

# PEACE CULTURE



Vol. 1 No.81

May 2019 (semiannual)

## Renovated Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum reopened on April 25, 2019

**Following the reopening of the East Building in April 2017, the Main Building of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum reopened on April 25, 2019, and the whole renovation process of the museum has been completed.**

The main building has displays of objects left behind by those who lost their lives in the bombing, as well as photographs and artifacts that depict the horror of the bombing. They convey Hiroshima as it was on August 6, and the suffering and sorrow of the A-bomb survivors and their families up until today.

There are no changes to admission prices.

(Peace Memorial Museum Curatorial Division)

## 8<sup>th</sup> Mayors for Peace Japanese Member Cities Meeting

On November 5-6, 2018, the 8<sup>th</sup> Mayors for Peace Japanese Member Cities Meeting was held in Takayama City, Gifu Prefecture.

This meeting is held annually with the aim of enhancing Mayors for Peace activities in Japan. This time, 148 members (including 39 heads of government) from 91 municipal governments attended.

### Opening session

Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui, President of Mayors for Peace, gave a speech where he said he would like to work together with Mayors for Peace member cities and put all efforts into building an environment to provide support so that policymakers can act with reason and foresight towards the goal of abolishing nuclear weapons. He asked for continued understanding and cooperation from member cities to abolish an “absolute evil”, and achieve everlasting world peace.

### Takayama City Program: Peace From Takayama

Next was the Takayama City program “Peace From Takayama” where conference participants were joined by many residents of Takayama City.

There was a solo performance by a soprano opera singer, a PR video about Takayama City, a presentation on peace initiatives in Takayama, peace video messages from overseas sister cities and friendship cities, an explanation of the Declaration of Takayama City as a “City

of Peace”, a presentation of peace activities and choir performance by Asahi Junior High School, a report by Takayama City residents who participated in the Mayors for Peace “Peace and Exchange” youth support project “HIROSHIMA and PEACE”, and more.

### Session I (reports on examples of peace activities)

For the first item on the program on Day 2, Mr. Hiroyuki Abe, mayor of Tama City in Tokyo, Mr. Toshiaki Tanahashi, mayor of Mizuho City in Gifu Prefecture, and Mr. Kazuhira Nishimura, mayor of Kasai City in Hyogo Prefecture, each gave reports on peace activities in their respective municipalities, as reference information for future activities by other municipalities.

### Session II (reports, deliberation on bills, discussion), Session III (summary) and Closing Session

Next there were deliberations on bills, coordinated by Mayor Matsui as chair.



Hiroshima Mayor Matsui (left) and Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue (right) chairing the 8<sup>th</sup> Japanese Member Cities Meeting

Prior to the deliberation on the bills, the Mayors for Peace secretariat gave reports on the financial statement for 2017 fiscal year for Mayors for Peace membership, and reports on peace study courses implemented by A-bomb Legacy Successor and A-bomb testimony recital volunteers.

Next, Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, secretary-general of Mayors for Peace, reported on the global situation and Mayors for Peace initiatives.

This was followed by deliberation on the bills. Members deliberated on activities to request membership to Mayors for Peace, the submission to the Japanese government of a request asking for promotion of initiatives for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and activities to create an environment where the wishes of the *hibakusha* from Hiroshima and Nagasaki can be shared with civic societies throughout the world. The bills were ap-

proved.

The session ended with the adoption of the summary document, which incorporated an overview of the conference and other items.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

### Submission to the Japanese government of a request to promote initiatives for the abolition of nuclear weapons

In line with the decision made at the 8<sup>th</sup> Mayors for Peace Japanese Member cities Meeting, on November 9, 2018, Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui (president of Mayors for Peace), Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue (vice-president of Mayors for Peace), and Takayama City Civic Activities Department Manager Toru Takahara (filling in for Michihiro Kunishima, Mayor of Takayama City where the Meeting was held) visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and submitted the document addressed to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe requesting the promotion of initiatives for the abolition of nuclear weapons to Mr. Kiyoto Tsuji, the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Tsuji, receiving the document, stated “The Japanese government shares the objective of Mayors for Peace to create a world free of nuclear weapons. We would like to work hard with full understanding of the Mayors for Peace approach. I am very encouraged by the two mayors leading the world on this. I appreciate your continued cooperation”.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)



