

PEACE CULTURE



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73rd Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony

On August 6, 2018, the 73rd anniversary of the atomic bombing, the Peace Memorial Ceremony organized by the City of Hiroshima was held in the Peace Memorial Park. Approximately 50,000 people attended the ceremony, including A-bomb survivors (*hibakusha*) and bereaved families, and prayed for the repose of the souls of those who lost their lives, and for eternal peace.

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 vault in the Cenotaph for the A-Bomb Victims. In the two volumes were inscribed the names of the 5,393 people who passed away over the past year. This brings the total number of the fallen recorded in the Register to 314,118 people, their names recorded in a total of 115 volumes.

This was followed by an address by Masanori Nagata, President of the Hiroshima City Council, and the dedication of flowers by the representatives of various organizations. At 8:15am, the time that the bomb was dropped, the bereaved families' representative Kenta Uetao and children's representative Aoi Morishita rang the Peace Bell, and all participants observed a minute of silent prayer.

Mayor Matsui then read out the Peace Declaration. In the Declaration, he said "Please listen to what I say next as if you and your loved ones were there." He then described the horror inflicted by the atomic bomb that exploded in the sky above Hiroshima at 8:15am, August 6, 1945, basing his description on the testimony of A-bomb survivors. The mayor also read out the appeals of two *hibakusha* who were twenty years old when the bomb was dropped. They appealed to policymakers to use their reason and insight to work towards the elimination of nuclear weapons, and said that efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons must be continued based on the rational actions of the leaders of nations around the world.

The mayor also stated that the concepts of nuclear deterrence and the nuclear umbrella flaunt the destructive power of nuclear weapons, and try to maintain the world order by instilling fear in rival nations. He said that in terms of guaranteeing long-term global security, such an approach is extremely unstable and dangerous. He urged world leaders to execute nuclear disarmament in good faith, which is an obligation under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and to pursue initiatives to make the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons a stepping stone to a



Mayor Matsui reading out the Peace Declaration

world free of nuclear weapons.

Mayor Matsui also urged the Japanese government to play its role to lead the global community towards the achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons through dialogue and cooperation. He also asked that the government expand the black rain areas in addition to enhancing support for the many people suffering both physically and emotionally from the effects of radiation, including the *hibakusha*, whose average age is now over 82.

After the Peace Declaration, the children's representatives Miori Shinkai and Yuhi Yonehiro read out the Commitment to Peace, saying that they have learned while listening to the testimonies of the *hibakusha*, viewing the artifacts from the bombing and touring the monuments in the Peace Memorial Park, and with a strong desire for peace "We fold our desire into paper cranes and give them to the world. Learning what happened 73 years ago and how the *hibakusha* feel, what we learn and feel in our hearts we'll pass on."

This was followed by speeches, including a speech by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who pointed out that "In recent years, differences in the approaches of various countries on nuclear disarmament have become evident." He said that to truly create a world free of nuclear weapons, we must start from an accurate understanding of the truth of the horror of the atomic bombing, and obtain the cooperation of both nuclear-weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states. He stated that the Japanese government would work tenaciously as a mediator between the two and lead the initiatives of the global community. He said that as a concrete initiative, Japan will make proactive contributions to ensure that the Review

Conference of the Parties to the NPT to be held in 2020, the 50th anniversary of the NPT going into force, will be a meaningful conference. He said that Japan would also promote initiatives where young people hand down stories of the A-bomb experiences of the *hibakusha*.

Following on from last year, at this year's ceremony a message from United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres was read out in Japanese by Izumi Nakamitsu, UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. The Secretary-General said in his message that although there has been increased momentum over the past few decades toward the common objective of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, progress has stalled at the current point in time. Under such circumstances, the fact that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted last year showed that there is strong, sound international support for a permanent end to the threat posed by nuclear weapons, and that there is frustration at the slow pace of achieving that goal. He also urged world leaders to return to the common path toward the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and the creation of a world that is safe and secure for all people, based on an awareness of the importance of dialogue and diplomacy.

The ceremony was attended by representatives of bereaved families from 40 prefectures in Japan, as well as ambassadors and representatives from 85 countries and the European Union (EU), including the nuclear weapon states of America, England, France and Russia.

A video of the ceremony was broadcast live on the Internet. The video may be viewed on Hiroshima City's YouTube channel: "ThecityofHiroshima" (<https://www.youtube.com/user/ThecityofHiroshima>).

The full text of the Peace Declaration read out at the ceremony can be found on the Hiroshima City homepage (<http://www.city.hiroshima.lg.jp/english/>) in The Atomic Bombing/Peace → Peace Declaration, Protest Letters, etc. The Peace Declaration has been translated into nine languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish) and the foreign-language versions can also be found on the site.

(General Affairs Division)

Memorial Gathering for Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Victims

On August 9, 2018, the date that the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, this Foundation holds the Memorial Gathering for Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Victims, to express condolences from Hiroshima, which was also hit by the bomb, for the deceased in Nagasaki, and to renew our vow to achieve peace.

This year's Memorial Gathering was held in the Foyer on B1 floor of the east building of the Peace Memorial Museum. There were around 90 people who participated, including *hibakusha* and visitors to the Museum from Japan and overseas.

The ceremony was opened with a speech by Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, the Chairperson of this Foundation, followed by live television coverage of the Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremony. At 11:02am, the time that the bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, all attendees ob-



Speech by Mr. Sakuma

served one minute of silent prayer.

