

PEACE CULTURE



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Strengthening Mayors for Peace Activities —Visit to Thailand and Australia—



Asking Freemantle Mayor Mr. Pettitt (right) to assume the position of Leader City

Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, the Secretary-General of the Mayors for Peace and Chairperson of this Foundation, visited Bangkok and Chiang Mai, Thailand and Freemantle and Sydney, Australia, in November of last year. Mr. Komizo asked these cities to assume the post of Leader City and held discussions on that topic, while discussing the expansion of Mayors for Peace activities in the respective regions. There were also talks on future collaborative work with the Red Cross, atomic bomb survivors who are involved in A-bomb testimony activities overseas, peace-related research centers at universities, peace NGOs and others.

Mr. Komizo also visited the Japanese diplomatic missions in Thailand and Australia, and asked for their support in Mayors for Peace activities in their respective regions.

Mr. Komizo's main activities during the trips are outlined below.

November 11

In Bangkok, Mr. Komizo met with Mr. Shigekazu Sato, the Japanese ambassador to Thailand. Mr. Komizo explained measures to promote Mayors for Peace activities based in Thailand and Malaysia, and asked for support for the activities.

He then met with Vice-Governor Amon Kitchawengkun. He requested that Bangkok assume the position of Leader City, and discussed measures to strengthen Mayors for Peace activities, confirming the importance of international exchange between young people for building a peaceful future.

Mr. Komizo also met with Mr. Michio Hakariya, an atomic bomb survivor from Nagasaki who has been engaged extensively in and around Chiang Mai for the past few years in A-bomb testimonial activities. They discussed testimonial activities overseas.

November 12

At Chiang Mai, Mr. Komizo met with the acting mayor Srueamchai Meesomsakdi and asked for cooperation in measures to promote Mayors for Peace activities.

This was followed by a meeting with Mr. Akihiko Fujii, the Japanese Consul-General in Chiang Mai. Mr. Komizo asked that information be provided on testimonial activities by atomic bomb survivors overseas, and asked for support for the holding of atomic bomb exhibitions and Mayors for Peace membership recruitment activities.

Mr. Komizo also met with Mr. Senjyo Nakai, the deputy director of the Japanese Studies Center at Chiang Mai University. They discussed starting up the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course and holding an exhibition of A-bomb artifacts: "The Light" - Portraits of the "Hibakusha".

November 13

When Mr. Komizo returned to Bangkok, he met with Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul, the former Thai ambassador to Japan, and held a discussion on peace-related exchange activities between young people in Thailand and Hiroshima.

This was followed by a meeting with Mr. Thanong Bidaya, the former Minister of Finance in Thailand. They had a wide-ranging discussion, including topics such as carrying on the message of the atomic bomb survivors to the next generation, international youth exchange activities, and the domestic situation in Thailand.

Mr. Komizo also met with Chulalongkorn University's Center for Peace and Conflict Studies Director Surichai Wun'Gaeo, and held discussions on the importance of raising peace awareness at the municipal and civic levels, and collaboration between university projects and Mayors for Peace activities.

November 14

Mr. Komizo then traveled from Thailand to Australia, and first met in Perth with Mr. Koichi Funayama, the Japanese Consul-General in Perth. He listened to an explanation on the situation in Perth and Western Australia, and they discussed municipal peace activities in the region.

Next, Mr. Komizo visited Freemantle Mayor Brad Pettitt, and asked the city to assume the position of Leader City for Mayors for Peace. Mayor Pettitt said that he would like to consider the request, and they discussed the role of a Leader City. The meeting was also attended by journalists Ms. Elizabeth PO' and Mr. Adrian Glamorgan, who attended the Mayors for Peace General Meeting in August last year on the mayor's behalf.

Mayor Pettitt accepted Leader City role in April 1, 2014 for western Australia after he obtained unanimous City Council approval.

November 15

In Sydney, Mr. Komizo met with Mr. Toshiaki Kobayashi, the acting Consul-General in Sydney. He explained the issue of handing down atomic bomb testimonies when the atomic bomb survivors are aging, and spoke about the formation of regional groups in Mayors for Peace.

Mr. Komizo then met with Ms. Robyn Kemmis, the Deputy Mayor of Sydney, and heard about Sydney's peace initiatives. They also discussed future possibilities for joint projects.

November 16

Mr. Komizo met with Mr. Alain Aeschlimann, Head of Operations for East Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, International Committee of the Red Cross, who was attending the meeting of representatives of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. He proposed to strengthen cooperative relations between Mayors for Peace and Red Cross.

He also had a meeting with Ms. Kazuyo Matsu Preston, who lives in Melbourne and is the representative of the peace NGO Japanese for Peace. They discussed her organization's activities and future cooperation.

November 17

Mr. Komizo met with Ms. Junko Morimoto, who is an atomic bomb survivor and children's book writer living in Sydney. He heard about her activities to date with admiration, wished for her good health and discussed about possible area of cooperation with Mayors for Peace.

He also attended the meeting of representatives of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as an observer, and exchanged greetings with Mr. Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Tadateru Konoe, President of the Japanese Red Cross Society, and others.

November 18

Mr. Komizo visited the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies and met with the head of the Centre, Dr. Ken Macnab, and four other teaching staff from the Centre. At the meeting, Mr. Komizo explained the Mayors for Peace initiatives, including collaboration with international organizations such as the Red Cross. They discussed various issues of common interest, in particular, possible cooperation for the cause of nuclear abolition. He also asked that they set up the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course at Sydney University.

From November 11-15, the Mayors for Peace Atomic Bomb Poster Exhibition was held at Sydney Convention Centre, which was the venue of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies General Meeting. At the same time attendees were asked to sign a petition calling for



Mayors for Peace Atomic Bomb Poster Exhibition at the venue of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies General Meeting

the start of negotiations for a nuclear weapons convention.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibition in Croatia

Last year, the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibition was held in Croatia, in the capital Zagreb from September 10 to October 6, and in the coastal city Biograd na Moru from October 10 to December 10.

From 1991 to 1995, Croatia was in a conflict to gain its independence from Yugoslavia, and based on this experience of war, is one of the countries active in pursuing a peaceful world. Biograd na Maru is a small city of just over 5,000 people, but as a Vice President City of Mayors for Peace is proactively involved in the organization's activities. Thanks to cooperation from the city, we were able to hold the Atomic Bomb Exhibition in Biograd na Maru as well as the capital Zagreb.

At the exhibition held at the Technical Museum in Zagreb, thanks to the wonderful work by the Museum staff there was an impressive display of panels and atomic bomb artifacts, and as a result the truth of the atomic bombing was communicated to around 2,000 visitors. On October 6, the final day of the exhibition, a venue was set up for visitors to hear the atomic bombing testimony of Mr. Takashi Teramoto, an atomic bomb survivor. Many of the city's residents came to the venue of the testimony, with standing room only.



