

PEACE CULTURE



Vol. 1 No.74

November 2015 (semiannual)

Peace Memorial Ceremony Marking 70 Years Since the Atomic Bombing

On August 6 of the 70th year since the atomic bombing, the Peace Memorial Ceremony organized by the City of Hiroshima was held in the city's Peace Memorial Park. Around 55,000 people attended the ceremony, including A-bomb survivors and the families of the deceased, and they prayed for the repose of the souls of the victims and for perpetual world peace.

In holding the ceremony this year, the City of Hiroshima organizers paid particular attention to the fact that the A-bomb survivors are aging. Work had been underway since early this year to improve the stone walkway running through the middle of Peace Memorial Park, and this was the first ceremony where tents were set up for all seats at the ceremony.

The ceremony started at 8am. First Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui and two representatives of the bereaved families dedicated two volumes of the Register of the Names of the Fallen Atomic Bomb Victims to the shrine in the Memorial Cenotaph for the Atomic Bomb Victims. Over the past year, 5,359 people's deaths had been confirmed and their names were recorded in the Register. This brings the total number of names recorded in the Register to 297,684 people, in 109 volumes.

This was followed by an address by Mr. Masanori Nagata, Chairperson of the Hiroshima City Council, and a dedication of flowers by various representatives. At 8:15am, the time that the bomb was dropped, Ms. Hiromi Nakagawa, representing the bereaved families, and Yuki Higashikawa, the children's representative, rang the Peace Bell, and all participants observed a minute of silence.

Mayor Matsui then read out the Peace Declaration. In the Declaration, the Mayor spoke of the 140,000 people whose irreplaceable lives had been taken by the one bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima at 8:15am on August 6, 1945 by the end of that year. He mentioned that among the victims were Koreans, Chinese, South-East Asians and American prisoners of war. He spoke of the fact that even those who managed to survive suffered serious physical and emotional aftereffects as well as discrimination and prejudice.

The Mayor also pointed out that throughout the world today there are still over 15,000 nuclear weapons in existence, and there is a growing risk that these will be used either willfully or incidentally. He stated "As long as nuclear

weapons exist, anyone could become a *hibakusha* at any time. If that happens, the damage will reach indiscriminately beyond national borders. People of the world, please listen carefully to the words of the *hibakusha* and, profoundly accepting the spirit of Hiroshima, contemplate the nuclear problem as your own."



Mayor Matsui reads the Peace Declaration

The Mayor also called for President Obama and other policymakers of the world to visit the regions hit by the atomic bomb, listen directly to what the *hibakusha* have to say, and see for themselves the reality of the damage from the atomic bombing. As a bridge between the nuclear and non-nuclear-weapons states, he called on the Japanese government to take the lead in starting discussions on a legal framework, including a nuclear weapons convention, and offer support measures to the aging *hibakusha*, which should include an extension of the "black rain areas".

Following the Peace Declaration, the children's representatives Yuro Kuwahara and Yuka Hosokawa read out the Commitment to Peace, where they recalled the experience of losing one of their loved ones in the landslide disaster that occurred in Hiroshima City on August 20, 2014, and the life that has been passed on to them from their grandparents who have survived in Hiroshima over the past 70 years. They stated "We, children of Hiroshima, Vow one by one, To connect the truth, The hopes and desires of the *hibakusha*, And our own desire for peace. From the past and present, To the future."

After this was an address by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

He raised the point that in this landmark year of the 70th year since the atomic bombing, there will be meetings held in Hiroshima, including the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) Group of Eminent Persons meeting and the 25th United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues, and next year the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting. He stated that world leaders and youth from around the world having direct contact with the tragic reality of the atomic bombing will lead to further progress in efforts to realize a nuclear-free world.

Prime Minister Abe also pointed out that now the average age of the *hibakusha* is over 80 years of age, and said that the government in particular will expedite screening of applications for recognition of atomic bomb disease, in consideration of the feelings of the applicants.

At the ceremony were representatives of bereaved families from 41 prefectures, *hibakusha* from overseas, representatives of bereaved families from overseas, and Hiroshima Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki, as well as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Japan Mr. Itsuro Terada, Mr. Lassina Zerbo, Executive-Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), and ambassadors and representatives from the European Union (EU) and a record 100 countries, including the nuclear weapon states of America, United Kingdom, France and Russia. Youth delegations from Mayors for Peace leader cities and Hiroshima City's sister and friendship cities also attended.

The ceremony was broadcast live on the Internet. The full text of the Peace Declaration read out at the ceremony is available in 10 languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish) on the Hiroshima City homepage (<http://www.city.hiroshima.lg.jp/english/>) ⇒ "The Atomic Bombing/Peace" ⇒ "Peace Declaration, Protest Letters, etc."

(General Affairs Division)

Mayors for Peace Delegation dispatched as 2015 NPT Review Conference is held

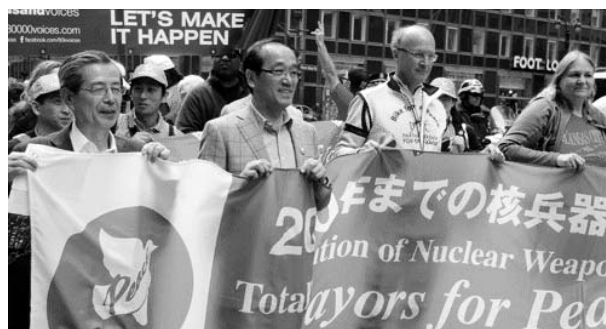
Mayors for Peace (President: Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui) dispatched a delegation to New York City in April 2015 to coincide with the holding of the NPT (Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons) Review Conference being held there. The delegation was accompanied by ten high school students from the campaign "Nuclear Abolition Now! Signature Drive by Junior and Senior High School Students".