This was followed by a speech by Mr. Kunihiko Sakuma, Chairperson of the Hiroshima Prefectural Hidankyo. The gathering ended with a video of a Nagasaki atomic bombing testimony by Ms. Sumiko Takano, an atomic bombing witness.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

Mayors for Peace delegation dispatched for the 2nd Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference

Mayors for Peace (President: Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui) dispatched a delegation to the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT (Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons) Review Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland in April, 2018. The delegation called on the representatives of the United Nations and national governments to sincerely exercise their duty to negotiate on nuclear disarmament in accordance with Article VI of the NPT and to implement the TPNW (Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons) in the future, as well as asking for understanding and cooperation in Mayors for Peace activities. The Youth Forum and A-Bomb Poster Exhibition were also held.

The delegation also attended the presentation and planting ceremonies in Paris, France and Guernica-Lumo, Spain, of saplings from trees that survived the atomic bombing, where they communicated to participants the message from the A-bombed cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and shared their desire for peace.

April 23

Mr. Adam Bugajski (Poland), the chairperson of the 2nd Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference, in his opening remarks encouraged the representatives from national governments to express their opinions, listen to each other's opinions,



Mayors for Peace President Matsui and Secretary-General Komizo observe the Preparatory Committee

and think about solutions that unite all countries.

After observing the Committee, the delegation viewed the second-generation A-bomb surviving ginkgo trees that had been presented as saplings by Mayors for Peace in 2016 and were planted on the grounds of the United Nations European Headquarters, noting that they are growing well.

After this, Mayor Matsui attended a luncheon with Mr. Alex Mejia, the Manager of UNITAR's (United Nations Institute for Training and Research) Decentralized Cooperation Programme, where he explained how Mayors for Peace are cooperating in the Green Legacy Hiroshima Initiative, which the UNITAR Hiroshima office is also involved in, to distribute atomic bomb survivor tree seeds and saplings to member cities in Japan and overseas.

Mayor Matsui also met with Mayor Rémy Paganini of Geneva, which is a Mayors for Peace member city, accompanied by Tomihisa Taue, Vice-President of Mayors for Peace and Mayor of Nagasaki. They made a request for Geneva to become a leader city for Switzerland, and asked Mayor Paganini to promote activities to expand Mayors for Peace membership and build connections with influential cities in Switzerland.

Mayor Paganini said that he will support the Mayors for Peace activities as he places importance on the friendly ties with the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

This was followed by a meeting with Mr. Gilles Carbonnier, the Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). At the meeting it was confirmed that Mayors for Peace and the ICRC are partners working towards the same goal of abolishing nuclear weapons for Human Security, and that the two organizations will continue to cooperate with one another in the future.

April 24

First was a meeting with Mr. Bugajski, the chairperson of the Preparatory Committee.

Mr. Bugajski expressed his opinion that all nations and their peoples, though they may have differing positions, must work together to communicate the dangers of possessing and using nuclear weapons, and make progress towards the objectives stipulated in the NPT.

Mayor Matsui stated that he would like to ask nuclear-weapon states as well as the nations under the nuclear umbrella to take measures that align with the wishes of those in the cities hit by nuclear bombs.

Mayors for Peace Vice-President Taue said that he would like the committee attendees to see the Mayors for Peace Atomic Bombing poster exhibition, being held at the committee venue, prior to the Preparatory Committee, so that they can see the reality of the damage from the bombing.

After this, they visited Elayne Whyte Gómez, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the



High school students handing the petition to Ambassador Whyte

United Nations in Geneva (and former President of the United Nations Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons), together with eight high school students from Hiroshima and Okinawa cooperating in Mayors for Peace activities by participating in the "No nuclear weapons from Hiroshima / petition campaign". When the high school students handed Ambassador Whyte a petition calling for the prompt conclusion of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the ambassador gave the students a heartfelt message of encouragement.

Following on from the handing over of the petition, Mayor Matsui had a discussion with the ambassador together with Mayor Taue, where he stated that he would like to properly communicate the sincere wish of the *hibakusha* "No one shall ever suffer again as we have."

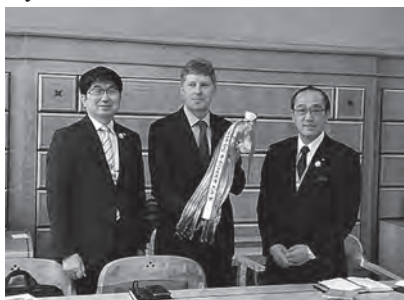
They next had a meeting with United States Assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Nuclear Nonproliferation Dr. Christopher Ford. In response to the Mayors for Peace approach that we should pursue nuclear disarmament by promoting dialogue, including with nuclear-weapon states, Dr. Ford stated that he would like to pursue nuclear disarmament through effective and constructive dialogue with all nations.

April 25

Mayor Matsui and Mayor Taue were the final speakers at the NGO session of the Preparatory Committee. Mayor Matsui stated that we must work towards comprehensive, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization, and appealed for the global community to pursue cooperative security through rational dialogue. Mayor Taue asked the leaders of all nations to visit the cities affected by the atomic bombs so that they can understand the actual damage done by the bombings, and to pursue security policies that are not dependent on nuclear deterrence.

This was followed by a meeting with Ambassador Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger, Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva. Mayor Matsui said that he would like to expand Mayors for Peace membership even in nuclear-weapon states, stating that if cities supporting the nation express their agreement with the TPNW, it would become possible to change the mindset of policymakers.

Mayor Matsui then attended the reception of a workshop on nuclear weapons held by the ICRC. In front of an audience of people involved in the ICRC, he explained the Mayors for Peace activities, and said that Mayors for Peace would like to continue to work with



Mr. Bugajski, chairperson of the Preparatory Committee, receiving a thousand paper cranes

the ICRC and other peace-related international organizations in the future.