Visitors looking at atomic bombing artifacts (Zagreb City Technical Museum)

Some of the visitors had tears in their eyes as they listened to Mr. Teramoto's story. In the question and answer session after the testimony, people were nodding emphatically when Mr. Teramoto said "It is important that we work to achieve perpetual world peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons not from revenge but with a spirit of reconciliation".

The atomic bomb exhibition held at Biograd na Maru also attracted a total of around 500 visitors, who fervently and carefully looked through the exhibition.

In the questionnaire many visitors highly praised the exhibition, including comments such as "Seeing this atomic bomb exhibition had a very strong impact on me. Nuclear weapons must be abolished" and "This was educational and worthwhile".

(Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Outreach Division)

Helping to write atomic bombing testimonies

At the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims, as the atomic bomb survivors get older, a project is underway to assist in the writing of atomic bombing testimonies, for those who would like to record their experiences of the bombing but do not feel capable of writing it by themselves. In this project, Memorial Hall staff members visit the survivors in their homes or elsewhere, ask them about their atomic bombing experience, and record it in writing. The project has been going since 2006, and by 2012, interviews

had been conducted with 81 people. In 2013 there were interviews with 12 people, whose atomic bombing testimonies are gradually being completed and released for public viewing at the Memorial Hall. These are displayed in program exhibitions and on the homepage, and are also provided to public bodies and translated into multiple languages.

For the survivors, their experience of 68 years ago is engraved in their minds as if it were only yesterday, and they draw from deep down in their memories as they speak of the tragedy at the time of the bombing. These were experiences that they did not want to be reminded of, that they had kept secretly in the depths of their souls, but they applied to record their testimonies feeling that it is their mission to communicate them to later generations.

Below is an excerpt of the atomic bombing testimony of Mr. Masaru Takamatsu (aged 17 at the time of the bombing), who received our assistance for his testimony. Mr. Takamatsu was working at the Hiroshima army munitions facility when the bomb was dropped, and after that was involved in work carrying corpses.

.....My job was to load the bodies of the people who had died onto trucks. I did not have any gloves so I carried them with my bare hands. The skin of the corpses was peeling away because of their burns, and when I tried to pick them up the skin would peel off. When the skin peeled off it produced an awful smell, a smell that seemed to remain on my hands, so that I could smell it all the time. When I ate, I wrapped my hands in paper. From August 7 onwards I was involved in this work carrying corpses. The corpses loaded onto the trucks were then taken to schoolyards, where soldiers doused them in oil and burned them.....



Interview with a survivor

At the Memorial Hall there are currently around 130,000 atomic bombing testimonies on display, including those written as part of the testimony writing assistance project. We encourage people to visit the Memorial Hall and experience the words

and emotions of the atomic bomb survivors.

(Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims)

Recording of atomic bombing testimonial video by survivors outside of Hiroshima and Japan

At the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims, recordings are made of testimonies by atomic bomb survivors living in other prefectures in Japan (outside of Hiroshima) and overseas.

In 2013, recordings were made of survivors living in Fukushima Prefecture (1), Miyagi Prefecture (7), Iwate Prefecture (2), Aomori Prefecture (1), Akita Prefecture (3), Niigata Prefecture (2) and Yamaguchi Prefecture (1), as well as survivors living in Korea (4). Below are some excerpts from the recorded testimonies.

.....I survived the atomic bombing. And now I've survived the Great East Japan Earthquake too. When the tsunami washed in, some people died, but I survived. I've been on the brink of death twice.....To create an environment where everyone is happy, we have to get rid of nuclear power.....

.....An uncle who wasn't there at the time of the bombing came to Hiroshima to look for my mother. He found her with

burns, and carried her home on his back, so we could nurse her at home. It is not only the atomic bomb survivors who had painful experiences from the bombing. When I think about that, it makes me feel that peace is extremely important. Just because I myself escaped the bombing does not mean that everything is fine. All members of the family have experiences so painful that they want to die.....

.....As part of an arranged marriage, I was invited to my prospective wife's home. Her brothers asked me what regiment I belonged to. I said that I experienced the atomic bombing in Hiroshima, but later I was severely reprimanded by the marriage mediator, who said "That's not the kind of thing you should say in front of people"I didn't tell my own children that I am an atomic bomb survivor. I thought they'd probably realize as they got older anyway.....

The survivors who give testimonies speak about what happened when the bomb was dropped, as well as their situation when they moved to other prefectures or overseas, and their lives since then.



Recording a testimony

The films recorded are available for public viewing in the Memorial Hall and the homepage after editing, and will also be on loan as peace study documents.

We continue to record as many of these precious testimonies as possible, both in Japan and overseas, to communicate them to younger generations. At the Memorial Hall, in addition to these testimonial films, visitors can also read atomic bombing testimonies and related books. We encourage you to visit the Memorial Hall and experience the words and emotions of the atomic bomb survivors.

(Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims)

Seven staff members in charge of youth education from German museums visit our museum

On November 18 last year, seven staff members in charge of youth education at museums in Germany visited the Peace Memorial Museum. The group's visit was part of Youth Education in Museums in Japanese-German study program for professionals in child and youth services in 2013.

After visiting Peace Memorial Park and Peace Memorial Museum, the group participated in a discussion with the museum's director Mr. Siga and other staff members from the museum. The German participants showed a very high level of interest in our museum, and asked many questions and offered comments on efforts made when showing the tragic displays to children, the difference in history education in Germany and Japan, and more. It was a very fruitful discussion.

Although the visit was short, it was a great opportunity to ask directly about museums in Germany and the current state of history education.

(Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Outreach Division)



Discussion with group

Agreement on Enhanced Collaboration Group from Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation Visits China

For seven days from November 28 to December 4, 2013, a group from Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation visited China.

Since 1988, this Foundation has continued with peace exchange activities through mutual visits with the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD), which is a national peace organization in China that is registered as a United Nations NGO.

This time marked the 12th visit. The group of five, headed by Mr. Gen Kikkawa, a director of this Foundation and president of Hiroshima Peace Institute at Hiroshima City University, visited Shanghai, Nanjing and Beijing.

The group arrived at Shanghai Pudong International Airport on November 28, where they were met by people from CPAPD. In Shanghai, they spoke with Shao Huixiang, deputy director of the Shanghai Foreign Affairs Office, and asked that Shanghai join Mayors for Peace. At Shanghai International Studies University, Ms. Noriko Ueda and Ms. Setsuko Morita, atomic bomb witnesses for this Foundation, spoke about their atomic bomb experiences. The students listening commented that they now have a deeper understanding of the damage from the atomic bomb. Some also asked questions about Hiroshima's recovery and about the research conducted at the Hiroshima Peace Institute.