Main activities by Mayor Matsui

April 26

Mayor Matsui made a speech at a gathering of peace NGOs, and called for participants to work together to build momentum to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. The

Mayor then participated in the Peace March along a main street, holding Mayors for Peace banners and placards with other participants, appealing for the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020.



Peace March

After the March, Mayor Matsui handed to Ms. Angela Kane, the UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and Ms. Taous Feroukhi, Chairperson of the 2015 NPT Review Conference, a list of around 1.1 million signatures from citizens calling for the start of negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention. He also called for participants to create a global movement to achieve such a convention.

April 27

The Hiroshima-Nagasaki Appeal Gathering was held on this day, with the aim of rallying opinions from Hiroshima and Nagasaki and appealing widely to the people of the world for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Around one hundred people attended, including A-bomb survivors, civic organizations, Youth Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons, and people from the United Nations and Japanese national government bodies.

At the gathering, Mayor Matsui presented Ms. Virginia Gamba, UN Director and Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, with a request from Mayors for Peace, a list of around 1.1 million signatures calling for the start of negotiations for a nuclear weapons convention, and paper cranes that had been made by students from Hiroshima Jogakuin Senior High School.

There was also a speech by Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. Fumio Kishida, A-bomb testimonials by survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, activity reports by civic organizations and youth representatives, and a speech by Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture, Mr. Hidehiko Yuzaki. The event ended with the adoption of "Hiroshima-Nagasaki Appeal in New York".

The mayor then attended the "Nuclear-Free World: Cries from Hiroshima and Nagasaki" exhibition in the UN Headquarters, organized jointly by the Cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and Nihon Hidankyo (Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Associations), where he made a speech and participated in the tape cutting ceremony. A-bomb artifacts and posters with pictures of the bombing provided by Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum were on display at the

venue.

April 28

Mayor Matsui met with Mr. Sebastian Kurz, Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Ms. Taous Feroukhi, and requested further efforts for the abolition of nuclear weapons. They also had a discussion on the global situation of nuclear disarmament.

April 29

The Mayors for Peace New York Gathering was held, attended by seventy people including Mayors for Peace Leader Cities, member cities, peace NGOs and people from the United Nations and government bodies.

At the gathering, cities that have become leader cities (Bangkok City, Thailand; Fongo-Tongo City, Cameroon; Mexico City, Mexico) were granted their Leader City certification. There were also activity reports by vice-president cities such as Nagasaki City and Frogn City (Norway) and presentations on future activities.

This was followed by a panel discussion. With Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, Secretary-General of the Mayors for Peace (and Chairperson of this Foundation) as coordinator, representatives of peace NGOs discussed the role of citizens and the specific initiatives to introduce legislation toward the abolition of nuclear weapons after the 2015 NPT Review Conference.

The session ended with the adoption of the Mayors for Peace New York Appeal, expressing the determination to abolish nuclear weapons by 2020 and achieve perpetual world peace.

April 30

Following on from 2014, the second Mayors for Peace Youth Forum was held. Ten high school students who participated in the “Nuclear Abolition Now! Signature Drive by Junior and Senior High School Students” campaign, two university students from the Nagasaki Youth Delegation, two junior writers from the Chugoku Shimbun newspaper, and two university students from Bangkok, Thailand, made presentations expressing their thoughts about their respective peace activities and peace, and their determination to implement initiatives for the abolition of nuclear weapons. There was also a video message from young people in Kochi City, India.

In the question and answer session, Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue talked about the importance of activities that continue to pass on the A-bomb experience to the next generation, and the A-bomb survivors expressed their gratitude to the young people for their passionate peace activities.

Next, the mayor met with Mr. Adam Scheinman, Special Representative of the US President for Nuclear Non-Proliferation, and requested that President Obama visits Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and that discussions on a nuclear weapons convention or similar legal frameworks to it are

advanced.

In addition, as an event to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima City as well as the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations, the UN 70th Anniversary Commemorative Event: Hiroshima Peace Memorial Concert Leading to the Future was held together with the Japanese Music Association of Hiroshima, and around one hundred people attended, including people from the United Nations and national governments.

May 1

Mayor Matsui met with Ms. Cynthia Kelly, President of the Atomic Heritage Foundation, which promotes the creation of national historical parks from the Manhattan Project constructions, and communicated his concerns and thoughts from a region that has been hit by an atomic bomb. He also asked that her Foundation display content that communicates the inhumanity of nuclear weapons.

This was followed by a speech at the NGO session that was part of the official program at the NPT Review Conference, where the mayor made a strong appeal to national government representatives about the inhumanity and “absolute evil” of nuclear weapons. In his speech, the mayor said that it is commendable that there is now growing awareness at the national state level of the inhumanity of nuclear weapons as an issue.

On the other hand, he expressed his strong opposition to the recent idea that hostility between states and terrorist acts are preventing progress in nuclear disarmament negotiations. He also stated strongly to the world’s policymakers that now is the time to exercise their leadership for the abolition of nuclear weapons. He also mentioned that all signatories to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty have a duty to faithfully hold disarmament negotiations as stipulated in Article 6 of the Treaty, and emphasized the importance of starting negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention as soon as possible.



NGO session

Release of request document to Chairperson of NPT Review Conference and representatives of signatory nations attending the conference

After the Mayors for Peace delegation returned to Japan, it was found that the NPT Review Conference Final Document did not include the sentence encouraging the world’s leaders to visit the A-bombed sites of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which had originally been included in the document. Mayors for Peace created a document requesting that this sentence be revived, and asking for the inclusion of a specific commitment to hold sincere negotiations on nuclear disarmament to bridge the legal gap for the complete

abolition of nuclear weapons. The document was jointly signed by Mayors for Peace executive cities and leader cities, and sent to the NPT chairperson and others.