April 26

The Mayors for Peace Youth Forum was held as a side event of the Preparatory Committee. At this event, the high school students from Hiroshima and Okinawa, as well as a youth group from Nagasaki and young people from Granollers City, Spain, and other Mayors for Peace member cities, gave presentations on their respective activities and thoughts about peace, and held discussions.

After the Forum, the 10th Mayors for Peace Executive Conference was held. Representatives of ten executive cities attended the conference, which was chaired by Mayors for Peace Secretary-General Yasuyoshi Komizo (chairperson of this Foundation). The attendees discussed measures to implement the Mayors for Peace action plan that was developed in 2017. They held active discussions on the enhancement of activities and expansion of membership, centered on the leader cities.

Next was a dinner held by Geneva City, which the representatives of executive cities also attended, and discussions were held on future Mayors for Peace activities in Switzerland.

April 23 - 26

The Mayors for Peace Atomic Bombing Poster Exhibition was held at the Headquarters of the United Nations in Europe, which was the venue of the Preparatory Committee. The aim of the exhibition was to further understanding about the reality of the atomic bombing among the committee participants.

April 27

Mayor Matsui and Mr. Komizo traveled to Paris, and participated in a lunch held by Masato Kitera, Japan's ambassador to France. The ambassador said that he observed the atomic bombing exhibition held at a public archive on the outskirts of Paris in 2017, and said that Hiroshima is definitely a place that everyone should visit at least once.

This was followed by a meeting with Michel Cibot, who is the Secretary-general of the Association Française des Communes Départements et Régions pour la Paix (AFCDRP), and his wife Miho Cibot, who is a Hiroshima peace ambassador. Mrs. Cibot said that it is very meaningful to hold a presentation ceremony of a sapling of an atomic bomb survivor tree in France's capital Paris, at this time when France is trying to develop and enhance its nuclear arsenal.

April 28

Prior to the planting ceremony of the sapling of an atomic bomb survivor tree, Mayor Matsui met with the deputy mayor of Paris, Mao Peninou. He said that he hopes that by having the sapling looked after and grown in Paris, many people will develop a wish to achieve peace, which will then lead to a heightening of public opinion supporting the abolition of nuclear weapons.

At the presentation ceremony of the sapling of the atomic bomb survivor tree, Deputy Mayor Peninou said that he sees the ginkgo sapling as the symbol of the long cooperative relationship between the two cities, and that he wants to continue to conduct activities together in the

future.

After this, Mayor Matsui and Mr. Komizo travelled to Guernica-Lumo City, Spain, which was the site of indiscriminate bombing in 1937 during the Spanish Civil War. After visit-



Deputy Mayor Peninou receiving the sapling of an atomic bomb survivor tree

ing the Peace Museum and listening to the experience of a person who is involved in activities to give testimonies of the Guernica bombings, they attended a dinner with Guernica-Lumo's Deputy Mayor Maria Uribe and others, and were welcomed as visitors from Hiroshima, a city that shares with Guernica the same desire for peace.

April 29

Mayor Matsui attended a welcome event hosted by the mayor of Guernica-Lumo City, Jose María Gorroño. Mayor Matsui said that both cities have experienced the same horror of being subject to indiscriminate attacks on their people, and that he would like to work together in the future, sharing the same desire for perpetual world peace.

After this, Mayor Gorroño led a tour of old buildings and air raid shelters that escaped the bombings, and the Tree of Guernika which is a symbol of hope and the future just like Hiroshima's atomic bomb survivor trees.

At the welcome event held after this, which was hosted by Ana Otadui, the chairperson of the provincial assembly of the province of Biscay, where Guernica-Lumo is located, Ms. Otadui gave a heart-warming speech, saying that we should continue to pay our respect to and remember those who lost their lives, as our two cities take the first step together towards peace.

The planting ceremony of the sapling of an atomic bomb survivor tree was held in the European park that spreads out behind the assembly hall. Josep Mayoral, the mayor of Granollers City, also attended. Granollers is the Vice-President city in Spain, which provided the sapling. The ceremony was a good opportunity for connection between Mayors for Peace members.



Planting ceremony of a sapling of an atomic bomb survivor tree in Guernica-Lumo City

Looking back over the trip

When attending the Preparatory Committee in

Geneva this time, there were opportunities to meet with the Committee chairperson Mr. Bugajski, as well as ambassadors from countries that support the TPNW such as Austria and Costa Rica, and a government representative from the United States, which is a nuclear-weapon state. We were able to emphasize the importance of first promoting the NPT, then implementing initiatives that have as their ultimate aim the TPNW, respecting rational dialogue and aiming to achieve the objective that is common to all nations—a world free of nuclear weapons.

Mayors for Peace will work on creating an environment in civic society that allows policymakers to exercise leadership from a long-term perspective to resolve security issues. We asked for cooperation so that we can further increase our membership even among nuclear-weapon states and other nations under the nuclear umbrella.

Following on from activities in Geneva, there were also presentation and planting ceremonies of saplings of atomic bomb survivor trees in Paris, France and Guernica-Lumo, Spain, brought about through the support of neighboring executive cities. As the saplings grow, we hope that the desire for perpetual world peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons will also take root firmly in the hearts of the citizens of both cities. We would like to thank both cities for their sincere efforts, and continue in the future to maintain the cooperative relationships that were developed during this visit.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

**Visit to United States to attend
86th Annual Meeting of the United
States Conference of Mayors**

Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui, the President of Mayors for Peace, and Yasuyoshi Komizo, Secretary-General of Mayors for Peace (and Chairperson of this Foundation), attended the 86th Annual Meeting of the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) held in Boston City, State of Massachusetts, in June 2018. With the aim of expanding municipal and civic-level activities for the achievement of perpetual world peace, at the conference they asked for understanding and support in Mayors for Peace activities, and called for cities to become members of Mayors for Peace.