Submission of the request document to the Japanese government (from front left: Mr. Takahara from Takayama City; Nagasaki Mayor Taue; Hiroshima Mayor Matsui; Mr. Tsuji, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs)

Peace Memorial Hall special exhibition  
**Lantern Floating: Memorial for the A-bombing at Hiroshima Ichijo**  
—Records from a girls’ high school that suffered the greatest sacrifice—  
Period: January 1 (Tue.) ~ December 29 (Sun.), 2019  
Place: Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims B1F

The Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims organizes a special exhibition on a set theme each year, and displays A-bomb testimonies, to communicate the actual damage from the bombing.

The special exhibition for 2019 is “Lantern Floating: Memorial for the A-bombing at Hiroshima Ichijo”, and has been put together based on recorded memoirs.

As the war situation worsened, classes for students in present-day junior high school and older were cancelled from April 1945, and students were mobilized to food production and munitions factories. In the bombing of Hiroshima, around 7,200 students lost their lives. In particular, the students who were involved in building demolition work outside near the hypocenter suffered great damage. Most of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year students from Hiroshima Daiichi Girls’ High School (commonly known as Ichijo, today called Hiroshima Municipal Funairi High School) had been mobilized, and 666 of them died in the bombing, making this the school that suffered the greatest loss.

In August 1957, on the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their deaths, “Lantern Floating”, a collection of essays in memory of the A-bomb victims, was published by the bereaved families. The collection is a detailed record of the passage of time from the mobilization of students through to the end of the war, and includes memoirs of the bereaved families as well as posthumous writings of the deceased students.

In the triple-screen theater at the Peace Memorial Hall, visitors can view a film version of the memoirs, mainly made of memoirs writing by the parents of four female students who lost their lives in the bombing. There are also some words by Zoroku Miyagawa, who was the school principal at the time, and information about Masao Mori, a teacher who died protecting students who had fled into a fire cistern, with the cistern still covering him when he died. Also on display are precious testimonial videos of the late Fumiko Sakamoto, who continued to speak about the A-bomb death of her daughter, who was a student at Ichijo, to students visiting Hiroshima on school trips; and Miyako Yano, who was a 2<sup>nd</sup>-year student at Ichijo who escaped death from the bombing because she had been unwell on the day and not at school. The words of those who experienced the bombing communicate their earnest wish for peace.

On display at the venue are 28 memoirs, as well as the first published edition of Lantern Floating, the school uniforms of Ichijo students, kept as mementos in their memory, and more.

The videos that are part of the special exhibition, including those that were produced in the past, can be viewed in the Library and on the Memorial Hall’s homepage (<https://www.hiro-tsuitokenkan.go.jp/english/>). The videos can also be loaned out as DVDs for peace study materials. Please contact the Memorial Hall if you would like to borrow a video.



Bottom right is “Lantern Floating” published in 1957. Sequels and reprints were also published, and it has been read by generations as a precious record.

(Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims)

## Welcoming UN Disarmament Fellows

We welcomed trainees (fellows) participating in the United Nations Programme of Fellowship on Disarmament to Hiroshima over two days from October 1, 2018. The programme is run by the UN and aims to train disarmament specialists.

This programme has been run by the UN since 1979. Fellows have been welcomed in Hiroshima every year since 1983, and with the fellows 2018, the total number of fellows coming to Hiroshima has passed 900.

This time there were 27 participants, including young diplomats from 25 countries.

On October 1, the group listened to an explanation by Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, the Chairperson of this Foundation, about the initiatives of Mayors for Peace to abolish nuclear weapons. This was followed by tours of the Peace Memorial Museum, Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims, the A-Bomb Dome and more, after which the group presented flowers at the Memorial Cenotaph for the Atomic Bomb Victims. The group also interacted with Hiroshima citizens, were given books that depict the reality of the atomic bombing and a lei of paper cranes made with the colors of the national flag of each of the fellows, and were also presented with paper cranes made by Hiroshima high school students out of copper sheets. At the end of the day, the group listened to a testimony by an atomic bomb witness.