Assessment of the NPT Review Conference

The NPT review conference spent four weeks discussing nuclear disarmament measures and was broken off without reaching agreement. The Final Document included a section on how to proceed with nuclear disarmament for the next five years, but was not adopted due to disagreement over the denuclearization of the Middle East, an extremely disappointing result.

On the other hand, some parts of the conference did provide hope for the progress of future discussions on the abolition of nuclear weapons. For example, the final draft that was presented at the final session included a recommendation that the world's political leaders conduct exchange activities and share experiences with regions and people who have received damage from nuclear weapons, and establish a task force at the United Nations General Assembly to be held from September 2015 to specify legislation and other effective measures to fulfill their duties for nuclear disarmament. This is the result of discussions that were held on items that Mayors for Peace have appealed for — visits to the A-bombed cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the start of negotiations for a nuclear weapons convention — and many nations thus became aware of the importance of these items. This is somewhat worthy of note.

Moreover, at this conference, a record 159 nations backed the Joint Statement, which decries the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and calls for their non-use, and 107 nations assented to the Humanitarian Pledge submitted by Austria. There is greater awareness of the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and many non-nuclear weapon states are now taking the issue seriously, aware that they too could be victims of nuclear weapons. There is also increased awareness of the need for legal frameworks to prohibit nuclear weapons. These are all noteworthy results of the conference.

Future initiatives of Mayors for Peace

In light of the results of this NPT Review Conference, the current issue is whether or not a forum will be set up for multilateral talks on the legal prohibition of nuclear weapons, and we need to continue to monitor the situation. In any case, Mayors for Peace must ensure that there is no break in the momentum of discussions on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons — by conveying the facts of the atomic bombing to future generations, spreading the peace message of the A-bomb survivors, and communicating their wishes to future generations and beyond borders to the people of the world.

Mayors for Peace is working for the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020. We will further expand the number of member cities and implement proactive and autonomous activities in regions all over the world, with the aim of giving a stronger voice to citizens asking national governments for

specific measures to abolish nuclear weapons, and thus building up international public opinion.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

Monitoring the 2015 NPT Review Conference

(Article contributed June 2015)



by **Yasuhito Fukui, LL.D.**

Associate Professor, Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University

This year, the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was held at the UN headquarters in New York. Despite the fact that this is an important year, marking 70th anniversary since the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the end of the Pacific War, unfortunately the Conference could not reach an agreement on the draft Final Document. While the end of the Cold War between East and West brought a drastic change in the global political scene surrounding the NPT, limited progress has been made on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation despite our expectations.

I participated in the 2000 NPT Review Conference fifteen years ago as a member of the delegation of the Japanese government, but this time I participated in this Conference as a research fellow of the Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University with observer status for civil society. I still remember vividly the Review Conference in 2000. At that time it was difficult for the delegations to agree on the text of draft Final Document in the evening of the last day. After resuming the night session without interpreters, at midnight the Chairperson declared that he would “stop the clock” and he also encouraged us to continue with a view to overcoming the divergence of views. The delegations negotiated the language of the Final Document until the afternoon of the following day, Saturday, and thus we finally reached on an agreement. On the contrary, when I witnessed the final stage of the 2015 NPT Review Conference without any fruitful result in the evening of the last day, May 22, in the UN General Assembly hall, to be honest, I was extremely disappointed.

There are a large variety of people among our readers, from nuclear disarmament specialists who have long been involved in campaigns to abolish nuclear weapons, to the general public. Therefore I would first like to describe a brief explanation on how the NPT Review Conference is held, and then look at the outcome of the NPT Review Conference, as well as its future perspective.

I recently read an interview with an American scientist who was involved in the development of nuclear weapons

who testified “I sincerely prayed that nuclear weapons would not be used.” This testimony provides evidence of the ferocity of the actual atomic bombing experienced by Hiroshima and Nagasaki, given that merely witnessing a nuclear explosion is horrific in itself. In the midst of the fierce race to develop nuclear weapons during the Cold War, there was a strong awareness among the global community that nuclear weapons possess an inhumane aspect that is incomparable to other weapons. For this reason, in 1961 the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. This resolution was the first step with a view to negotiations towards a treaty for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and on June 12, 1967 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons. The aim of the NPT is to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and as such it is an important treaty that constitutes the basis of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, prohibiting the transfer of nuclear weapons by nuclear-weapons States (NWS), the receipt of nuclear weapons by non-nuclear-weapons States (NNWS) from NWS, and the manufacture of nuclear weapons, as well as stipulating IAEA safeguards, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the obligation of States Parties to “pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at early date...”

The NPT Review Conference is held once every five years to review the operation of this Treaty with a view towards assuring that the purposes of the Preamble and the provisions of the Treaty are being realized. Looking back at previous NPT Review Conferences, the conferences that adopted the Final Document successfully were those held in 1975, 1985, 2000, and 2010. That is to say the so-called “13 Practical Steps” (2000) and “the 2010 Action Plan”, which showed us important policy guidance for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

Although the 1995 Review Conference could not adopt a Final Document, important decisions were taken on three items — the strengthening of the NPT review process, the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and the indefinite extension of the NPT. Additionally, an important resolution was adopted to convene a conference on establishing a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction. In order to analyze the failure of the 2015 NPT Review Conference and considers future challenges, we cannot ignore the question of whether this NPT review Conference could respond to the core issues in relation to the progress of those decisions made since the 1995 Review Conference in the past twenty years: namely, the principles and objectives of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and the Middle East resolution, with the indefinite extension of the NPT.