They also gave lectures at a public school in Cambridge City, Massachusetts, and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, D.C., communicating the reality of the atomic bombing and the earnest desire of the *hibakusha*, and sharing their thoughts about peace.

June 8

After attending the Annual Meeting of the USCM (first day), Mayor Matsui met with Franklin Cownie, mayor of Des Moines City, Iowa, a leader city in the US and Mayors for Peace Vice-President city; Kirk Caldwell, mayor of Honolulu City, Hawaii, which is one of Hiroshima City's sister cities and participating this



Lecture at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School

time as the mayor of next year's host city; and others.

This was followed by a lecture to around one hundred high school students studying world history at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, a public school in Cambridge. In the lecture Mayor Matsui spoke about the reality of the atomic bombing and the desire of the *hibakusha* that "no one else should ever suffer as we have." He also expressed his hope that the young people who will lead the next generation go beyond differences of race, religion and language to have repeated dialogue focused on the future, and walk together on the path to achieving a world that is free of nuclear weapons. In the Q&A session there were many questions. In response, Mayor Matsui spoke about deepening mutual understanding through dialogue, the importance of respecting diversity, and the role of civic society, not only in properly selecting politicians who pursue global sustainable development, but also in working to create an environment that supports such politicians.

Later, at a dinner hosted by Rokuichiro Michii, the Japanese Consul-General in Boston, Mayor Matsui reported on the lecture given at the high school, and they discussed the differences in the education systems in the United States and Japan. Mayor Matsui also asked for support in establishing the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Studies Course at many universities in Boston City.

June 9

At the opening of the second day of the Annual Meeting of the USCM, Marty Walsh, the mayor of the host city Boston, touched upon the fact that he himself is the son of immigrants, and said that in the current immigration policy in the United States, the role of mayors to interact with people of diverse backgrounds is becoming more and more important. Stephen Benjamin, the mayor of Columbia City in South Carolina, and president of the USCM, said that he would like to improve the lives of all citizens, by alleviating air pollution, providing safe school environments and education, and restoring people's dignity through measures to tackle poverty.

Mayor Matsui explained the Mayors for Peace activities to the Mayor of Beverly Hills, California, and others who also attending the evening event, and requested that they become members.

June 10

On the third day of the Annual Meeting of the

USCM, Mayor Matsui attended the standing committee on international affairs, where there was a discussion about submitting to the plenary session the resolution proposed by the Mayor of Des Moines to support the activities of Mayors for Peace for the abolition of nuclear weapons. It was unanimously decided to submit the resolution to the plenary session, and it was adopted at the plenary session with joint proposals from twenty-six mayors, the largest number to date.

At the plenary session, Mayor Matsui was introduced by the mayor of Honolulu, received a standing ovation as he went to the stage, and gave a speech in front of around 300 people. In his speech, he made a request for support, saying “the common mission of all mayors is to ensure the safety and peaceful lives of our citizens. To achieve that, we are working together toward two key objectives: ‘Realization of a world without nuclear weapons’ and ‘Realization of safe and resilient cities’, which, we believe, will lead us to our ultimate goal, lasting world peace. We would like your cities in the United States to also join in the proactive activities by our member cities, led by the leader city Des Moines.”



Speech at the Annual Meeting of the United States Conference of Mayors

After his speech, a number of mayors came to express their support. President Matsui asked those mayors in attendance who have not joined Mayors for Peace to join, and received favorable responses.

June 11

Mayor Matsui travelled to Washington, D.C., where he gave a lecture in front of around 50 people, including peace NGOs, the mass media and university students, at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace that has led extensive outreach efforts in diverse fields such as nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In his lecture, as the mayor of one of the cities hit by the atomic



Lecture at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

bomb, he communicated the earnest wish of the *hibakusha* for peace, and also stated: “Considering current international tensions, we are faced with the situation

in which nobody can predict how the US-North Korea Summit will affect Northeast Asia or how the uncertain future of the JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) will affect the Middle East. What is most needed now is for world leaders to engage in earnest dialogue regardless of their political and ideological positions. They should seek a cooperative security policy without reliance on nuclear deterrence as a better

long-term solution, one that not only serves one country’s own interest but all humanity.”

After the lecture there was a panel discussion with Carnegie senior research fellow James L. Schoff, who has experience in international security and arms control at the US Department of Defense and State Department, and research fellow Jon Wolfsthal, as well as Mr. Komizo. There were many questions and comments from the audience.

Following this was a meeting with Thomas Countryman, the chair of the Washington thinktank Arms Control Association, where they discussed the US-North Korea summit and Japan-US relations.

Mayor Matsui also met with US senator Ed Markey in the federal government building, and asked for support to shape public opinion in the United States for the prompt issue of Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the abolition of nuclear weapons, as well as support to expand the membership of Mayors for Peace.

At a dinner hosted by Kazutoshi Aikawa, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Japan to the US, Mayor Matsui made a request for support, saying that Mayors for Peace will continue to move forward sincerely and firmly as a non-partisan organization with the support of the people, working towards the abolishment of nuclear weapons, which threaten the safe and secure lives of citizens.

Looking back on the trip

During this visit to the United States, Mayor Matsui met with people from various different positions in this nuclear superpower, including many young people, mayors, researchers at thinktanks who have served in government in areas such as arms control, nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation, and international security, peace NGOs, currently serving senators, and more. In these meetings he was able to directly communicate the reality of the atomic bombing and the wishes of the *hibakusha*. At the same time, Mayor Matsui explained the Mayors for Peace activities and asked people to work together with Mayors for Peace. There is a growing feeling amongst the public, even in the United States, that nuclear disarmament is something that all nuclear weapon states should execute, and it will be important for civic society to work together to create an environment that supports policymakers. To pursue that aim, we would like to maintain our ties with the people met during this trip, and expand the Mayors for Peace activities.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

Support for universities offering Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course

The cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are involved in the establishment and promotion of Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Courses, which aim to academically and systematically organize the meaning of the A-bomb survivors’ desire for world peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons, so that they are communicated to younger generations as a universal academic discipline.