On October 2, the group visited the Radiation Effects Research Foundation, where they listened to a lecture by Vice-Chairman and Executive Director Mr. Ullrich about the effects of radiation on the human body. There were many questions after the lecture.

The schedule for the programme this time had to be significantly altered because of a typhoon, but members of the group said that they wanted the programme to be held as much as possible in accordance with the original plans, and as a result they had a meaningful stay in Hiroshima in the limited time available. The fellows all listened to the lecture with great interest, and over the two days were able to deepen their understanding about the reality of the atomic bombing, as well as sharing memories of the bombed city of Hiroshima.



The group of fellows after presenting flowers at the Memorial Cenotaph for the Atomic Bomb Victims

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

## Visit by Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament delegation

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

This Foundation and CPAPD have continued mutual visits for thirty years, since 1988. In 2018, a delegation from CPAPD visited Hiroshima and Tokyo from November 25 to 28.

During the delegation's stay in Hiroshima, they met with Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui, the president of this Foundation, where Mayor Matsui made a request for cooperation in activities to recruit cities to Mayors for Peace and activities for the abolition of nuclear weapons. In response, the head of the delegation and secretary of CPAPD, An Yuejun, said that he would like to further promote exchange and cooperation between the two organizations, to contribute to the development of the relationship between Japan and China.

The group also held a discussion with the members of the 2017 Hiroshima Residents' Peace and Friendship Delegation, visited Peace Memorial Park and the Peace Memorial Museum, and listened to an A-bomb testimony by Kiyomi Kono, thus deepening their understanding of the reality of the atomic bombing.



Visiting the mayor

The delegation also attended a discussion session with university students from Hiroshima, where they exchanged frank opinions about the China-Japan relationship as viewed by young people.

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

2018 was a landmark year, marking the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Japan-China Peace and Amity Treaty, and the visiting delegation repeatedly talked about the importance of friendship between the two nations. Through this visit, we were able to reaffirm to each other the significance of continuing civic-level exchange activities.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

## Mayors for Peace secretariat accepts interns from overseas member cities

Since 2014, Mayors for Peace has been inviting young government employees from overseas member cities to

Hiroshima as interns, where they work in the secretariat. This year the secretariat accepted six people from six cities in six countries.

### Past intern acceptance data

Country	City	No. of people	Period
Germany	Munich	1	June 18–July 13, 2018
Cameroon	Fongo-Tongo	1	August 21–September 14, 2018
Brazil	Santos	1	October 22–November 2, 2018
Iran	Tehran	1	November 12–November 28, 2018
Russia	Volgograd	1	December 3–December 19, 2018
Canada	Montreal	1	January 16–February 13, 2019

During their stay, the interns were involved in updating information about member cities and surveying cities in their home country that are not yet members, as well as writing articles for the email magazine and other work in the secretariat. For their part, the interns gave explanations to the secretariat and employees of this Foundation on peace activities in their own city. In this way we were able to promote mutual understanding and strengthen collaboration.

The interns also visited the Peace Memorial Museum, Peace Memorial Park, Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims, and the Radiation Effects Research Foundation. They also listened to A-bomb testimonies, and held discussions with young people from Hiroshima, thus deepening their understanding of the reality of the atomic bombing and sharing the desire for peace.



An intern visiting Peace Memorial Park

When each intern goes back to their respective country, they are involved in activities aiming for the abolition of nuclear weapons based on what they learned in Hiroshima, including giving talks and providing peace education for young people. Through this internship program, the secretariat hopes that the desire of Hiroshima to create a peaceful world without nuclear weapons will be spread throughout the world.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

## Mayors for Peace Secretary General's attendance to ICRC Regional Conference on International Humanitarian Law in Asia-Pacific

On September 26, 2018, the Chairperson of this Foundation (and Secretary-General of Mayors for Peace) Yasuyoshi Komizo attended the Regional

Conference on International Humanitarian Law in Asia-Pacific in Jakarta, Indonesia, at the request of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). At the second session of the conference, Human Considerations Around Nuclear Weapons, he gave a presentation titled “Civil Society Perspective towards a World without Nuclear Weapons: Mayors for Peace at Work”.