Prior to the NPT Review Conference three Preparatory Committees are scheduled to be held and based on the discussions in the Preparatory Committees the NPT Review Conference is held every five years in a four weeks’ session.

In the first week, a general debate as a sort of the high level segment by the heads of national delegations is held at the UN General Assembly hall. From the second week, the three Main Committees try to discuss the elements of the report to the drafting committee within their mandate of each Main Committee (nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy), as well as subsidiary bodies that have been established where necessary. Then the final reports reflecting the discussions of each of the Main Committees are submitted to the Drafting Committee and in the fourth i.e. final week this Drafting Committee tries to produce the procedural and substantial report of the Conference including the draft Final Document, and the final decision to adopt these documents is taken in the plenary session. As is usual with negotiations for many difficult to agree upon issues, a large part of the meetings are conducted in the form of closed sessions. Due to the fact that there is a high level of public interest in the abolition of nuclear weapons there are various side events and NGO sessions held, in particular in the first two weeks, and many people gather from all over the world to the NPT Review Conference.



2015 NPT Review Conference at UN General Assembly hall

The President of the 2015 NPT Review Conference was Ambassador Feroukhi, advisor to the Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs. It was the second time that an Algerian has presided over the NPT Review Conference, after Ambassador Baali, permanent representative of Algeria to the United Nations, at the conference in 2000. I had the opportunity to speak briefly with Ms. Feroukhi, when she was the Ambassador of Algeria in Vienna, at meetings such as the Conference to promote the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs. I remember her as a very lively, tenacious and tough diplomat. The success of the NPT Review Conference this time was heavily dependent on the Nonaligned Movement (NAM) and Arab League, and Ms. Feroukhi was the right person for the position of President of the Conference. However, even with Ms. Feroukhi’s efforts, the conference was obliged to face the divergence of views in each of these three Main Committees, in particular the Main Committee I which was in charge of nuclear disarmament. At the plenary session on May 20, Ms.

Feroukhi explained that as of the 19th, all the main committees had not been able to reach consensus, and that there was an especially large disagreement on the three points such as the inhumane impact of the use of nuclear weapons, effective measures for nuclear disarmament (Article 6), and NWS's obligation to report the progress of the nuclear disarmament including the status quo of nuclear arsenals.

Continuously, a series of informal consultations was conducted overnight until early in the morning on May 21, the day before the final day, because of the divergences of views remaining still difficult to agree upon, the draft Final Document (NPT/CONF.2015/R.3), developed under the responsibility of Ms. Feroukhi, was distributed to the delegations. Regarding this draft, informal consultations mainly involving the NAM were held intermittently on May 22, and at the same time each country's delegation was requesting official instructions from their capital whether they could accept this draft or not. Finally, the plenary of the Conference resumed at around 5pm, and Ms. Feroukhi officially introduced this draft, encouraging each delegation to accept her proposal in the spirit of compromise. Subsequently, Tunisia expressed the view that it could accept this proposal, however the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada then stated that they could not participate in the consensus. In particular the United States explained the reason why they could not accept it. This was because of the issue of convening a conference on establishing a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction. They express the reason why it is unacceptable as follows: "Unfortunately the proposed language for a final document did not allow for consensus discussions among the countries of the Middle East for an agreement on the agenda and the modalities of the conference and set an arbitrary deadline for holding the conference." This was the decisive factor that led to the failure of the 2015 NPT Review Conference.

During this Review Conference, the Austrian Director for Disarmament, Ambassador Kmentt, was the focus of attention because of his proposals of the Austrian Pledge based on the result of the Vienna Conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. He might have known already that the conference would result in failure. Before the resumption of the plenary meeting, he appeared in the gallery reserved for observers such as members of the civil society and media to monitor the conference. I witnessed that he expressed gratitude to the civil society people for monitoring the four weeks' long meetings with patience and he also gave interviews to the media in a friendly manner.

The next NPT Review Conference is scheduled for 2020. Delegations to the 2015 NPT review Conference were unable to set forth a policy guidance on how to promote nuclear disarmament for the next five years. In this situation, what would be the future perspective for the successful outcome of the next Review Conference? We have to consider how to minimize the negative impact of the failure of this Review Conference. One of the root causes for this failure is the lack

of significant progress in the field of nuclear disarmament and the increasingly prominent antagonism between the NNWS dissatisfied with the current situation and the NWS that were fiercely trying to protect their vested interests.

With this situation in mind, it is imperative for us to develop "an exit strategy" from this stalemate of nuclear disarmament in view of what can be done within the framework of the NPT regime, including how to resolve the regional issues such as the Middle East and the DPRK (North Korea). In particular for the issues in the Middle East, there is a new horizon following the comprehensive agreement on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy by Iran that has been successfully concluded in July 2015. It is necessary to make use of this opportunity to find a solution for the Middle East issues. After eliminating as much as possible any factors that may lead to the failure of the conference, we need to prepare for the Review Conference during the next five years.

Regarding Japan's nuclear disarmament policy, even with the recent trends to abolish nuclear weapons focusing on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, unfortunately its position is now being questioned although Japan is the sole country to have experienced atomic bombing in the World War II. It is therefore important to proceed with concrete and visible disarmament and nonproliferation diplomacy, including efforts to start negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention.