This Foundation provided support for the peace studies programs below held in Hiroshima from March to June 2018 by the following three universities.

International Christian University (ICU)

For nine days from March 7, eight international students majoring in peace studies in masters programs at ICU, who were selected by the US-based Rotary



In front of the Peace Memorial Museum

Foundation, participated in a peace study tour together with two teachers. This visit marked the sixteenth time that international students at

ICU had participated in this activity.

The group learned about the reality of the atomic bombing through tours of Peace Memorial Park and the Peace Memorial Museum, by listening to an atomic bombing testimony by Ms. Keiko Ogura, and by visiting the Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims. They also listened to talks by Ms. Tomoko Watanabe, Executive Director of the NGO ANT-Hiroshima and Professor Masae Yuasa of Hiroshima City University, and visited the Hiroshima Office of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), furthering their understanding of nuclear weapons and perpetual world peace.

Carleton College (the United States)

On April 18 and 20, a peace study tour was conducted by eighteen students and two teachers from Carleton College. This was the College's third peace study tour. After learning about the reality of the atomic bombing through tours of Peace Memorial Park and the Peace Memorial Museum and by listening to an atomic bombing testimony by Ms. Ogura, the group listened to a talk by Professor Robert Jacobs of Hiroshima City University's Hiroshima Peace Institute, and learned about the history of the develop of nuclear weapons up to the present day.



With Ms. Keiko Ogura

Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) (the United States)

On June 9 and 10, eleven students and two teachers from IUPUI conducted their first peace study tour since their Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course was cer-

tified in 2016. The group visited the Peace Memorial Museum, were given a tour of the monuments in Peace Memorial Park by a peace volunteer, listened to an atomic bombing testimony by Ms. Ogura, and attended a recital of atomic bombing testimonies, and through these activities learned about the truth of the atomic bombing.



Recital of atomic bombing testimonies

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

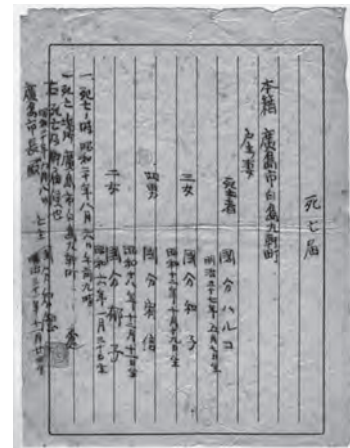
New Arrivals Exhibit

Location: Peace Memorial Museum, East Building, 1st floor, Temporary Exhibition Room

Period: March 30, 2018-March 1, 2019

The Peace Memorial Museum collects and preserves a variety of materials related to the A-bombing that have been kept by atomic bomb survivors and their families, as important materials that help communicate the reality of the atomic bombing. In fiscal year 2016, there were 638 new donations from 54 people. A portion of these articles are on display.

As 73 years have now passed since the end of the war, it is becoming more and more difficult to collect detailed information regarding atomic bombing artifacts and items. The Museum will continue to communicate in the future the various damage caused by the atomic bombing, with the aim of achieving the abolition of nuclear weapons. The Museum appreciates donations of atomic bombing artifacts.



Notification of death (donated by Mr. Yoshinori Kuniwake)
"This is the notification of death of four family members."

(Peace Memorial Museum Curatorial Division)

Section introducing artifacts housed in the Museum

"I want to see my mother"

Location: Peace Memorial Museum, East Building, 1st floor, Special Exhibition Room

Period: Around one year from July 12, 2018

In the section introducing artifacts housed in the Museum, a number of artifacts have been selected from the approximately 20,000 items at the Museum, and dis-

played according to different themes.

On August 6, 1945, a single atomic bomb turned the city of Hiroshima to ruins in an instant. Many people died painful deaths after being burned and exposed to huge amounts of radiation. Parents left their beloved children behind and passed away worrying about their children and their children's future. The children left behind lost the pillars of support that they could depend upon, left in confusion and overwhelmed with sadness.

Those children who survived are now older than their parents were when they died. Nonetheless, even now after time has passed, the memory of their parents is imprinted in the hearts of those children, together with a deep sense of loss.

In this exhibition are displayed mainly objects owned by mothers, together with the words of their bereaved family members.

"I heard that while my mother was lying down, she would not let go of my younger sister Makiko, to the extent that the festering wounds from the burns that they both suffered got stuck together. And I heard that until the moment she died she was crying 'Take a photo! (to leave behind)' for me, who could not see her ever again because I had been evacuated to the countryside."

(as told by the second son Yasuyuki)



Mother Toshiko (aged 34 at time of death) with eldest daughter Makiko (aged 7 at the time)

(Peace Memorial Museum Curatorial Division)

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Special exhibition

"Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital"

Location: Peace Memorial Museum, East Building, B1 floor, Conference Room (2) and Foyer

Period: July 20, 2018–end March 2019 (planned)

This exhibition includes materials and artifacts that depict the rescue efforts conducted by Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital amidst the disastrous conditions and confusion after the dropping of the atomic bomb. They teach us of the tragedy of the damage from the bombing, the horror of war, and make us think about how precious life is.

Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital was one of the few medical institutions that escaped collapse and fires in Hiroshima City, which suffered such destructive damage when the bomb was dropped. For this reason, the hospital was inundated with wounded people immediately after the bombing. The doctors and nurses who survived worked day and night to help the wounded, even amidst broken facilities and equipment and dwindling supplies of medication and treatment materials.

This exhibition includes actual objects belonging to Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital & Atomic-bomb Survivors Hospital, such as chairs that show signs of the bomb's heat wave and hospital gowns that were worn by



Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital, called "an oasis amongst the ashes"
(Photo: Mr. Syunkichi Kikuchi / Provided by Ms. Harumi Tago)

patients at the time. The exhibition also includes photographs and videos of patients lying down and receiving treatment, and paintings created by *hibakusha* of the wounded surging in front of the hospital and people dying as they waiting for treatment.

The exhibit from Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital titled "Wall with scars of glass shards" that was on display in the East Building prior to renovations has been moved to the Foyer. After the special exhibition is over it will be on display as part of the permanent exhibition.

(Peace Memorial Museum Curatorial Division)

Exhibition of Reproductions of Original Drawings

Manga "Town of Evening Calm"

Location: Peace Memorial Museum, East Building, B1 floor, Conference Room (2) and Foyer
Period: July 20, 2018–end March 2019 (planned)

To mark the fifteenth anniversary of the publication of the manga "Town of Evening Calm", an exhibition of Reproductions of original drawings from the manga is now open on floor B1 of the East Building of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum from September 12, 2018 to the end of February, 2019.

"Town of Evening Calm" was published in the WEEKLY Action Manga magazine in September 2003. The manga's author, Fumiyo Kouno, says "I was born in and grew up in Hiroshima, but I am neither a *hibakusha* nor the child of a *hibakusha*. I do not even have any relatives who can talk about the bombing." Kouno had tried to distance herself from the bombing of Hiroshima, but she confronted the bombing and researched it in great detail. As a result, she produced a work that sensitively depicts young *hibakusha* who still suffered from the aftereffects ten years after the bomb was dropped. This manga was widely praised



Scene from the exhibition

both in Japan and overseas, and has currently been translated into English, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Korean and Chinese (traditional Chinese), providing an opportu-

nity for people all over the world to gain a greater understanding of the damage from the atomic bombing.

At the exhibition, there are 23 panel displays of detailed reproductions of the original drawings. There is also a display booth in the Library, which was exhibiting original drawings by *hibakusha* Shigeo Moritomi depicting the town of Hiroshima before the bombing, titled “Vanished Neighborhood, Retracing Memories”. These drawings were on display until November 26, 2018. Kouno made reference to Moritomi’s fine pencil drawings as she worked on her manga, and the students visiting the museum on school excursions stared at the pictures with great interest, saying how surprised they were that the Peace Memorial Park before the bombing was such a bustling shopping district.

(Peace Memorial Museum Curatorial Division)

Paintings of the Atomic Bombing Complete

—High school students paint pictures of the A-bomb experience—

Since 2007, with support from Hiroshima Municipal Motomachi High School, this Foundation has been involved in the creation of paintings of the atomic bombing. The high school students work together with atomic



Treating skin rashes

Drawn by Mei Fujiwara (Creative Expression Course) and Sadae Kasaoka (A-bomb Witness for this Foundation)



Fleeing while picking their way among people on the brink of death

Drawn by Rina Yamado (Creative Expression Course) and Hiroshi Harada (A-bomb Witness for this Foundation)

bomb witnesses from this Foundation to create pictures of the atomic bombing that communicate the situation at the time, depicting scenes from the bombing that remain in the memories of the atomic bomb witnesses.

This time, eight witnesses and ten students completed ten paintings that had been working on since 2017.

At the completion ceremony held at Motomachi High School gallery on July 2, 2018, eight atomic bomb witnesses attended, together with the students who created the paintings and other students in the Creative Expression Course, and others from this Foundation and Motomachi High School.

A student who depicted the scene of treatment of skin rashes said “In the year that I spent creating this picture, I felt once again the horror of the atomic bomb, from the wounds that remain even today, more than 70 years after the bombing.” Another student who painted a scene of people fleeing while picking their way among people who were on the brink of death shared her thoughts on the difficulty of creating the work in the gallery talk, saying “I continued to search for how I should express and how I should paint scenes that I had never seen or even imagined before, scenes that make you want to turn away. I listened to the stories, and I realized that just listening was not enough—I had to put myself in a position to communicate the same thing myself. It is not just receiving the information—we have to communicate it to the next generation.”

The paintings of the atomic bombing that were completed this time will be used to ensure that people have a deeper understanding of the A-bomb experience. The paintings will also be loaned out and offered as data images, to help pass on the reality of the damage from the bombing to future generations.

(Peace Memorial Museum Outreach Division)

Sister and Friendship Day Commemorative Events

—Introducing sister and friendship cities to the citizens—

Hiroshima City has established Sister and Friendship City Days for each of the six overseas sister and friendship cities, and holds commemorative events each year. The MCs for the events were the Hiroshima Messengers selected through a public selection process.

Daegu Day

The Daegu Day commemorative event was held at the Hiroshima Flower Festival venue from May 3-5, 2018.

For the event this year, a delegation from Daegu Metropolitan City came, led by Daegu City Mayor Kwon Young-jin, as well as the members of the Daegu City Colorful Chorus Choir, which is made up of Daegu City employees. Altogether there were around fifty visitors from the city. They participated in the commemorative stage event and music events held in Hiroshima City, and held an exhibition introducing Daegu Metropolitan City at the Daegu/ Korea *madan* (square).

