city. Every school year (April to March) 30 students are selected to receive a monthly stipend of 30,000 yen.

The endowment for this scholarship is donated by caring Hiroshima residents, and the stipends are paid from a Hiroshima Foreign Students Fund.

To apply for a scholarship or to make a donation to the fund, please contact the Hiroshima City International House at:

Phone: 81-82-568-5931

Fax: 81-82-568-5600

E-mail: info@i-house-hiroshima.jp

Hiroshima As I Saw



by Keiko Ogura

Representative of the Hiroshima
Interpreters for Peace (HIP)

August 6

I was eight years old, a second-year student at the National School. When the atomic bomb was dropped I was in Ushita Town, 2.4km north of the hypocenter. One of my older brothers, a fifth-year elementary student, had been evacuated, and my other older brother, a junior high school student, was involved in agricultural work north of Hiroshima Station as a mobilized student. My father had said “Something doesn’t feel right. Don’t go to school today”, so I was all alone on the road on the north side of our house.

Suddenly, I was engulfed in a dazzling flash of light, and the tremendous blast that followed slammed me to the ground. The straw roofs of the neighboring houses instantaneously burst into flames. When I went back to the house I found that everything inside was destroyed, the ceiling and roof tiles had been blown away, and the doors and window panes were shattered into hundreds of pieces and sticking out of the walls and pillars. But thankfully my parents and brothers and sisters who were inside the house only suffered minor injuries.

Rain started to fall immediately after that - I do not know precisely when it started. I think it was shortly after the bomb was dropped. I went outside, and my clothes were dampened by the sticky, gray “black rain”. That rain left many thick, gray-colored lines on the walls in the house.

People fleeing

My older brother finally came home, with burns on his face and hands. Hearing him say “Hiroshima is a sea of fire”, I went outside to look at the city from the hill at the shrine nearby. It was then that I came across a line of people, their clothes in tatters, with burns, seriously injured, fleeing the city. These people had charred hair, faces and lips swollen and blackened with soot, and they were covered in blood. Some of the people had their skin peeling away and hanging down from their fingertips. Most of the people in this silent procession of ghost-like figures were soldiers or students; some of them ended up bent over and others lay down on the stone steps along the road leading up to the shrine. The whole area was filled with seriously injured people on the brink of death. I found out later that the reason that people were fleeing up there was that the area around the nearby shrine was being used as an emergency aid station. However there was no sign of anyone who looked like a doctor, just one soldier with a bucket, applying something like zinc oxide oil^(*) to the injured with a brush. After that, seriously injured people died every day, and were carried to the park, which was being used as a temporary site for cremating the dead. It was in that park that my father and members from the civil defense unit cremated more than seven hundred corpses.

“Give me water”

As I was walking someone on the ground suddenly grabbed my ankle. From around my feet, a weak voice said “Give me water”. A woman covered in soot and blood was clinging to me desperately. “Water, water”, the voice of the dying woman continued to plead for water. I ran home, got some water from our well, and carried it to the dying people. Immediately after drinking the water, a number of those people suddenly slumped, and died right before my eyes. Shocked and trembling with fear, I regretted giving them water. I was so young,

I did not know that it was said at the time that we were not supposed to give water to people with serious burns. I vowed never to tell anyone about what happened that day. My memory of that day remained with me as a nightmare even decades later.

My half-collapsed home was crowded with injured relatives, friends and neighbors. My older sister was crying as she removed with tweezers shards of glass that were stuck in my uncle’s back. The inside of the house was filled with a nauseating stench of blood, pus, mud, charred hair, and sewage. Flames had spread to the mountain behind our house, and Hiroshima continued to burn throughout the night.

Looking down over the destroyed city

On August 7, I looked down over the city of Hiroshima from the hill in front of the shrine. Burnt ruins spread as far as the eye could see, and I could pick out the remains of a number of buildings including the department store Fukuya and the former Chugoku Shimbun building. The sea that I could see beyond that felt so close that I could touch it. Smoke from cremations rose up from the park just nearby and every now and then the stench of burning corpses wafted over. From that day, I climbed those stone steps every day and continued to gaze over the city of Hiroshima.