Prior to going to New York I saw the home page of an NGO where an atomic bomb survivor who had participated in the NPT side event at an atomic bombing exhibition had written, "I have health issues and will probably not be able to participate in the next NPT Review Conference in 2020." I found this very troubling. We need to respond to the current issue of the aging atomic bomb survivors that Hiroshima and Nagasaki are facing now. In addition to this, more than fifteen years have passed without substantial negotiations on the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty in the Conference on Disarmament, which is regarded as the next challenge after CTBT negotiations. Under such circumstances, the Japanese government should go beyond their statement that "a step-by-step approach is important." The time has now come to seriously examine how to negotiate on nuclear disarmament, setting a concrete deadline and targets.

Furthermore, negotiations in the final week of the Review Conference are conducted in the form of informal consultations and the meetings are generally closed, so transparency should be more important in the negotiating process. Documents issued in this Conference were made available thanks to NGOs such as "Reaching Critical Will" who uploaded Conference documents immediately to the Internet. They were then used not only by the media but also by many civil society participants. In this connection, Japanese accredited media were briefed by the Japanese delegation, but observers (including myself) from Japanese civil society were obliged to listen to briefings from other countries' kind delegates and civil society participants. Twenty years ago, I participated in the World Conference on

Women in Beijing as a member of the delegation of Japan. At that time, we arranged briefings not only for the media but also for civil society participants upon request. Just as the Austrian Director for Disarmament Ambassador Kmentt demonstrated, I would like to expect the delegation of Japan to give due consideration to civil society participants who attend the conference.

[Profile]

Yasuhito Fukui

He was born in 1964 in Hyogo Prefecture, Japan. He received the academic title LL.D. (Docteur en droit) from Université Paris I (Panthéon-Sorbonne). He specializes in International law, especially disarmament law, international human rights law and international humanitarian law and so on. He retired from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in March 2015, and assumed his current post at the Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University. His major publication is, among others, *Gunshuku Kokusaiho no Kyoka* (Strengthening the International Disarmament Law) published by Shinzansha Publisher Co., Ltd. in February 2015.

Attendance at centennial commemoration of the first use of weapons of mass destruction

Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, Secretary-General of the Mayors for Peace (and Chairperson of this Foundation), visited the city of Ypres in Belgium, one of the vice-president cities in Mayors for Peace, from April 21-24, 2015. He attended the international conference “A Century of Weapons of Mass Destruction: Enough!” that was held there as the centennial commemoration of the first use of weapons of mass destruction. This conference was held to mark the first attack in history using poison gas in a suburb of Ypres in April 1916 during World War I.

The conference started with a speech by Ms. Virginia Gamba, Director and Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, expressing gratitude for the activities by the City of Ypres and Mayors for Peace to educate people on the abolition of weapons of mass destruction. There were also speeches by poison gas attack experts and survivors, and the mayor of Halabja City in Iran, which is one of the vice-president cities of Mayors for Peace and was a victim of chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq War. Professor Peter Kuznick of American University gave a presentation proving that the atomic bomb did not need to be dropped on Hiroshima to end the war, and there were also video messages from A-bomb survivors travelling on the Peace Boat and giving A-bomb testimonials.

Mr. Komizo gave a presentation on the topic of “The Impact of the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima”. Using a large number of images, including photos of the survivors, and paintings such as Mr. Goro Shikoku’s *Human Shadow Etched in Stone*, he explained the actual damage from the bomb and the reconstruction of the city that came later. He

also presented the message of the *hibakusha* — “no one should ever again suffer as we have.” As global concern for the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons grows, he appealed strongly that the people of the world need to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and reach a common awareness that nuclear weapons are an absolute evil.



Mr. Komizo giving a presentation

This was a multi-lateral and multi-faceted conference, with various experts in the fields of weapons of mass destruction such as chemical weapons and nuclear weapons speaking from their respective positions, in addition to victims of poison gas attacks providing testimonies. At this conference, it was taken as a particularly significant thing by participants that Mr. Komizo attended as the representative of Hiroshima, which has continued to work to abolish nuclear weapons and achieve perpetual world peace.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

Trip to South America and Germany to Request Appointment as Mayors for Peace Leader Cities

In February 2015, Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, Secretary-General of Mayors for Peace (and Chairperson of this Foundation), visited Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Germany, with the aim of asking Mayors for Peace member cities to take on the role of Leader Cities, support the activities, and request cooperation in discussions with NGOs and Mayors for Peace activities.

Mr. Komizo’s main activities are described below.

Main activities in Brazil

Mr. Komizo made a request to Santos City Mayor Mr. Paulo Alexandre Barbosa to take on the role of Mayors for Peace Leader City. Mayor Barbosa expressed his great honor at having being selected as a candidate for such a role, and accepted graciously. Santos City is the city that Japanese people first arrived at in Brazil, on the ship *Kasatomaru* in 1908. It is also a sister city of Nagasaki City, and as such is a city with deep cultural and historical connec-



Mr. Komizo (left) has a discussion with Santos City Mayor

tions between Japan and Brazil. Mr. Komizo also made a request to Santos City's neighboring city, Sao Paulo, to support Mayors for Peace activities, and received a positive response.

During his visit Mr. Komizo also met with people from the Association of *Hibakusha*-Brazil for Peace and the peace NGO Ban All Nukes generation, explaining and providing information on initiatives by Mayors for Peace, and discussing future collaboration.

Main activities in Argentina

Mr. Komizo made a request that the capital, Buenos Aires City, takes on the role of Mayors for Peace Leader City. He met with the Minister for Culture, Mr. Hernán Lombardi, who stated that he would discuss the matter with the mayor with a view to accepting. He also said that he would like to use the network that Buenos Aires has with other cities to ask those cities to provide their support for Mayors for Peace initiatives and activities.