In his presentation, Mr. Komizo spoke about the *hibakushas*' experience and emphasized their desire to create a world free of nuclear weapons and their wish that no-one should ever again go through what they did. He gave examples of wide-ranging nuclear disarmament promotion activities by civic groups, as well as examples where the leaders of nuclear weapon states have achieved nuclear disarmament amidst heightening international tension, pointing out the importance of diverse civic groups working together as well as leadership by policymakers. He also spoke about Mayors for Peace, led by Hiroshima and Nagasaki cities, and their two key objectives for their activities for the achievement of a peaceful world: to realize a world without nuclear weapons and to create safe and resilient cities. He emphasized that it will be possible to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons if the national and local governments cooperate with a wide range of civic groups, and called for participants to work together with Mayors for Peace on specific measures to achieve nuclear disarmament.



Presentation by Mr. Komizo

There were also proactive questions from participants (international humanitarian law experts, diplomats, NGOs, and others), and the session enabled us to share the need for efforts to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons with a large number of people.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

## Mayors for Peace Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns"

In 2018, Mayors for Peace held the first children's art competition under the theme of “Peaceful Towns”, for children aged 6 to 15 from all member cities. The aim of the contest was to further enhance peace education in member cities.

By having the children think about peaceful towns by participating in the contest, and expressing their message in their pictures, the aim is to foster the children's awareness of peace. Through this peace education project, we hope that member cities will use this as an opportunity to start up their own projects. It was implemented as a new activity, and 469 pictures were



**The grand prize: Ms. Anastasia Skobeltsyna in Krasnodar, Russia (9 years old)**  
 "The Flying Angel over the city encourages and raises the soul."

sent in from 29 cities in 14 countries all over the world.

From a very strong lineup of works, the judges selected one work to receive the grand prize award, two works to receive second prize and others, for 8 awarded works in total. The work that won the grand prize award has been adopted as the design for the clear plastic folder distributed by Mayors for Peace, and will be used in various places.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

## Support for Universities offering the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course

The cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are asking colleges and universities around the world to establish and promote Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Courses designed to analyze and disseminate A-bomb lessons and the message of the survivors as a common social and intellectual asset for humankind, so that it can be communicated to the future generations.

This Foundation provided program support when the two universities below conducted peace studies in Hiroshima from November 2018 to January 2019.

### DePaul University (United States)

From November 30 to December 9, a total of 18 participants (16 students and 2 teachers) from DePaul University, which offers the course, participated in peace studies in Hiroshima City and Nagasaki City. This was the seventh time that this university has visited Hiroshima.

In Hiroshima, the group visited the Peace Memorial Museum and Peace Memorial Park, and in Nagasaki toured places such as Oka Masaharu Memorial Nagasaki Peace Museum and Urakami Cathedral. In both cities,



Visiting Peace Memorial Museum

they learned about the truth of the atomic bombing by listening to an atomic bomb testimony. The group also held discussions with local university students, thus deepening their understanding of peace from various perspectives.

### Kyungpook National University (South Korea)

On January 9, a total of twenty-one participants (20 students and 1 teacher) from Kyungpook National University, College of Humanities conducted peace studies in Hiroshima City for the first time since the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course was certified at that university in 2018.

The group visited the Peace Memorial Museum and Peace Memorial Park, and listened to atomic bomb testimony by Kaneji Ota, learning about the truth of the atomic bombing.



Guided by a peace volunteer in Peace Memorial Park

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

## Attendance at Obama Foundation's Asia-Pacific Regional Leaders Design Workshop

For three days from January 4-6, 2019, an employee from this Foundation's Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division attended the Obama Foundation's Asia-Pacific Regional Leaders Design Workshop held in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.