Looking south from a building roof near Yamaguchi Town (currently the area of Kanayama Town, Ebisu Town and Nobori Town). With nothing blocking the view, it was possible to see as far as Ninoshima Island (4,000m out to sea from Hiroshima City) floating on Hiroshima Bay.
Photographs by: US military

Communicating the wishes of the *hibakusha* to the world

Over the past thirty years, I have interpreted the testimonies of various atomic bomb survivors (*hibakusha*) on the one hand, while on the other communicating my own experience in English to the people of the world. I do this because I do not want humankind to ever again experience the horror caused by nuclear weapons. I know that retribution and hatred mean nothing under that mushroom cloud, and that the people of the world share the same fate.

(*) zinc oxide oil: a white ointment used for minor burns.

Profile

Keiko Ogura

Born August 4, 1937. Experienced the atomic bombing at the age of 8 in Ushita, 2.4 kilometers from the hypocenter.

In 1981, established Hiroshima Interpreters for Peace. As an interpreter, becomes involved in many works by overseas artists, media, peace activists and more. Presents own atomic bombing testimony in English at such events as the Mock International Tribunal Denouncing Nuclear War held in Nuremberg and the Global Conference of Radiation Victims held in New York.



by **Katsuko Kataoka**

Professor Emerita at Hiroshima University
Secretary General, Japanese Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (JPPNW)

I pray the souls of the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake rest in peace and wish for the survivors being able to resume their normal lives soon. At the same time I regret the poor handling after the accident at the TEPCO Fukushima-daiichi nuclear power plant. Peace has various dimensions: from the absence of war to the protection of human rights including no structural violence, and to sustain sound environment. I would like to mention some of my thoughts on these issues.

Hopes for the abolition of nuclear weapons have heightened since President Obama's speech in Prague in April 2009, but the reliance of major states on nuclear deterrence for their security seem unlikely to change. A nuclear attack based on error or misinformation has somehow been avoided, but there is no guarantee that this luck will continue. The use of nuclear weapons by a non-state body is also a possibility. As long as Japan relies on the "nuclear umbrella" of the United States, the possibility of a nuclear attack can not be escaped. As we stated in the 2007 Report from the Committee of Experts on Damage Scenarios Resulting from a Nuclear Weapons Attack^(*), cities can not withstand attacks by even the smallest nuclear weapon.

Nuclear weapons are dangerous even when not used. An estimated $3,000 \times 10^{18}$ Bq of radioactive materials (excluding induced radioactivity⁽²⁾) has been released in atmospheric nuclear tests and fallen to earth all over the world. This is a tremendous amount incomparably greater than the amounts released in the Chernobyl disaster (8×10^{18} Bq) or last year's accident at the nuclear power plant in Fukushima (0.18×10^{18} Bq according to a government report submitted to the International Atomic Energy Agency in June 2011). The environmental pollution that results during the course of the development and manufacture of nuclear weapons can not even be surveyed as it has been hampered by the barrier of national security.

Nuclear weapons are an absolute evil, and their abolition is the earnest desire of the people of Hiroshima. In 1996 the International Court of Justice issued an advisory opinion stating that "...the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict and particularly the principles and rules of humanitarian law." International humanitarian law includes not only the protection of civilians themselves but also of things essential for their survival and of their environment. This can be interpreted to mean that carpet bombing and all attacks on cities violate humanitarian law, except in extremely rare circumstances.

IPPNW fully supports the effort of Mayors for Peace, which has more than 5,000 member municipalities around the world, to promote the elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2020 as well as its Cities Are Not Targets (CANT) Project. We also advocate the addition of specific wording on "nuclear weapons and other indiscriminate weapons of mass destruction" to the crimes against humanity cited in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court⁽³⁾.