On November 30, the group arrived in Nanjing City, where they toured the Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall, and spoke with Cai Xisheng, deputy inspector of the People's Government of Jiangsu Province, asking for the city's support to recruit cities in Jiangsu Province to Mayors for Peace. Inspector Cai stated that he would help in the distribution of materials and other activities, and that he would like to use the opportunity of this visit to deepen friendship.

From the night of December 1, the group stayed in Beijing. At the atomic bombing testimony given at Beijing Foreign Studies University, students expressed their concern that atomic bombing testimonies would be lost now that almost 70 years have passed since the bomb was dropped. Some also said that they would like to think about what they can do to help the people of Japan and China communicate to each other their wish for peace and friendship.



Head of delegation Mr. Kikkawa (4th from left) and the group developed a deeper friendship with Deputy Chairperson He Jun (6th from left) and others involved in CPAPD

In the discussion with Zhu Rui, Chief Secretary of CPAPD, and others from the organization, participants spoke about enhancing collaboration, and agreed to examine a framework for international youth exchange activities, as well as continuing to pursue civic exchange and enhance mutual understanding, and making

efforts to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons. The group then toured the Museum of the War of Chinese People's Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, and paid a courtesy visit to He Jun, the deputy chairperson of CPAPD who has visited Hiroshima in the past as the head of a CPAPD delegation. This was the final activity in the group's China visit.

This visit marked the first time in 11 years (since 2002) that a group visited Shanghai and Nanjing, and they were able to make requests that the cities join Mayors for Peace. In the midst of concerns over relations between Japan and China, this

visit provided an opportunity to appreciate once again the significance of civic-level exchange activities.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

28th Children's Peace Drawings Competition

On December 14th last year, the awards ceremony for the 28th Children's Peace Drawings Competition was held in the Memorial Hall at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

This competition has been held since 1986, with the aim of heightening children's awareness of the importance of peace. There were 4,140 works sent in from 124 elementary and junior high schools in Hiroshima City, and 653 works sent in from elementary and junior high schools in 7 other countries (America, Iran, India, Australia, Germany, France, Russia), for a total of 4,793 works.

The awards ceremony was attended by 35 of the Excellence and Distinction awards winners and their parents, and the winners were presented with an award certificate and commemorative plaque.

An exhibition of the works was held from the day of the award ceremony until January 23, 2014, in the foyer in front of the Memorial Hall. A total of 120 works were displayed, including the three Award of Excellence winners, 39 Award of Distinction winners, and 70 Award of Merit winners.

The names of the Award of Excellence winners and their works, as well as the names of the Award of Merit and Honor award winners can be found in the Kids' Peace Station section on the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum home page.

(<http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/>)

(Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Outreach Division)



"Excellence" (Elementary School)
Kai Fujimoto/Kanon Elementary
School, 6th Grade



"Excellence" (Junior High School
Category)
Kana Tsumura/Shiraki Junior
High School 3rd Grade



"Excellence" (Overseas Category)
Michaela Noof Albao/Bethlehem College (Aus-
tralia), 8th Grade

Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims Special Exhibition

“Children of Hiroshima: Testament of the Boys and Girls of Hiroshima”

◆Period : January 1 (Wed.)—December 28 (Sun.), 2014
◆Admission : Free

At the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Victims, each year a special exhibition is held on a specific theme, displaying atomic bombing testimonies and other articles, with the aim of communicating the truth of the atomic bombing.

This year’s special exhibition features 67 atomic bombing testimonies written by people who were children at the time of the bombing (from 4 years of age to 3rd year elementary school students), selected from “Children of Hiroshima: Testament of the Boys and Girls of Hiroshima”, which was published 6 years after the bombing.



First edition of “Children of Hiroshima: Testament of the Boys and Girls of Hiroshima” (1951)

In these atomic bombing testimonies the children write about the tragedy of the war and the atomic bombing that they themselves experienced, and their desire for peace. Below we have selected excerpts of two of the exhibited testimonies to share with you: those of Ms. Kiyoko Tanaka (3rd year elementary school student at the time) and Mr. Masatada Asaeda (3rd year elementary school student at the time).

After the bombing, Ms. Tanaka was traveling on a boat with her mother to an aid station on Ninoshima Island, when she met with a young girl who was seriously injured.

.....There was a girl about my age sitting in front of my mother. She had burns and injuries all over her body, and was bleeding. She weakly called “Mother...” a number of times, and then suddenly asked my mother “Is your child here?” She had lost her sight. My mother replied, “Yes, she’s here”. Then the girl held something out and said “Please give this to your daughter”. It was a lunch box.....My mother said “Aren’t you going to eat this?” and the girl replied “There’s no hope for me now. Give it to your daughter.”..... The boat traveled down the river for a while and reached the sea. The girl then said, “I will tell you my name, so if you see my mother, please tell her that I’m here”, and with that she breathed her last breath and passed away.....My mother and I wept together.....

Mr. Asaeda was playing at a sports ground when the bomb was dropped. He was taken to a temple in Kabe (Hiroshima City) by truck together with his mother and older sister.

.....How should I describe life at the temple...I think that only those who were there can understand. How to describe the sight of people covered in burns spent each day there, groaning, maggots festering in the bodies of those people with no one to look after them, who then died mumbling something unintelligible. Maybe this is what they call a “living hell”. With no knowledge of the fact that we lost the war, I think



Book presentation ceremony (1952)
Photograph provided by: Ms. Yuriko Hayashi

those people died with a hatred of war and a love of peace..... Ultimately, what I want to write, what I want to say is, what is war? What is peace? Why do people say that we need those horrific atomic bombs to maintain peace? Why don’t human-kind and science develop in harmony with each other? These are the questions that I just cannot find the answers to, and that just won’t go away.....

You can read the full texts of the testimonies in the Temporary Exhibition Area and the Library at the Memorial Hall. The testimonies are also uploaded to the Memorial Hall homepage (<http://www.hiro-tsuitokenkan.go.jp/>). In addition to the testimonies, the displays at the Memorial Hall also include photographs taken immediately after the bombing, A-bomb pictures painted by citizens, and atomic bombing artifacts such as clothes of children who experienced the bombing.

The testimonies are also presented in audio and video format, using related photographs and pictures. All videos, including those made for previous special exhibitions, may be viewed in the Library. DVDs of the videos are also available for rental as peace study materials. Please inquire at the Memorial Hall if you would like to borrow a DVD.