At the commemorative ceremony on the 3rd, there were speeches by the head of the Daegu Day Executive Committee, the mayor of Hiroshima, the Mayor of



Members of the Daegu Metropolitan City Colorful Chorus Choir (Carnation Stage)

Daegu Metropolitan City, and the Consul-General of the Republic of Korea Consulate-General in Hiroshima. The speeches were followed by a wonderful singing performance from the Colorful Chorus choir, entrancing the audience of around 800 people. The Colorful Chorus also performed at the Special Concert Across Generations and Borders held at Elizabeth University of Music on the 4th, with their wonderful singing voices.

Over the three days, at the Daegu/Korea *madan* in addition to the section introducing Daegu Metropolitan City there was also a section where people could try on Korean clothes and a section selling home-style Korean food. All sections were bustling with families, young women and others, and visitors were able to experience Korean culture.

During the event period there were just over 6,000 visitors, and it was a great success.

Hanover Day

The Hanover Day commemorative event was held on May 27, 2018, at Hiroshima City International House.

At the section for tasting of German food and drinks, visitors experienced the Ueda Soko-ryu Japanese tea ceremony (which has connections with Hanover), and tried authentic German sausages and German bread, as well as *baum kuchen* cake. There was also a *lutsche lage* session, where two different types of alcohol are poured into two different glasses and then drunk in one gulp.

There was a display about Germany and Hanover, which included photos depicting the 50-year history of exchange activities between Hiroshima City and Hanover City and photos from visits to Hanover by delegations from Hiroshima, and explanations of exchange activities given by young people who have visited Hanover City. There was also a display of exchange activities conducted through the Ueda Soko-ryu *chanoyu* (Japanese tea ceremony), a section where visitors could make paper models of Hanover trains, a display and readings of German picture books, an easy German writing lesson, and a display of the 7-seater “conference bicycle” from Hanover. All sections were bustling with people, both adults and children.

A commemorative ceremony was held in the hall, with speeches from the event organizers, and a video message from the mayor of Hanover.

Next, the Hiroshima-Hannover Partnership Society, which this year celebrates the 50th anniversary of youth exchange activities, gave a report on the history of youth exchange and their visit to Hanover City. First, the rep-

resentative of the adult group, Koji Tokuhara, gave his report, describing the enthusiastic welcome the group received from the Friendship Circle Hanover-Hiroshima, the concert of Japanese music held at Saint Martin’s Church, the courtesy visit to the mayor of Hanover, the commemorative tree-planting and party, and the visit to the Herrenhausen Gardens and other locations. He also touched upon the fact that he met up again with his friend from when he did a homestay in Hanover many years ago, for the first time in 45 years, which forms part of the history of exchange between the two cities. Next was a presentation by the youth representative, Hayato Shinohara. He spoke about participants meeting with their host family, exchange activities through athletics and German cooking, and their visit to the soccer stadium. He closed by saying that during the short stay he felt that the young participants showed significant growth, and said that he would like to continue with exchange activities in the future.



Hayato Shinohara, giving the youth exchange presentation

Next, there was part 1 of the German music concert, with a performance of mainly pieces connected to Germany. There were two performers, Masaki Ueno on the violin, and Akiko Kataoka on the flute accompanied by Miho Okada on the piano.

This was followed by a presentation by the Hiroshima Peace Messengers Daniel Rabe and Kana Shirai. They spoke about lifestyle differences between Hanover and Japan, taught the audience how to say the colors of the German flag (black, red and gold) in German, and held a simple quiz about Hanover.

In part 2 of the German music concert, there were performances by two groups: Yoshihiko Ueda on the oboe and Shinri Aratani on the piano; and Takashi Okita on the viola and Chiharu Okita on the piano. The concert ended with the audience joining in a rendition of “The Wild Rose”.

There were around 270 visitors to the event, and through the varied program they deepened their affinity for Germany and Hanover while enjoying themselves at the same time.

20th anniversary of sister city agreement Montreal Day

On June 4, 2018, the Montreal Day commemorative event was held at JMS Aster Plaza large hall.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the sister city agreement between the two cities. It was a special event this time with around fifty guests, including the Mayor of Montreal Valérie Plante and the delegation of Montreal; the famous Canadian pianist Charles Richard-Hamelin, who played in the memorial performance; Arata Urawa, a member of the acrobatic performance group Cirque Eloize that is based in Montreal City; and the business exchange delegation made up of members of the Montreal City Chamber of Commerce and other company representatives from Montreal.

At the commemorative ceremony, there were speeches by the head of the Executive Committee Scott McKeeman, Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui, and the President of the Hiroshima Municipal Assembly Masanori Nagata. After the speeches, Mayor Plante was designated as an honorary citizen of Hiroshima City, and she gave a speech.



Presentation of the designation of honorary citizen of Hiroshima City to Mayor Valérie Plante

This was followed by a presentation about Montreal City by the Hiroshima Messengers Hiroyo Osaki and Tomoko Kurahashi. They used images to give a clear explanation of Montreal's history, culture and tourism, and the presentation was extremely well-received not only by the audience but also by those from Montreal.

At the commemorative performance, the audience was enthralled by the wonderful piano performance by Mr. Hamelin and Mr. Urawa's impressive juggling performance.

Next was a fun lucky draw with prizes including a plane ticket for a Narita-Montreal direct flight for one couple (provided by Air Canada), and a stone sculpture by Canadian indigenous people for one person (provided by the Japan office of the Quebec Provincial government). All participants were very excited by the lucky draw.

There was also a very popular section in the hall lobby on the day displaying and selling specialty goods such as maple syrup, and it had many visitors.

There were around 700 visitors, and through this event they came to deepen their understanding of Montreal and Canada.