This workshop was held for young leaders from various fields in the Asia-Pacific region, with the aims of raising the participants' motivation as leaders and building a network between them. The 21 participants, active in a variety of fields such as education and IT, came from 16 countries and regions including Indonesia and the Marshall Islands, and held discussions on things like the skills required to further revitalize and expand their respective



Former US President Obama at the farewell reception

activities. They also shared ideas about what is necessary to exercise their leadership in the Asia-Pacific region in the future. They then made their group presentations in front of former US President Obama and held a discussion.

This Foundation's employee exchanged opinions with the young leaders from the Asia-Pacific region on the issues that they each want to resolve. Our employee also introduced the Mayors for Peace initiatives and asked for understanding and support for future activities.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

## Partial renewal of permanent exhibits at Schmoe House

Around seventy years ago, American peace activist Floyd Schmoe came to Hiroshima with volunteers from America and Japan, and built "Houses for Hiroshima" for people who had lost their homes in the atomic bombing.

"Schmoe House", built as a community center, is the only House for Hiroshima still standing. Renovated as an exhibition facility, it was opened in 2012 as a branch of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

Schmoe House underwent a partial renewal of its exhibits, and was reopened on February 22, 2019, with additional artifacts and collections that have been donated or consigned to the facility, including clear color photographs taken by Floyd Schmoe and materials donated by the former residents of Houses for Hiroshima.



Interior of the model house in Eba Town  
(donated by Tomiko Schmoe, consigned by Schmoe ni Manabu Kai (Association to Learn from Schmoe))

### Renewed content:

#### (1) 22 additional photographs

- Clear color photographs taken by Floyd Schmoe (full view of Eba Village, houses under construction, a model house, apartment and guest house in Ushita Town, etc)
- Photographs donated by former residents
- Photographs of houses built in Nagasaki

#### (2) Update of explanatory panels

Additional explanations for full view of Eba Village, model house, apartment and guest house in Ushita Town, etc)

#### (3) 5 additional exhibits

1 envelope addressed to Schmoe House (replica), 4 construction drawings (replicas)

(Peace Memorial Museum Curatorial Division)

## Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibition in Hungary, France and Belgium

Hiroshima City and Nagasaki City jointly hold the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibition overseas, to communicate the reality of the damage from the bombing and foster international support for the abolition of nuclear weapons. In 2018, the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibition was held in Budapest, capital city of Hungary, Caen City in France, and Ypres City in Belgium. The exhibition includes objects of those who lost their lives in the bombing such as the burned drink bottle of a junior high school student who died while working as a mobilized student, and twenty other actual articles including Sadako Sasaki's paper cranes. There are also thirty panels explaining the actual damage from the bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and more.

At the Hospital in the Rock Nuclear Bunker Museum in Budapest City, following on from the exhibition in the first half of 2017, the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibition was held again from December 20, 2017 until August 31, 2018. Approximately 113,200 residents and tourist visited the exhibition.

The exhibition was held in Caen Memorial Museum in the city of Caen from September 20 to October 31, 2018. There were around 10,000 visitors to the exhibition. On September 19 at the opening ceremony, there were speeches by Mr. Kenji Shiga, the Director of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, and others. The speeches were followed by a testimony by Atomic Bomb Witness Ms. Yoshiko Kajimoto, who used slides with maps and pictures in her presentation. She also gave her atomic bomb testimony at two other locations in France.



Ms. Kajimoto giving her atomic bomb testimony in the city of Cannes in France

In Ypres City, which was subjected to full-scale use of chemical weapons for the first time in history during World War I, the Atomic Bomb Exhibition was held from November 9 to December 2, 2018 in Ypres Museum, at the same time as they marked 100 years since the end of World War I. At the opening ceremony on November 9, there were speeches by Ypres Mayor Jan Durnez, Mr. Hajime Hayashi, the Japanese Ambassador to Belgium, Mr. Kenji Shiga, and others.

Ms. Sadae Kasaoka gave her atomic bomb testimony four times in locations in Belgium. University students and residents listened intently to her talk, and asked many questions about the effects of radiation and the situation after the bombing.

By viewing the exhibition and listening to the atomic bomb testimony, visitors strengthened their desire for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the preciousness of peace.