During this trip Mr. Komizo also made requests to Mercedes City and Rosario City to cooperate in Mayors for Peace activities, and attended a peace event organized by Ms. Tomoko Aikawa, who is an Executive Adviser for this Foundation living in Argentina. At the event the Peace Bell, donated by Hiroshima City, was sounded in a Japanese garden in Buenos Aires.

Main activities in Uruguay

Mr. Komizo made a request to Ms. Ana María Olivera, the Mayor of Montevideo, Uruguay's capital city, to take on the role of Mayors for Peace Leader City. Ms. Olivera said she would consider the proposition and then give a formal reply. She also expressed her determination to become more proactively involved in peace activities as we reach the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing, and further develop the relationship and make efforts for Mayors for Peace. At the meeting Mr. Komizo was granted the title of Honorary Citizen, and the meeting was also attended by the wife of the President of Uruguay, the Minister for Education and Culture, and the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, showing the high level of interest in Mayors for Peace.



Mr. Komizo (left) gives the Leader City request document to the Mayor of Montevideo City

Main Activities in Germany

Mr. Komizo visited Frankfurt, where he made a request to Mr. Stephan Siegler, the City Council Chairperson, to support Mayors for Peace activities. He also met with people from IPPNW, who cooperate in Mayors for Peace activities, and explained and provided information on the Mayors for

Peace initiatives, and discussed future collaboration.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

Trip to Kochi City, India, for Peace Boat Event at Port of Call

In April 2015, the Mayors for Peace secretariat dispatched staffs to Kochi City in India, which is one of the Mayors for Peace member cities, to attend a series of peace-related events held in line with the arrival of the Peace Boat — a chartered passenger ship of Japan-based international NGO Peace Boat, that travels the world on peace voyages — at that city. The main activities are described below.

April 27

An event was held at Kochi City Hall, jointly organized by the Peace Boat, Mayors for Peace, Kochi City and local NGOs. The Mayors for Peace staff member read out a message from the Mayor of Hiroshima (President of Mayors for Peace). Approximately one hundred people attended the event, where messages were read by the Mayor of Kochi and others, and there were testimonials by *hibakusha*, A-bomb survivors, who are traveling around the world on the Peace Boat, as part of the Global Voyage for a Nuclear-Free World: Peace Boat *Hibakusha* Project.



Event at Kochi City Hall

This was followed by an event at YMCA CAMP SITE organized by the local YMCA and NGOs, which the Mayors for Peace staff member also participated in. The event was attended by around one hundred people — mainly young people from YMCA — and there were speeches and A-bomb testimonies. At the end was a discussion between *hibakusha* and the young people.

Video messages by Kochi Mayor Tony Chammany and the young people were recorded, to show at the Mayors for Peace side event that was held at the same time as the 2015 NPT Review Conference at United Nations headquarters in New York from April 27. The message from the Mayor of Kochi was shown at the Mayors for Peace New York Gathering on April 29, and the young peoples' message was

shown on April 30 at the 2015 Mayors for Peace Youth Forum.

On that same night, as *hibakusha* and Peace Boat members watched, the Flame of Peace that had been lit in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and carried from Japan to Kochi, was lit on a lamp. In the future, a structure for the Flame of Peace will be constructed in the park in front of Kochi City Hall.

Kochi City and the local NGOs are extremely enthusiastic about peace-related activities, and thanks to their thorough preparations for the recording of the video messages and the lighting of the Flame of Peace, all expected aims were achieved.

This series of events was covered by many of the local media and reported in almost all newspapers the following day. In this way, the events helped to spread information about Mayors for Peace activities to the people of Kochi, and develop an awareness of peace.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibition in Spain

The “Hiroshima-Nagasaki. 70 Years from the Atomic Bombing” exhibition was held in Spain’s second-largest city, Barcelona, from January 13 to February 8, 2015, and in Granollers City on the outskirts of Barcelona from February 11 to March 8.

Granollers City was subjected to air raids during the Spanish Civil War from 1936-39, and many residents died as a result. The city has been passionate about peace activities, and has been proactively involved in activities of Mayors for Peace as a vice-president city since August 2009. This time, with the cooperation of Granollers City, the A-bomb exhibition was also held in Barcelona, the largest city in the Catalonia region.



Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Director Shiga giving a speech at the El Born Cultural Center

At the A-Bomb Exhibition held at the El Born Cultural Center in Barcelona City, visitors took great interest in the

panels and videos explaining the reality of the damage of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

At the Granollers Museum in Granollers City, in addition to panels, there were also ten A-bomb artifacts on display, including a tattered uniform that had been worn by a junior high school student when the bomb was dropped.

This was the first time that the A-bomb exhibition had been held in Spain. It was widely covered by newspapers, magazines and radio stations, and there was also an opportunity for Ms. Yoshiko Kajimoto, an A-bomb survivor, to give her testimony on a live television program, all demonstrating the high level of interest of the local media. There were also opportunities to hear Ms. Kajimoto’s testimony at the A-bomb exhibition opening ceremony in Granollers City and at schools in both Granollers and Barcelona, thus directly communicating the reality of the damage from the bombing to large numbers of citizens there.



A-bombing testimony at Granollers Museum

There were various comments from visitors to the exhibition. Some commented “This was the first time I learned about the reality of the atomic bombing, and it was very educational.”, and “I was surprised at how small the junior high school student’s uniform was.” There was also a student who asked “Don’t you hate America for this?”, and one who said “I want the survivors of the atomic bombing to live long, stay well and keep giving their testimonies.”

(Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Outreach Division)

Memorial Gathering for Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Victims

This Foundation holds the Memorial Gathering for Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Victims on August 9, the day that the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, to express the condolences of Hiroshima, also hit by the atomic bomb, for those who lost their lives to the bomb in Nagasaki, and to renew our oath to achieve peace.

This year’s Memorial Gathering was held in the Foyer on Floor B1 in the East Wing of the Peace Memorial Museum. Around sixty people attended, including atomic bomb survivors and visitors from Japan and overseas.

The Gathering opened with a speech by Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, Chairperson of this Foundation, and this was followed by live television coverage of the Nagasaki Peace Ceremony. At 11:02am, the time that the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, participants observed a minute of silence.



Speech by Mr. Komizo

This was followed by a speech by Mr. Sunao Tsuboi, Chairperson of the Board of the Hiroshima Prefectural Confederation of A-bomb Sufferers Organizations. The Gathering ended with a video of a

witness testimony (witness: Mr. Kazuto Yoshida).

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

Welcoming Delegation from the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament

The Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD) is a national organization in China that promotes peace and disarmament.

Since a group from the Hiroshima Citizens Peace Friendship China Delegation first visited Beijing and other areas in 1988, this Foundation and CPAPD have continued to conduct mutual visits over 27 years. The Foundation welcomed a group from CPAPD for five days from February 2, 2015.

The main activities are outlined below.

February 2

The group participated in a tour of Mazda Museum, held a discussion with this Foundation, and attended a dinner hosted by the President of this Foundation (Hiroshima Mayor).

During the discussion, a request was made to the delegation to cooperate in efforts for the abolition of nuclear weapons and to promote membership in Mayors for Peace. The CPAPD members responded positively, and in particular said that they would not only ask Chinese cities that have a strong relationship with CPAPD to join Mayors for Peace, but also proposed using sister city and friendship city relations between Japanese and Chinese cities.

February 3

The group toured Peace Memorial Park and Peace Memorial Museum, listened to the testimony of an A-bomb survivor, visited the Mayor of Hiroshima, and toured Miyajima.

At the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, they asked

detailed questions about the number of the deceased and others while viewing the displays with great interest. The head of the delegation was impressed by the museum's methods of collecting materials, and said that there was a lot for China's peace-related museums to learn from this.



The delegation presents flowers to the Memorial Monument for Hiroshima, City of Peace

When visiting the Mayor, the head of the delegation told that the two important things that China and Japan must think about are why such a war occurred, and what needs to be done to ensure that war does not occur again. He also said that CPAPD supports Mayors for Peace and will participate in joint activities such as displaying A-bomb posters. He also said that they are looking forward to a visit from a group from Hiroshima.

February 3 and 4

The group then moved to Tokyo, where they visited Gensuikyo (The Japan Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs) and other related organizations.

2015 marks 70 years since the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, 70 years since the end of the Second World War, and the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations. For these reasons, CPAPD is placing importance on Japan-related activities, and extended many friendly comments toward Japan, impressing on us the importance of civic-level exchange activities between China and Japan.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Courses: Support for On-Site Learning

The City of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are working on the establishment and spread of Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Courses at universities in Japan and overseas. The aim of the course is to academically organize and structure the message of the A-bomb survivors as a common asset for humankind, and communicate this to young generations as an academic discipline with universal value.

In March 2015, on-site learning programs were held in Hiroshima by groups from the International Christian University (Japan) and University of Indianapolis (USA), both of which offer the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course, and this Foundation provided support. The groups from both universities took tours of Peace Memorial Park and Peace Memorial Museum, listened to an A-bomb witness testimony by Ms. Keiko Ogura, and participated in recitals of

A-bomb poetry at the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims among other activities, learning about the truth of the atomic bombing.

International Christian University

Nine international students from International Christian University (ICU) participated in the on-site learning program from March 4-6.

Participants were selected by the Rotary Foundation, which has its headquarters in America, and were international students who are majoring in Peace Research as part of their Masters course at ICU. This was the 11th time that a group of international students from this university has visited Hiroshima as part of this initiative. As well as learning about the reality of

the damage that the bombing caused, they also discussed about the abolition of nuclear weapons with Mr. Komizo, Chairperson of this Founda-



International students from ICU who listened to an A-bomb testimony of Ms. Ogura (third right front)

tion, and research fellows from Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University.

University of Indianapolis

A total of fourteen students and teachers from the University of Indianapolis participated in the on-site learning program held from March 8-10. This was the fifth time that this university has conducted on-site learning. In addition to learning about the reality of the damage from the atomic bombing, participants also listened to a lecture by Ms. Mari Tsuruda, Emeritus Principal of Hiroshima YMCA School of Languages, about her experiences in a Japanese internment camp in America during the war. They were also given a tour by the curator of Hiroshima Castle of the remains of the past battle in the

castle grounds, and viewed the trees in Shukkeien Garden that survived the bombing. Through these activities and more they deepened their understanding of peace.



Students from the University of Indianapolis reciting their own A-bomb poetry at the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

Memoir of the A-bombing:

Young people piled up like logs



by **Kiyomi Kono,**

Atomic Bomb Witness

for This Foundation

Hiroshima city disappeared

I was fourteen years old when the atomic bomb was dropped, and living in a town along the Geibi train line, 35 kilometers from the hypocenter. On the evening of August 6 a train carrying large numbers of injured people arrived at the station closest to us, and this was the first time we heard that a large bomb had been dropped on Hiroshima and the city had been completely destroyed. My two older sisters were living in Hiroshima, so my mother and I headed for Hiroshima on the first train the next morning. However the train only went as far as Yaga Station, a station on the way. As soon as we got off the train, we were struck by an awful stench that felt like it stung our eyes and nose. And then we were completely shocked. The city of Hiroshima had disappeared without a trace. There were only vast fields, burned black.