【Inquiries】

Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims

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Citizens’ Fund-raising Activities to Help Victims of Typhoon No.30 in the Philippines

On November 8 last year, Typhoon No.30 (Filipino name: Yolanda) hit the central region of the Republic of the Philippines. Leyte Island and many other regions were affected by violent rainstorms, and severe damage was caused by high waters, flooding and landslides throughout the region.

In view of the severity of the damage caused, Hiroshima City and this Foundation held fund-raising activities from November 19 last year to January 20 this year, to provide humanitarian aid. In response, many citizens and organizations kindly provided donations, and the total amount raised was 1,649,648 yen.

On January 31 the funds were sent to the Japan Red Cross Society, to be used to purchase medical supplies, drinking water, food and daily living commodities.

(International Relations & Cooperation Division)

Sister and Friendship City Days commemorative events Hiroshima citizens enjoy foreign cultures

Hiroshima City holds Sister and Friendship City Days for each of the six overseas cities with which it has sister city and friendship city ties, and commemorative events are held on these days. The events are led by the Hiroshima Messengers, selected through a public recruitment process.

Daegu Day

The Daegu Day commemorative event was held from May 3-5, 2013, at the Hiroshima Flower Festival venues.

On May 3, after an on-stage reenactment of the document exchange ceremony of the Joseon missions to Japan, a commemorative ceremony was held, with speeches by the Chairperson of the Daegu Day Executive Committee, the Mayor of Hiroshima, the Mayor of Daegu Metropolitan City, and the Consul-General of the Republic of Korea Consulate-General in Hiroshima on the theme of "Let's Broaden the Rings of Friendship". As an introduction to Korean culture and art, there were performances by the Seoul Chung-Ang University percussion group, the Hiroshima Prefecture branch of the Korean Youth Association, and others, entralling the audience.



Performance by Daegu Metropolitan City Arts Group

Over the three days a Daegu Korea area called *Madan* was also set up. The sections such as an introduction to Daegu Metropolitan City and Korea, commemorative photos wearing ethnic costume, *chima jeogori*, and sales of Korean home-cooked food were bustling with families and young women, who were able to fully enjoy Korean culture.

A special venue was also set up on the piloti of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum's Main Building for the Daegu Bass Drums that were a gift from Daegu Metropolitan City, with bass drum performances and opportunities for children to beat the drums.

There were around 7,700 visitors over the three days of this very successful event.

Montreal Day

A Montreal Day commemorative event was held at Hiroshima City International House on July 7, 2013.

First, visitors enjoyed a taste of some Montreal cuisine, including smoked meat and cranberry juice.

After the opening ceremony, Mr. Hideho Tanaka, a Hiroshima Messenger, provided an explanation of festivals in Montreal City, and three Montreal residents spoke about how they live in Montreal City.

The commemorative concert was a jazz concert, fitting for Montreal, which is renowned for its international jazz festival. A trio of Hiroshima residents, Ms. Yuko Kishimoto, Mr. Tom Southerton and Mr. Satoshi Ishii, performed "My Heart Will

Go On" by the Canadian singer Celine Dion and other numbers, to an excited audience.



Commemorative concert

At the end of the event was a fun lottery draw with specialty products such as smoked meat as prizes.

There was also an exhibition of Canadian goods, a presentation on Montreal International Mosaicultures 2013, and more.

Approximately 320 people came to the event, enjoying themselves and learning more about Montreal and Canada.

Hanover Day

The Hanover Day commemorative event was held on August 2 at International Conference Center Hiroshima.

The event included a tea ceremony experience in the style of Ueda Soko, who had a strong connection with Hanover, tasting of sausages made using the authentic German method, tasting of *baumkuchen* cake, a demonstration of German cake-making, *Luetjje Lage* (a drinking method peculiar to Hanover, where two different alcoholic drinks are poured into two small glasses and then drunk in one gulp), and more. All sections were bustling with people.



Tasting of German-style *baumkuchen* cake

In the exhibition on Hanover and Germany, there were panels displaying the 30-year history of relations between Hiroshima City and Hanover City, a section where participants could experience making paper models of Hanover trains, and a section on German picture books with readings of the books. All sections were very popular.

As 2013 marks the 30th anniversary of the sister city relationship between the two cities, a delegation from Hanover City participated in the commemorative event, and made a speech at the opening ceremony. This was followed by a presentation on the city of Hanover and Hanover companies by a Hiroshima Messenger who visited Hanover as a member of the Hiroshima City delegation.

Next was a concert of German music, where four groups of professional musicians entranced the audience with a won-

derful performance of mainly German pieces.

The event attracted around 420 visitors, who developed a greater understanding of Hanover and Germany while enjoying the variety of sections in the program.

Volgograd Day

The Volgograd Day commemorative event was held at Hiroshima City International House on September 8, 2013.

With a live piano performance as a backdrop, visitors enjoyed tasting famous Russian specialties such as *piroshki*, Russian cake and Georgian wine, with many praising the wonderful flavors.

At the opening ceremony in the hall, the Mayor of Hiroshima and an official from the Russian Federation Consul in Osaka gave speeches, and read out a message from the Mayor of Volgograd.

Next was a Russian language class and quiz, run by a Hiroshima Messenger. The Russian language course was particularly popular, with some saying "This is the first time I've felt so close to the Russian language".

This was followed by a Russian music concert. First, Mr. Ryuji Tanaka, the representative of Hiroshima Chorus, acted as conductor for a chorus accompanied by Mr. Kazuki Tanaka on piano, and visitors enjoyed singing along to a medley including the Russian folk song "*Troika*". Next was a performance of Russian songs by Ensemble H[akka], a group of performers and composers using various different instruments. The concert ended with a performance by Hiroshima Junior Marimba Ensemble. The audience clapped and cheered to the diverse Russian music played with a variety of different musical tones.

There was also a display section with information on Russia and Volgograd, craftworks and pictures of Volgograd City, and photos of exchange activities.



Displays with information on Volgograd City

Approximately 250 people came to the event, where they developed greater interest in and understanding of Volgograd and Russia.

Chongqing Day

The Chongqing Day commemorative event was held at Hiroshima City International House on October 20, 2013.

Visitors first enjoyed Sichuan cuisine including twice cooked pork, braised beef, boiled dumplings, and *ulong* tea.

A Hiroshima Messenger then gave an easy-to-understand introduction of Chongqing culture and tourist information using a video, and there was also a mini-class on the Chinese language.