(Peace Memorial Museum Outreach Division)

## Hiroshima training of United Nations tour guides

—Communicating the spirit of Hiroshima to the world—

The City of Hiroshima holds permanent exhibitions jointly with the Nagasaki City at United Nations facilities in New York, Geneva and Vienna. The exhibitions are made up of atomic bomb artifacts and photo panels, and many visitors from around the world, including national leaders, view the exhibitions every day.

In order to effectively communicate the reality of the damage from the bombing through the exhibitions, it is essential that guides and employees leading guided tours share information on the truth of the bombing. Therefore, from 2017 the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum started the training program for United Nations tour guides, where tour guides from the three UN facilities are invited to Hiroshima, so that they can gain an understanding of the reality of the atomic bombing. This time the training was held for 5 days from December 1-5, 2018, with six guides participating. It was the second time it has been held.

For the training this time, the program used for the first training in 2017 was significantly revised, with a stronger focus placed on experiences that the participants could only have in Hiroshima, and the acquisition of knowledge and skills through exchange activities with atomic bomb witnesses and Hiroshima Peace Volunteers. The content of the program included lectures as well as a visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, a tour of the Cenotaph and the remains of bombed structures, listening to an atomic bomb testimony, exchange sessions with volunteers and a tour of the city.

Participants said that there was a lot of practical content, and they could learn things that were directly related to their own work as tour guides. Many participants also said that the part of the program that left the greatest impression on them was the atomic bombing testimony. The participants seemed to have a sense of



Listening to atomic bombing testimony

tension and urgency as they listened, knowing that there will be fewer opportunities in the future to listen directly to the *hibakusha* speak and that one day those opportunities will disappear. After the talk, they actively asked questions.

Based on this project, we will continue to work towards improving the displays at the UN facilities on the damage from the atomic bombing, enhancing the tour commentary at each facility on the damage from the bombing and the abolition of nuclear weapons, and strengthening the message of the spirit of Hiroshima throughout the global community. We would also like to enhance and expand our cooperative relationship with the United Nations and think about implementing joint projects for events at United Nations facilities.

(Peace Memorial Museum Outreach Division)

## A-bomb Legacy Successors dispatch project

At the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims, the A-bomb Legacy Successors Dispatch Project was started in April 2018. The aim of the project is to pass down the experience of the A-bomb survivors (*hibakusha*) and their desire for peace to the next generation. In this project, A-bomb Legacy Successors, who have learned about the A-bomb experience directly from *hibakusha*, and A-bomb Testimonial Recital Volunteers, who read out A-bomb testimonials and poetry written by *hibakusha*, are dispatched throughout Japan and overseas. Those who are dispatched give talks to communicate the A-bomb experience or hold recitals of A-bomb testimonials at peace study sessions and other events organized by the organizations that apply.

There has been a major response to this project. In 2018, 306 people were dispatched (270 for A-bomb testimonial talks, and 36 for A-bomb testimonial recitals), and through this activity the A-bomb experience has been communicated to approximately 50,000 young children and school students.

From October 22-27, 2018, A-bomb testimonial recitals were held in the port town Le Havre in the Normandy region in northern France, and from November 3-7 A-bomb testimonial recitals and A-bomb testimonial talks were held in the two cities of Manchester and Coventry in England.

The A-bomb testimonial recital volunteers held the recitals this time, having been invited to a symposium organized by Le Havre University for young students mainly majoring in social sciences and economics.

At the end of World War II in German-occupied Normandy, the largest land operation in history (the Invasion of Normandy) took place. At that time, the major air raids by the Allied Forces against German troops completely destroyed the towns where people were living. It is because Normandy has this history of war disaster and recovery that the students there have an extremely high level of interest in peace and human rights. They were involved in the recital from the planning stage and actively participated in the recital of a-bomb poetry and the question and answer session.

In Manchester and Coventry, three recitals and talks

by A-bomb testimonial messengers were held for elementary school students, university students participating in anti-nuclear weapons campaigns, and others. There were some challenges in preparing the venues for the events, but the recital volunteers and messengers made use of their experience of such activities in Japan, and worked hard to communicate the ‘Spirit of Hiroshima’ to the people of England.