(International Relations & Cooperation Division)

Memoir of the A-bombing

"Envisioning Peace"



by **Hiroko Kishida**
Atomic Bombing Witness
for this Foundation

In Hiroshima, the place it was said that no vegetation would grow for 75 years because of the atomic bombing, when I think about the sorrow over every single life lost, it makes me feel even more deeply that my mission, as one who survived and is still living, is to communicate the A-bomb experience to younger generations.

"We'll definitely be back later"

On the morning of August 6, 1945, it was a sunny day in Hiroshima. My home was a two-story wooden house located 1.5km from the hypocenter. My father (36) had been conscripted to the army and sent to China,

and my older brother (8) was not at home, attending national elementary school. My mother (34), grandfather (65) and younger brother (4) were in the main house, and I (6) was in the toilet in the separate building, when I noticed the sound of an airplane and looked up at the sky from the window. However, I could not see any plane and pulled my head in. It was at that moment that there was the sound of a huge explosion and everything around me went pitch black. At the same time, the dirt wall of the toilet crumbled, and the next thing I knew I was completely buried in dirt, which weighed heavily on top of me. Without thinking, I yelled "Mum, help me!" My mother heard me and pulled me out. The second floor of the house had been blown away in an instant by the horrendous blast, but miraculously my mother, grandfather and younger brother were in between the pillars and survived.

We could not stay in the house, as we did not know when another bomb might be dropped. My grandfather could not walk well, so he told my mother to hurry, saying "Don't worry about me, just get away quickly." My mother told him "We'll definitely be back later," and as soon as she took my younger brother and I outside, the entrance to the house collapsed noisily.

Following the evacuation drill, we tried to flee to the suburbs. The streets were filled with people fleeing, walking like sleepwalkers. After about thirty minutes the so-called "black rain" started to fall, and we ran into a tomato field on the side of the road to escape it. I will never forget the eerie sight of the black drops falling off the bright red ripe tomatoes.

Young mother piggybacking her child

We continued walking until evening, then took a break in the yard of a farmhouse. We received white rice balls being given out to people there, and I have never been so happy.

There was a young mother who came there carrying her baby, already dead, on her back. She asked everyone



"Young mother carrying her dead child on her back"
Created by: Kana Tsumura, Hiroko Kishida

imploringly “Give some food to my child too,” but everyone was so preoccupied with their own survival, there was nothing that could be done. The image of that mother and child were deeply engraved into my memory.

We continued to walk night and day, and reached the home of a friend of my mother’s. From the next day, my mother went out to search for my grandfather and older brother. Our home was razed to the ground, my grandfather turned to ash. He is still to this day “missing”. One week later, we found my older brother, but he had severe burns and suffered for a long time.

My husband, an atomic bomb orphan

My husband was 6 years old when the bomb was dropped, and had been evacuated and was living away from his parents. Because of that he escaped the bombing. However, his parents and younger brother, who were in the city at the time, lost their lives. In an instant he became an atomic bomb orphan, and after that lived at the homes of different relatives. When he got older he worked at a securities company, but he had a turbulent attitude towards life, probably because he was trying to make up for the loneliness that he had put up with during his childhood. However, he changed greatly when he came into contact with Buddhism, and he was able to apply himself to his work as well as finding happiness in a lifestyle where he helped people around him who needed help. He contracted kidney disease at the age of thirty and passed away when he was fifty.

My role as atomic bombing witness

When I talk about the lives of my husband and my mother, and the love that they both gave to me, and more than anything, when I earnestly talk about the wishes of those who lost their lives in the atomic bombing longing for peace, I feel like I am at one with those listening to me—the school children on their school trip who listen to my stories, the foreign visitors who wipe away tears as they share their thoughts with me. These encounters give me encouragement and courage.

We must not forget the wishes of those who had their lives taken away, full of regret. Hiroshima is a city of prayers. It is a place where we keenly feel the preciousness of life and the importance of peace. I want to continue to appeal for the abolishment of nuclear weapons. Pray for the creation of a peaceful world!

Profile

[Hiroko Kishida]

Born in 1939. Was in the toilet of her home in Yokogawa Town 1.5km north of the hypocenter when the atomic bomb was dropped, aged 6. Her mother, grandfather and younger brother were also at home at the time of the bombing. Her older brother was a 2nd year student at a national elementary school, and was in a classroom at school when the bomb was dropped. Her father had been conscripted to the army and was serving in China at the time. Active as an atomic bombing witness since 2015.

HIROSHIMA PEACE CULTURE FOUNDATION

PEACE CULTURE

Multilingual site for disaster information

When the torrential rain disaster occurred in July 2018, this Foundation set up a multilingual site to provide information related to the disaster to foreign residents of Hiroshima. Information has been provided via the International Exchange and Cooperation Division’s homepage since July 9.

We worked together with the City of Hiroshima to select the information to be provided through the site, and had the information translated by disaster interpreter volunteers registered with the City and interpreting consultants who work with this Foundation.

Recovery activities are still continuing even now in Hiroshima City and surrounding areas. We aim to continue to provide support, to alleviate the anxiety and concerns about daily living that foreign residents who were affected by the disaster are experiencing.

【URL】 <http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/ircd/>

【Content】

- Lifeline information on water, gas and electricity supply
- JR, bus and other public transport information
- Disaster-related information issued by the City of Hiroshima (information on disruption and recovery of water supply, victims’ certificates; registering for support systems for people affected and monetary donations; temporary closure of branches of government offices, and more)

【Languages】 Eight languages (Japanese, English, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Korean)

【Access numbers】 (in the 15 days from July 9-23)

Total access numbers: 3,348. Daily average: around 220.

* The top number of hits was on July 15, with 448 hits to the Vietnamese language service.

(International Relations & Cooperate Division)

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.



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