At the commemorative concert, the members of the Nijihashi Society (a specified nonprofit corporation) gave a children's martial arts performance, and the Hiroshima Branch of the Japan-China Friendship Association gave a *tai chi* demonstration. The concert ended with an *erhu* (2-stringed instrument played with a bow) performance by Mr. Rongchun Zhao, who came to Japan in 2005 and runs an *erhu* class in

Hiroshima, together with students from the class.



Erhu performance by Mr. Rongchun Zhao and students from his *erhu* class

The 200 visitors to the event also enjoyed the lottery draw for commemorative goods from Chongqing City, and gained a deeper understanding of Chongqing and China through the event.

In the visitor's questionnaire, 67% of visitors responded that they would accept people from Chongqing City as home-stay guests.

Honolulu Day

The Honolulu Day commemorative event was held on November 9, 2013 at the underground event space at the South Exit of Hiroshima Station.

First, visitors were welcomed with flavored coffee and fruit juice.

The event opened with a performance of the classic hula dance *Kahiko*. This was followed by speeches by a representative of the executive committee, the Mayor of Hiroshima and a speech via video by the Mayor of Honolulu.

Next, Hiroshima Messengers Ms. Mari Miwa and Mr. Daisuke Toi gave a presentation on Hawaii's history, culture and lifestyle, which included a video on the big screen and live interviews on the local lifestyle with Honolulu residents using Skype.

Next there was a performance on stage by a Hawaiian band together with gorgeous hula dancing, filling the venue with a tropical, relaxed atmosphere. Some members of the audience came up on stage to be taught the hula dance, and in the end, everyone joined in a chorus of "Hawaii Aloha". The event gave visitors a chance to experience Hawaii for themselves.



Hula dance lesson for visitors

At the venue were displays and sale of Hawaiian goods, a section where participants could make their own ribbon *lei*, and more. Around 500 people attended and enjoyed themselves as they learned about Hawaii and Honolulu.

(International Relations & Cooperation Division)



by **Yasusuke TAGAWA**

Atomic Bomb Witness
for This Foundation

Growing up during the Pacific War

When I was 15 we were in the middle of the war, and although I was a student (at Hiroshima Prefecture Itosaki Railway School) there was no thought of study. We were told that working was a part of our studies, and we were mobilized to factories and the munitions industry. We had to follow the orders of the military and the police in everything that we did, but we had been taught that it was normal so it did not bother us. That was just how things were then.

Just before I turned 17 I was mobilized to Hiroshima Engine Depot No.1, and even after I turned 17 I just kept on working, with no graduation ceremony, until the ominous date of August 6 arrived.

Early in the morning I boarded the train at Itosaki Station in the eastern part of Hiroshima Prefecture as a member of the train crew. We arrived at Hiroshima Station nearly one hour later than the scheduled time. We had just changed over the locomotive engine, finished the final check and reported to the supervisor, and I had changed from my uniform into regular clothes and come out into the square.

Hellish scenes all around me!!

From the west there was a great flash of light, and a wave of heat, and I instinctively put my hands in front of my face. The backs of my hands were stinging, and although I had no idea what was going on I started running to the east. It was at that moment that there was a huge boom and massive blast, and I was thrown around 6 meters into the middle of a nearby barber's salon. Pieces of glass and plaster fell from above me, and I worried about what might happen, but the area around me gradually became lighter, so I picked my way out of the rubble with others who were in the barber's salon and went outside.

First I went to Hiroshima Station, thinking that I would be able to flee by train. But the station building had collapsed, the steel frames on the platform were bent and the trains had derailed. So then I decided to go to see what had happened to the house in Hiroshima that I had been renting with my friend, and went out to the street.

In the street were crowds of people who had fled from the



Hiroshima Station (around October 1945)
Photograph by Mr. Toshio Kawamoto.
Provided by Mr. Yoshio Kawamoto.

west. They were all naked and covered in serious burns. Their scorched skin was peeling away and hanging down, and I could hear their anguished voices. "Help me", "I'm in pain", "Water..." There was a mother carrying a baby on her back, and the baby was half melted and was stuck to the woman's back. Of course the baby was dead. In any case they were all naked and trudging along from the west like sleepwalkers, saying "Water...water..."

Throughout the city at the time, for firefighting purposes, were concrete water tanks around 1 meter in height and the same in diameter, about one tank every 20 meters. Because it was summer, the tanks were swarming with mosquito larva. Seven or eight people who had come to get some water were lying dead with their heads face down in the water. I couldn't look. When I reached Enko River, the river banks on both sides were filled with lines of people who had come to the river to drink the water and then had just died there. It was truly like hell, and made me want to cover my eyes.

Secondary exposure when reentering the city

The house that I had been renting had been destroyed by fire, so I just tried to flee to the east. I heard that there were trains taking victims to the east, and when I went to the yard where the freight cars were operated, there were seven freight trains waiting there. Many of the people who had fled there were put on the freight trains, and I got on too. The train left at 9:30, arrived at Itosaki Station in just over an hour. At the time there were two large hospitals attached to the munitions factory on the top of the hill in front of Itosaki Station, and the people who had come on the freight train were all carried to those hospitals. I went further east from Itosaki to get back to my family home in the country, and recuperated from my wounds for ten days there. In September Hiroshima was hit by a typhoon. I didn't know it at the time, but although the fires from the bombing had been extinguished Hiroshima was in a terrible state.

Once I got better, my parents told me to return to Hiroshima. My mother made me four meal's worth of rice balls, and I left home at 4am and headed for Hiroshima. But due to the typhoon the railway tracks on the Sanyo Line had been washed away in many places, and I ended up walking most of the way back to Hiroshima. By the time I arrived in Hiroshima it was 7pm at night. I had finally arrived back, but was told that because the rail tracks had been washed away and the trains could not run, there was no work for the train crews. I spent another ten days in Hiroshima in a state of homelessness.

Nobody in Hiroshima at the time knew just how horrific radiation is. People continued to come to Hiroshima from neighboring towns and villages to search for people who had come to work in the city and had not been seen again. These people were exposed to residual radiation and many later suffered and died from radiation-related illnesses.

I was one of those exposed to radiation upon entering the city. At the time of the bombing I was young and therefore healthy, but approximately 15 years after the bombing I developed radiation-associated retinopathy and suffered for three months. Around 25 years after the bombing my thyroid gland swelled up and although I had been a good singer up until that point, my voice started to get hoarse. Even today I find it difficult to swallow anything hard. When I turned 80, a spot like a small dot suddenly appeared on the side of my nose, and it gradually got bigger and swelled up to the size of an adzuki bean. I found out that it was cancerous and had an operation. Little by little I am experiencing for myself the horror of radiation.