People like ghosts

We walked into the city along a road through the rice fields. On the other side of the road continued a long line of people fleeing, people with severe burns and bleeding. Their hair was frizzled, their faces severely swollen, and they were half naked, with their burnt clothes hanging off them in tatters. Skin peeled away from burns on their shoulders and arms and hung down from their fingertips like old rags. They walked with their hands out in front of them, like ghosts.

Corpses swollen to double their size...corpses laid out on the bridge...

We reached the city. The narrow roads were so full of corpses that there was no place to step. Human bodies that had been exposed to the strong radiation had swollen to many times their original size and turned a reddish brown color; they were lying face up as though they were grasping at the air. It was impossible to tell if they were men or women. Their eyeballs were flowing down like jelly, with their black eyes ... their tongues were stuck far out of their mouths and were burnt to a triangular cinder... their organs were hanging out of their ripped bellies and were the color of a fried egg... There were corpses that were as black as coal and corpses that were half burned.

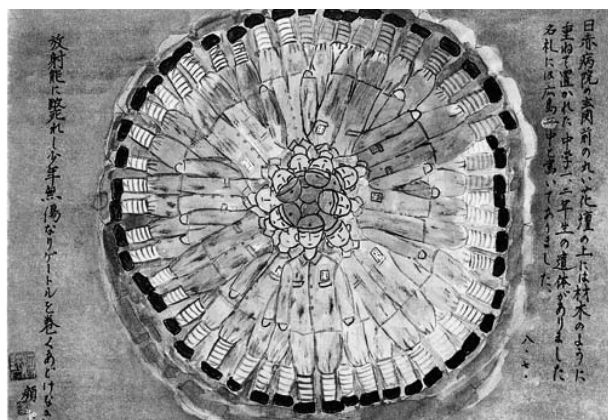
At Hijiyama Bridge, dead bodies had been pulled out of the river and were lined up on either side of the bridge, with

straw mats placed on top of them. As we crossed the bridge, we could hear the faint voice of a woman from under a mat, saying “Soldier, please help me. Please give me some water.” There were some people still alive...

Tragic situation at Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital – Junior high school students piled up in flowerbeds

We continued walking along the road through the rubble, and at midday finally reached Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital in Senda-machi town, where my older sister worked. The hospital was also like hell. People covered in blood were lying piled up on the concrete floor, each writhing and crying out “It hurts”, “I’m in pain”, “Help me”, “Oh Mother”, “Give me water”, “Just kill me”... A number of nurses were running around treating them. We were told by one of the nurses that my sister had been saved and taken to the hospital in Ninoshima island, so we decided to search for my other sister.

When we went outside the hospital, the dead bodies of junior high school students had been piled in radial fashion like logs in the round flowerbeds on either side of the entrance. Maybe they had been doing building demolition work due to student mobilization? When I looked at their nametags I saw that they were in the same year as me. I experienced a great shock at seeing the corpses of these young people who had died as though they were nothing at the tender age of 13 or 14.



Corpses of junior high school students piled up like lumber
("A-bomb Drawings by Survivors" by Kiyomi Kono)

Corpses drifting in the waves

We crossed Miyukibashi Bridge to look for my sister, who lived in Ujina town. In the river were floating corpses that had been pushed back from the sea on the high tide. Towns on the other side of the bridge were not burned. My sister and her house were safe. So, my mother and I walked back along the streetcar line.

Scenes on the way home – My emotions paralyzed

In the city, in the hot weather a number of soldiers were

ploddingly carrying corpses on stretchers and piling them up like lumber. There were many mountains of corpses.

In the area close to the hypocenter, many charred trains had derailed. When we passed by one train I happened to look up, and saw black things hanging down in the train. When I looked more closely, I saw it were charred arms. Those arms were still holding on to straps, and had become the sticks of coal.

When we reached Fukuya department store, the inside of the 8-floor building was burnt black, with only the external walls remaining. The injured were lying in two or three rows on the nearby road. There were also many soldiers crouching down there. Although they did not have any burns their faces were deathly pale and they struggled to breathe. There were some who were dead.

This was the first time in my life that I had seen so many cruel deaths and injuries. My heart was paralyzed, and after a while I stopped feeling anything, no matter what I saw. I lost my memory of what happened after Fukuya, and have no recollection of how we got home.

Wishing for the abolition of nuclear weapons

The tragedy of that summer's day cannot be expressed in a drawing or in words. Students who were hungry, had nothing fun in their lives, were told that they were being mobilized for their country, and then died at the young age of 13 or 14. They had so much hope and so many dreams.

We take our current peaceful life for granted. But I want today's young people to think about the fact that many people lost their lives to give us the peace we have today. There is instability in the world, but as long as I can, I want to continue to have hope, and appeal to young people for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the importance of peace. I believe that, as a survivor of that summer's day, that is my responsibility.

[Profile]

Kiyomi Kono

Born in 1931 in Asakita Ward, Hiroshima City. Exposed to the atomic bombing when entering Hiroshima City as a second year student at girls' school on August 7, 1945. Recorded her memories of the bombing in "A-bomb Drawings by Survivors", and published a picture book "watashi wa wasurenai (I will never forget that day)". Started giving A-bomb Survivor Testimony to junior high school students from 2003. Gave testimonies at universities in the state of Missouri (US) in 2011 and in the states of Washington, Oregon and New Mexico (US) in 2013.

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



HIROSHIMA PEACE CULTURE FOUNDATION

1-2 Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima
730-0811, JAPAN

Phone. 81-82-241-5246

E-mail: p-soumu@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

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