There were also courtesy visits made to government heads in Manchester City, Oldham region nearby, and Coventry City, and discussions were held with people involved in governmental peace-related activities from both cities. The mayor of Manchester expressed a strong wish to work together with the city residents and achieve diversity.



Together with children from an elementary school that held an A-bomb testimonial talk and recital (Manchester)

Calls for locations for dispatches in 2019 started from January 21, 2019. Details of the content of the dispatch activities are posted on the homepage of the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims. Overseas dispatches are sent to around one country each year, coordinating with the locations requesting dispatches.

(Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims)

## International Festival 2018

—Let’s open doors to the world,  
let’s meet friends from all over the world—

On November 18, 2018, the International Festival was held for the 19<sup>th</sup> time, at International Conference Center Hiroshima, the Peace Boulevard green belt, and other venues.



Calligraphy performance

Seventy organizations, including companies and civic groups that conduct international exchange and cooperation activities in Hiroshima City and surrounding areas, held 38 varied events on themes such as intercultural understanding, the global environment, multicultural coexistence, and Japanese cultural experiences. A total of 12,800 people came to the events.

At the opening ceremony, there was a calligraphy performance by students from the Calligraphy Department in the Faculty of Letters at Yasuda Women’s University. They powerfully wrote the catch copy of this year’s International Festival, ‘Let’s open doors to the world’, and there was great applause from the visitors for the completed piece of work.

### Talk show: Sergio Echigo talks about *nikkeijin* (people of Japanese ancestry) and soccer

The outspoken and humorous soccer commentator, Sergio Echigo, was invited as guest speaker. He talked about the *nikkei* community in Brazil, the differences in culture and lifestyle between Japan and Brazil, and international exchange through sports, among other things.

The audience often laughed at his humorous comments, and listened intently until the end as told stories that they normally would not hear. There were comments from the audience such as “I learned about cultural exchange through sports, the importance of making an international contribution, and Brazilian culture”, and “I felt Sergio’s deep affection for Japan”.

### Explanations of international exchange and cooperation activities

At the activity explanation section for civic groups and others, 21 organizations set up booths, where they explained their respective international exchange and cooperation activities. Apart from civic groups, there were also booths set up by public bodies, NGOs, university students, companies and more, where visitors could hear about the current situation in countries receiving support, try on national costumes, try drawing water by themselves, and other fun exchange activities. There was also an international exchange and cooperation report session by youth and university students and a foreign language discussion session.

### Overseas and Japanese culture introduction and experience

In terms of overseas culture experience, there were sections on designing Scottish quilts, tying Celtic knots, Chinese paper cutouts, and Chinese-style braided cords. For Japanese cultural experiences, there were sections on trying on kimonos, tea ceremony, flower arrangement, calligraphy, and more. Foreign and Japanese visitors showed great interest in other cultures.

### World cuisine and folk art bazaar

At the Peace Boulevard green belt on the south side of International Conference Center Hiroshima, there was an area called ‘Hiroshima International Village – Food Stalls of the World’, where 18 organizations were selling various foods from around the world. At the International Cooperation Bazaar venue, twelve organizations were selling folk art and other articles from various countries.

There were many other sections, including the 50



Cities-50 Traces photo exhibition organized by Hiroshima City's sister city Hanover, which showed photos of the tracks left in asphalt in fifty cities around the world; a presentation session by exchange students; the 'Earth Forum', where people of all ages could enjoy intercultural experiences; a section where visitors could learn about Hiroshima's sister and friendship cities while doing craftwork; an outdoor stage with performances of dances and music from all over the world; a section where visitors could donate foreign currency coins to support children in developing nations; as well as a quiz rally where visitors could receive a present by answering quiz questions at various event venues. Each venue was bustling with people, and visitors deepened their understanding of international exchange and cooperation.

Many residents and international students participated in this event as volunteer staff, and enjoyed the event together as they were working.

The Japanese and foreign people who participated spent the day experiencing the cultures of the world.