My friends, my seniors and juniors - may your souls rest in peace

My friend who was renting the house together with me

was sleeping soundly on the morning of August 6, and died in the fire trapped under the rubble of the collapsed house. My seniors who had helped me at work died one after another from the effects of the radiation, bringing me much sadness. One person two years younger than me who I worked with was 1.2km away from the hypocenter when the bomb was dropped, and was covered in burns all over his body. Although he was treated in hospital and returned to work, his face was covered in keloids, and it looked painful for him to speak. He had a number of operations that removed the skin little by little and was happy that he had somehow recovered his appearance, but he died of illness at the age of 42. This, too, was hard to watch.

I want us to continue to communicate these horrors of the atomic bomb to people in the future. And I want nothing more than nuclear weapons to be reduced to zero. I put down my pen now praying that the souls of those many people who lost their lives may rest in peace.

Profile

Yasusuke TAGAWA

Born 1928 in Kinsoyo Village, Mitsugi County. At the age of 16, started working at the national railway as a mobilized student, continuing for over 38 years. After retirement, employed at the Hiroshima Bus Center and the Silver Human Resources Center. Has an exceptionally strong hatred of conflict.

Memoir of the A-bombing

Living for Today



by **Tamiko SHIRAIISHI**
Atomic Bomb Witness
for This Foundation

My atomic bombing experience

August 6, 1945, was sunny with not a cloud in the sky, and the sun was beating down brightly. I was 7 years old, a first-grade student at Ujina Elementary School (4 kilometers from the hypocenter). As usual I ran around the playground for a while, put on the air raid hood next to my desk, and had just taken a book out of my bag and opened it, when I saw a bluish-white light from the skylight on the right.

As I wondered what it could be, there was a huge boom that felt like it would burst my eardrums and at the same time the windows smashed, and the shards of glass came flying toward me. All at once the classroom burst into a commotion and we all ran out to the shoe rack in the corridor, crying as we ran. In the confusion I could not find my shoes.

I went home from school barefoot. On the way home there was shattered glass everywhere. My mother was waiting for me in front of the house. I had glass stuck in two places in my head, two places on the inner side of my left hand and innumerable places on the soles of my feet, but thankfully the wounds were minor. My mother removed the small pieces of glass one by one with tweezers.

That night I just lay there, sleepy but unable to sleep, and as I did I could hear a sound coming from the road in front of our house, like something being dragged along the street. I managed to fall asleep somehow. My mother woke me the next morning, and when I got ready and looked outside, I real-



“A-bomb Drawings by Survivors”
by Kichisuke YOSHIMURA.

“Their clothes ripped to shreds, their skin hanging down. On the riverbank I saw figures that seemed to be from another world. Ghost-like, their hair falling over their faces, their clothes ripped to shreds, their skin hanging. A cluster of these injured persons was moving wordlessly toward the outskirts.”

ized what that sound was. It was the sound of people with hair that was frizzy and standing on end and the skin from their faces and their bodies peeling away and hanging down. The people were fleeing, dragging their skin along with them.

My grandmother's atomic bombing experience

My grandmother was a kind, gentle person, and lived in Mukainada with my mother's younger brother. Around once a week, she would walk to our house and bring pumpkin, sweet potato, with some leaves and stalks, carrying them all in a baby carriage made from woven cane. On the morning of August 6, she had left the house as usual saying that she was going to our house, and it was then that the bomb hit.

From the morning of the 7th, my mother went around to aid stations as far as the area near the hypocenter, searching for my grandmother. She took me with her, not wanting to leave me at home on my own. The smell that met us when we entered the aid stations was indescribable. I felt that it must be the smell of the complete razing of all of Hiroshima, the people, animals, plants and buildings. I cannot forget that smell even today.

On the 8th we went to an aid station that was probably close to Hatchobori. Someone grabbed my leg, saying “Water...” I went to the broken tap and got some water in my hands, and brought it to the person. One or two drops of water fell on the person's lips, and he said something that sounded like “Thank you”. But then another person pushed me away, saying “You can't give water to this person!” After a short time, the person who had drunk the water stopped moving. I can still hear the words said to me at that time: “He died because you gave him water.”

The streets were full of people trapped under the rubble of collapsed houses, dead with their hands still raised in the air; people lying dead on the side of the road, eyes wide open as if staring at the sky; people trapped between the clay walls of houses, half of their bodies burned, the other half not burned but covered in soot. I was terrified at the time, but just did my best to keep up with my mother. My mother put her hands together in prayer as we passed those tragic corpses. And it was not only people - there were many dead horses too. Some of the horses had swollen stomachs. We had to step over many dead people and horses to make our way forward.

On the 9th, we went around to a few aid stations in the Ushita area, and finally found my grandmother. Her whole back was burned black, and she was lying on her stomach. We had her taken to the military and shipping headquarters facility in Ujina near our house, and I went there too to look after her. My job was to use a fan to chase away the flies that would rest on the wounds on her back. Even so a number of flies some-

how stopped on her wounds and lay eggs there. I had to remove the maggots that tried to make their way into her body. The day before my grandmother died, she said that she wanted my mother to make some sushi for her to eat. But we could not get the ingredients and in the end she passed away without eating sushi.

Emotional wounds (trauma) and illness

After the bombing I had more and more sleepless nights. I was having dreams about horrific scenes of the bombing. Even during the day, I would recall the dropping of the bomb and became scared of airplanes. Every time a plane flew overhead I would hide in my room.

In the spring of my third year at elementary school, I had a fever of 40 degrees and constant bloody stools, and was admitted to the Red Cross Hospital. The doctor suspected that it was typhoid fever, but could not find any typhoid bacillus. The high fever and diarrhea made me physically weak, and I started talking loudly in my delirium. Apparently someone in the hospital laundry said to my mother, not realizing she was my mother, "That child was talking in a loud voice again today, so it looks like she hasn't died yet". I can still remember the painful expression on my mother's face when she told me that.

I was away from school for a year after that, but got better and returned to school when I was in fourth grade at elementary school. But at school I was bullied by some of my classmates, who said things like "Don't go near her, she experienced the A-bomb. If you go near her you'll get sick", and I stopped going to school for a while because of this. When there were hard times like that and I was feeling dejected, my mother would say, "The most important thing for a girl is to smile. When you speak to someone kindly with a smile on your face, you get a smile back from the other person." She was always saying this.

For junior high school I took exams to enter a private junior high school in the city. None of the girls at the junior high school knew me, so there was no one to bully me about my A-bomb experience and I enjoyed my school days.

I got married when I was 21 and for the time being, I could not tell my husband that I was an A-bomb survivor. Our son was born one year after we got married, and he was close to premature and a weak child. Until my son was around 13, I was unable to tell my husband that I thought that our son was physically weak because I had experienced the atomic bomb. Being an atomic bomb survivor is not an experience limited just to that time - it is a burden that we have had to bear for many, many years after that.