The next condition for the creation of a peaceful world is to ensure basic human rights such as equality, securing liberty and physical safety, and providing basic education as well as bases of healthy and cultural life, for the people over the world. Military expenditures represent a huge proportion of the national budgets of many poor countries despite their lack of safe supplies of food and water and basic levels of education. And yet it is wealthy nations like the permanent members

of the United Nations Security Council that are selling weapons to those countries. This continued injustice provides a hotbed for conflict and terrorism. I believe that protecting the nation means protecting its citizens in a democratic country, and by extension, it means protecting the people worldwide.

There are believed to be two basic ways in which people's minds work: systemizing (S) and empathizing (E). S types are logical and attach importance to the intellect. They systematize, order things and emphasize hierarchy. E types balance intellect and sensitivity. They are tolerant, good at collaborating with others, and showing consideration for the weak. They also have good communication skills. S types forge straight ahead toward their goals whereas E types don't mind taking a roundabout way in order to move one step forward. S types try to subjugate nature while E types try to coexist with it. It is generally said that men tend to be S types whereas women tend to be E types, but men and women have elements of both types, and people who are extremely one way or the other may face difficulties socially. Modern society was developed by mainly S-type thinking. Now is the time for E-type thinking to be used to overcome the environmental and human survival issues that have arisen as a result of the development of modern society. This also means a gender-equal society being inevitable.



IPPNW medical students on a bicycle tour in support of the abolition of nuclear weapons in Basel, Switzerland in 2010. A tour from Nagasaki to Hiroshima is planned for the run-up to the 20th IPPNW World Congress to be held in Hiroshima on August 24-26, 2012.

(Contributed in July 2011)

(*) Report from the Committee of Experts on Damage Scenarios Resulting from a Nuclear Weapons Attack: When formulating its civil protection plan, the City of Hiroshima set up a Committee of Experts on Damage Scenarios Resulting from a Nuclear Weapons Attack under its Civil Protection Council and made its own predictions of damage. The report was issued on November 9, 2007.

(2) Induced Radioactivity: Radioactivity produced in certain materials as a result of nuclear reactions, particularly the capture of neutrons. This results in non-radioactive materials to be radioactive.

(3) Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court: A permanent body of the International Criminal Court established for the prosecution and punishment of the most serious crimes which are of interest to the international community as a whole. Sets forth the obligations of cooperation of the signatory nations.

Profile

Katsuko Kataoka

Physician with a Ph. D. degree in medical science from Hiroshima University. Became a professor at Hiroshima University School of Medicine in 1981. Retired in 2007 and became a professor emerita. Since 2007 has served as the Secretary General of Japanese Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, an affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (Nobel Peace Prize laureate in 1985). Chair of the Hiroshima Women Physicians Society. Member of the board of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation and the Hiroshima City of the Future Foundation.

People who convey the "Spirit of Hiroshima"

Hiroshima Okonomiyaki: taking the fuel for post-war recovery to Tohoku

An interview with Hiroaki Kawakami (President, K2S K.K.) and head of the Okonomiyaki Division of the Hiroshima Inshoku Seiei, Hiroshima City Chapter.

Hoping to put a smile on the faces of evacuees of the Great East Japan Earthquake and provide them with hot-off-the-grill okonomiyaki, a local specialty that contributed to the post-war recovery of the city, the Hiroshima City Chapter of the Hiroshima Inshoku Seiei and the City of Hiroshima supplied hot, freshly made okonomiyaki to evacuation centers in Sendai on April 12-13 with the cooperation of member businesses.

What was the inspiration for this project?

Just by chance, three of our employees were on a business trip to Tokyo on March 11, the day the big earthquake struck. Tokyo shook pretty violently as well. Somehow they managed to catch the last flight and returned to neighboring Okayama. I went to retrieve them from Okayama and finally all of our employees had made it safely back to Hiroshima. The next week we held a company-wide meeting and since our employees had also experienced the earthquake and understood the scope of the disaster, we started to talk about what we could do for the victims. That's how all of this got started.