To our future leaders

It was my mother's death that became the trigger for me to get involved in peace volunteer activities. Up until that time I had not been able to speak about my A-bomb experience or my grandmother's death after the bombing. I had pushed such memories deep inside of me, wanting to somehow forget them and put them behind me. However, as I participated in the activities I came to realize that there are many people who do not know about Hiroshima or the bombing. Compared to you, A-bomb survivors like me do not have as long left to live. Please remember these horrible things caused by the A-bomb. I hope that you will work towards the abolition of nuclear weapons, so that we can have lasting world peace.

Profile

Tamiko SHIRAIISHI

Born 1939. As a first-grade elementary school student, aged 7, she had just opened a book in a school classroom 4 kilometers from the hypocenter when the bomb was dropped. After retirement at age 60, active as a peace volunteer from 2000. Started activities as an atomic bomb witness for this Foundation from 2013.

High School Students' Peace Club Hibaku Piano Concert

—Let's Express Our Desire for Peace Through Music—

Hiroshima City and this Foundation have been running the High School Students' Peace Club since 2002, to nurture human resources for the promotion of peace. This year the Club had 26 members, who learned about the truth of the atomic bombing, and were involved in exchange activities with young people from Nagasaki City and attended peace study sessions with high school students from other municipalities, thus communicating the importance of peace. One of the activities this year was the *Hibaku* Piano Concert, which was held on November 24 last year in the underground area near the south exit of Hiroshima Station. The concert was held to encourage more people to take an interest in nuclear weapons and peace.

The performers in the concert were Peace Club members' fellow school club members and friends who supported the aims of the concert, and the concert was an opportunity for them to show everyone the results of their daily practice. The Peace Club members also made all the flyers and programs themselves, and prepared enthusiastically for the event.

On the day, there were as many as 300 people at the venue. There was a guest performance by Hiroshima Jupiter Boys & Girls Chorus Group, exciting the crowd even more. In his speech, Hiroshima Mayor Matsui spoke to the visitors, saying "The starting point for peace is for young people to hold events like this all over the city, so that we can all think together about achieving peace. This is how peace is born in the hearts of individuals. This is what is meant by 'a peaceful city'". He also thanked the High School Students' Peace Club members for their efforts.

At the end of the concert, all performers, the Mayor and the Peace Club members sang "Flowers will bloom" together, and the venue was filled with a harmony of peace.



Chorus of "Flowers will bloom"

In the questionnaire to participants, there were comments including "This is precisely the kind of activity that Hiroshima City should support", "I was touched by the passion of the high school students", "This kind of activity should be continued in the future", and "This left me feeling very good". Young respondents in their teens and 20s commented, "This made me think about the importance of peace, and what I should do to achieve it", and "This must be passed on to the next generation". Such comments indicate that the aim of holding the concert, to enhance awareness of peace among the young generation, was achieved.

We would like to thank so many people for attending and providing such warm support.

(Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Outreach Division)

How the Red Cross has been playing its role in a Humanitarian Approach towards the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons



by **Hiroto OYAMA**,
Deputy Director,
Office of the President -
Japanese Red Cross Society

Introduction

In the midst of the global trend pushing for the elimination of nuclear weapons, it is the approach of discussing nuclear weapons from a humanitarian perspective that has been getting the growing focus of attention since the 2010 NPT (Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons) Review Conference. In February 2014, an international conference to add depth to the debate was held in Nayarit, Mexico, and was attended by government representatives, the Red Cross, NGOs and others from 146 states. I too participated in this conference as a member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) delegation.

In Japanese context, the Red Cross is commonly associated with blood services such as blood donations and medical services at Red Cross hospitals. As a matter of fact, this is rather rare perception in the world, where the identity of the Red Cross is primarily as a relief organization, specializing in disaster response and disaster preparedness both domestically and internationally. Taking this opportunity, I would like to introduce the Red Cross' involvement in the nuclear weapons issue to date, based on the Resolution 1 of the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in 2011. (2011 CoD Resolution. See Appendix for detail) It is indeed the Red Cross who has been one of the main drivers of the recent humanitarian approach toward the elimination of nuclear weapons, and it is the aforementioned Red Cross identity as a relief organization that gives the driving force in such effort.

Background of the 2011 CoD Resolution

The Red Cross has a long relationship with nuclear weapons. When the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima in 1945, the Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital (name at the time), whose building miraculously survived the bombing, became the stage for immediate relief activities for the affected. One month later, Dr. Marcel Junod of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) became the first foreign doctor to come to Hiroshima after the bombing. He communicated to the world the tragedy that he witnessed, and negotiated with General Headquarters, the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers at the time to have around 15t of medical supplies and medical equipment delivered to Hiroshima. In 1946, after the Second World War, the Red Cross concluded nuclear weapons as indiscriminate weapons, and lobbied the governments of the signatories to the Geneva Convention to have nuclear weapons added to the weapon list to be banned under the Geneva Convention, same as poison gas munitions and bacteriological weapons. The International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Stockholm in 1948, however, could only adopt the resolution of limited impact that requested the governments to pledge not to use atomic power and other similar types of power for the purpose of war, rather than declaring nuclear weapons illegal in light of the Geneva Convention. This event demonstrated that taking actions against nuclear weapons would not be easy even for the Red Cross - as a front runner of the humanitarian relief and as a guardian of international humanitarian law.

After that time, there were fewer opportunities for the Red Cross to express its position exclusively on nuclear weapons. However, the year of 2010 turned out to be a turning point. In particular, the Action Plan for Nuclear Disarmament at the

NPT Review Conference in May of the same year included the statement to reaffirm the need for all States to constantly adhere to all international laws, including international humanitarian law. This was the first, and was the trigger not only for the governments but also for various civil organizations to approach the Red Cross asking for its perspective on the nuclear weapons issue.

This phrase "international humanitarian law" was not in the first draft of the Action Plan, and was added as the result of comments made by the representative of the Swiss government. These moves by the Swiss Government and the statement made by Dr. Jakob Kellenberger, President of ICRC at the time, to the diplomatic corps in Geneva would not be a mere coincidence. At the beginning of his statement, Dr. Kellenberger explained the fundamental stance of the ICRC / Red Cross, by saying that the debate on nuclear weapons should not take place only from military or political considerations and that, ultimately, it should be based on considerations of the benefits to human beings, the basic principles of humanitarian law and the future of the whole of humankind. He became a focus of attention with his statement that nuclear weapons should never be used again, and with his call for the conclusion of a legally binding treaty for that purpose.