How did you carry it out?

I am the head of the Okonomiyaki Division for the Hiroshima City Chapter of the Hiroshima Inshoku Seiei, so I proposed this project to the City of Hiroshima and they were pleased to accept it. I asked member businesses for donations and in just five days we managed to gather enough ingredients to make 2000 servings of okonomiyaki and were even lent a refrigerated truck.

The City of Hiroshima made arrangements for us and on the morning of April 11, one month after the disaster, we loaded the ingredients into the truck and together with four okonomiyaki chefs and three city employees, left from city hall. Using the expressways and taking naps along the way, we arrived in the City of Sendai over 20 hours later.

Once there, what did you do?

On the first day, we went to Rokugo Junior High School in Sendai, one of the evacuation centers, and made okonomiyaki. Hiroshima and Sendai cities have a good relationship and thanks to the arrangements made in advance—like where we were going to make the okonomiyaki—things went very smoothly. At this facility, the JSDF, Japan Self-Defense Forces, were preparing and providing meals, so we asked them to take a break (lunch) and allow us to add okonomiyaki to the menu. We had to prepare about 800 meals in 90 minutes, but four employees from the Sendai and Tokyo branches of the Otafuku Sauce Company lent a hand. So, with 15 people working we were able to finish in time.



Volunteer activities at Rokugo Junior High School

After that, in the gymnasium, the head of the neighborhood association, who was also staying there as a refugee, introduced us to everyone and they all expressed their gratitude to us for coming such a long way to help out. Then it was our turn to feel touched.

To us, the aftermath of the disaster-hit areas were reminiscent of Hiroshima after the war. While we made okonomiyaki we imagined the feelings of those Hiroshimans before us who provided support to Hiroshima's recovery with okonomiyaki. The evacuees that day couldn't resist our Hiroshima okonomiyaki and we were told how great it was.

On the second day, we visited Okada Elementary School, also in Sendai. The neighborhood association leader was also staying at the evacuation center, and under the leader's direction evacuees gathered to help us. They contacted the neighborhood evacuation centers for us and 600 meals we had prepared were loaded onto pallets and delivered to all of the centers.

Since it had been a month since the disaster struck, evacuation centers had developed rules so that people could live together. Instead of having everyone line up for food, meals were distributed by volunteers or by people in turns. It really felt that people were working together to survive.

Okada Elementary School was just on the edge of the area devastated by the tsunami and looking at the horrible destruction left us speechless. With the large number of evacuees, it wasn't like we could just wish everyone the best of luck, so we put all of our effort into preparing okonomiyaki for them to enjoy.



Volunteer activities at Okada Elementary School

What kind of future activities are you considering?

We have been holding fundraisers since immediately following the disaster and for now we would just like to continue with that. Despite our miniscule abilities, we'd also like to think about what we can contribute to the ongoing recovery efforts in the disaster-stricken area.

By visiting the disaster area, we were able to feel the power of the evacuees while at the same time feel a sort of connection to the power of our grandparents' generation which made post-war Hiroshima what it is today. So, I was able to sense that the disaster area will also recover. Also, I think that this project went so smoothly precisely because of the connection felt between the volunteers and those accepting our aid. I felt that we had to be careful not to let this volunteer project become one-sided.

Finally, being able to successfully complete this project was the result of being blessed with great volunteers and I would like to express my gratitude to them. If we do this kind of activity again, I would love to do it with them

Thanks for your time today.

(Interviewed July 23, 2011)

Information

Our Newsletters Are Accessible on the Internet

You can read our newsletters (Japanese version and English version) on the Internet.

[URL] <http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/hpcf/paper/>

[Request] Please inform us if you change your mailing address.

HIROSHIMA PEACE CULTURE FOUNDATION

PEACE CULTURE



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