Significance of the 2011 CoD Resolution

The 2011 CoD Resolution was the product of such background. The Resolution emphasizes, by adding on top of the Kellenberger statement, the lack of humanitarian relief capability to cope with the consequences caused by the use of nuclear weapons. In other words, the Red Cross, itself as a provider of humanitarian relief, claims that it would not be able to provide effective humanitarian relief in such situation. The mandate of the Red Cross is to be prepared for natural disasters, accidents and unforeseen incidents, including the relief for the victims of a nuclear disaster in case of nuclear power plant accident, for instance. The perspective of the Red Cross can be seen as credible enough because of the fact that even the Red Cross would not be able to respond to any use of nuclear weapons.

Another key factor of this Resolution is its international nature. Being an international resolution, the message of the Red Cross went beyond the borders of one Swiss organization, the ICRC, and became the one owned by the global Red Cross Movement. Such global aspect of the Resolution has become a major source of encouragement not only for the Japanese Red Cross Society but also for the Norwegian Red Cross whose country is a member of NATO, and Australian Red Cross whose country is also under the similar nuclear umbrella.

Impact of the 2011 CoD Resolution-Joint Statements, Oslo Conference, Mexico Conference

Since that time there has been a steady growth in attention paid at inter-governmental conferences to the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. The year after the 2011 CoD Resolution was adopted, in May 2012, the 1st Preparatory Committee Meeting for the 2015 NPT Review Conference was held (Vienna), and it was there that the Swiss government representative announced the Joint Statement on the humanitarian dimension of nuclear disarmament, which was based on what was written in the 2011 CoD Resolution and jointly signed by 16 states. After this, the number of signatories to similar joint statements increased up to 35 states in October of that year (United Nations General Assembly First Committee), 80 states in April 2013 (2nd Preparatory Committee Meeting for the 2015 NPT Review Conference), and had reached 125 states, including Japan, by October of that year when the 4th joint statement was signed (United Nations General Assembly First Committee). In March 2013 the Norwegian government held the Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear

Weapons, and 127 government representatives gathered to attend the meeting. At the beginning of the meeting, ICRC President Peter Maurer stated loudly and clearly once again that the Red Cross would not be able to respond to the humanitarian consequences that would occur if nuclear weapons were used.

The Mexico Conference, just held in February 2014, gathered attention as people watched for the follow-up actions that would be taken after the Norway Conference. The increased number of participating states - from 127 in Norway to 146 in Mexico - was one positive outcome. In terms of content, there were reports on risk management, which was not covered at the Norway conference. In other words, the possibility of misfires resulting from mistakes with machinery or human error, infiltration into systems by hackers, and other risks relating to the maintenance, management and operation of nuclear weapons were discussed.

At this conference, the United Nations also reported that responding to the consequences of the use of nuclear weapons would be difficult, and that both of international coordination during emergencies and preparedness measures be also major challenges.



Opening speech by Ms. Christine Beerli, Vice-President of ICRC (2014 Mexico Conference)

In light of the fact that verification of “evidence”-based humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons that had started in Norway had proceeded further, the Mexico Conference closed with an expression of great expectations that the humanitarian approach would in the future lead to concrete actions to eliminate nuclear weapons. The 5 nuclear-weapon states were all absent from both the Norway Conference and the Mexico Conference. The Austrian government will be hosting the next international conference of similar kind later this year, and there will be attention focused on what preparations will be made for the conference.

Challenges and Outlook for the Red Cross

As a follow-up to the 2011 CoD Resolution, the Red Cross adopted a new related resolution in 2013. The key point of the new resolution was that it included an action plan for all constituent members of the Red Cross Movement.

It goes without saying that the Japanese Red Cross Society is a part of it. For the Japanese Red Cross Society, the existence of these resolutions represents a clear and logical motivation and cause, in addition to the sense of moral mission as the Red Cross society of a country that has experienced the atomic bombings. In any case, the first thing required is to more thoroughly communicate these resolutions to the over 60,000 paid employees of our own organization and volunteers. It seems that Japanese Red Cross is not the only one facing this challenge - the Red Cross National Societies in NATO member states in Europe also have the same issue. They seem to be considering taking joint action as a group, and the moves of such a group may hold the key for the future of humanitarian approach.

While the 2011 and 2013 CoD resolutions are nothing more than resolutions adopted within the Red Cross, in November 2015 the International Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent will be held with participation by Geneva Convention signatory states, and for the Red Cross, this conference will be the next key event that tests the true value of the CoD resolutions. There are also a number of important in-

ter-governmental events prior to this conference, including the conference (mentioned above) to be held by the Austrian government, and the 2015 NPT Review Conference. The Red Cross will continue to closely monitor such international trend.

In the same way as the Red Cross, Mayors for Peace too has as its strength in its global aspect, linking nations through its clear aim of building solidarity among cities for the abolition of nuclear weapons. I think that there are many things that the Red Cross can learn from Mayors for Peace, both in terms of how the organization has exercised such strength to date, and what kind of plans it has for the future. I hope that both organizations can develop and grow together.

(Appendix) 2011 CoD Resolution - Outline

• 2 statements by the Red Cross:

1. The use of nuclear weapons is generally incompatible with the ideals stipulated in international humanitarian law.
→ Support for the similar advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice in 1996
2. If nuclear weapons are used, there is no humanitarian relief capability to cope with the consequences.
→ Calling attention that there is no party able to take appropriate action in response to a situation that may realistically occur

• Requests to the governments, Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies

1. Governments are requested not to use nuclear weapons from a humanitarian perspective, notwithstanding any interpretation of laws related to the use of nuclear weapons.
2. Governments are requested to prohibit the use of nuclear weapons based on currently existing international obligations and commitments and through legally-binding international consensus, and to hold prompt and decisive negotiations and reach conclusions for their complete elimination.
3. Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in all states are requested to use “humanitarian diplomacy” to conduct awareness activities to communicate to the general public, scientists, medical practitioners and others the destructive damage caused by nuclear weapons, the issues related to international humanitarian law that originate in the use of nuclear weapons, and the need for concrete action that will lead to a ban on such weapons and their elimination.
4. Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in all states are requested in the same way to use “humanitarian diplomacy” to communicate to all national governments the Red Cross’ position on the nuclear weapons issue.

Profile

Hirotō OYAMA

Born 1972, Kagawa Prefecture. BA in Social Studies, Hitotsubashi University. MA in International Relations, Lancaster University, United Kingdom. Employed at Japanese Red Cross Society from 1999. After working in the International Relief Division, International Department and as Regional Officer, IFRC - Geneva, assumed current post in December 2009.

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/>

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HIROSHIMA PEACE CULTURE FOUNDATION

PEACE CULTURE



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