(International Relations & Cooperate Division)

## Youth exchange activities with Hanover City, Germany

~for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of youth exchange activity~

(September 2018)



by **Dr. Kouki Inai**  
Chairperson, Hiroshima-  
Hannover Partnership Society

The origin of youth exchange activities with Hanover City, Germany, goes back to 1968. In that year, the late Toshihiko Hayashi (passed away October 2010), who was the secretary-general of International Youth Association Hiroshima, led the first youth group from Japan to visit Germany under the cultural agreement established between the German and Japanese governments. The group visited Hanover City, and this was the start of exchange activities between the two cities. The Mayor of Hanover at that time, Herbert Schmalstieg, proposed that rather than exchange activities at the national level, more effort should be devoted to developing exchange activities at the municipal level, and this marked the beginning of youth exchange between Hiroshima City and Hanover City.

In 1970, a delegation of 22 young people was sent for the first time from Hiroshima City to Hanover City. In 1971, 25 young people participated, and in 1972 a delegation of 32 young people visited Hanover City together with the Mayor of Hiroshima at the time, Setsuo Yamada. From 1973, delegations from Hanover City started visiting Hiroshima City. In 1978, which marked ten years since exchange activities started, the mayor of Hanover sent 3,000 *mametsuge* holly trees as a gift to Hiroshima, and as a result the sunken flowerbed garden "Hannover Garden" was made next to what was then the site of Hiroshima Municipal Stadium.

In 1983, which marked the 15<sup>th</sup> year of these exchange activities, it was decided that Hiroshima and Hanover would become sister cities. On May 27, a signing ceremony was held in Hanover City, attended by Hiroshima Mayor Takeshi Araki and Hanover Mayor Schmalstieg.

In Hiroshima City, the Hiroshima-Hannover Society was formed in February 1979, and it was decided to set up the secretariat for the organization within the International Youth Association Hiroshima. Prior to this, in December 1978 a friendship society had been established in Hanover City, with its secretariat in the Hanover City Youth Bureau. Since then, youth exchange activities were led by these two secretariats.

In 2005, based on a proposal put forward by the Mayor of Hiroshima at the time, Tadatoshi Akiba, and Toshihiko Hayashi, the International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future (IYCPF) was established. Hiroshima City and Hanover City called on their respective sister cities to participate in this conference where young people gather together and look for ways that young people can conduct peace activities. Hiroshima City and other cities then took it in turn to hold this conference. To date, Hiroshima City and Hanover City have taken the lead and the conference has been held without interruption every year.

The mutual visits between Hiroshima City and Hanover City did lose momentum at one point in time. However, I was invited to a memorial service in Hanover City in February 2011 for Toshihiko Hayashi, who had passed away the year before, and there I promised to revive youth exchange activities. The activities of the voluntary Hiroshima-Hannover Society had been on hold, so in April 2011, when the International Youth Association Hiroshima became a general incorporated association, I became the representative director, and at the same time established the Hiroshima-Hannover Partnership Society, also a general incorporated association. In order to expand the activities of the Society, from not only youth exchange activities but also cultural activities and exchange with the business world, I appointed as directors Mr. Sōkei Ueda (grand master of the Ueda Sōko-ryu tea ceremony), Mr. Masao Mukuda (president and representative director of Hiroshima Electric Railway Co., Ltd), Mr. Hiroshi Tsuboi (chairman of the Hiroshima Shinkin Bank), and the late Mr. Hiroyuki Watanabe (president of Dreambed Co., Ltd.). After the inaugural meeting in December 2012, we started activities.

The visits to Hanover were re-started in April 2014.



Delegation visiting Hanover (2014)

The delegation included 14 youth representatives, 5 traditional Japanese musical instrument performers, 4 Hiroshima Electric Railway employees, and 3 employees of a bakery Andersen Co., Ltd., for a total of 31 participants. In Hanover City, the group made a courtesy visit to the mayor, attended a memorial service at the war memorial *Aegidienkirche*, and more. The young members participated in homestays, and there was a performance of western music at the city hall, and they visited Uestra Company, which operates the streetcars and buses. In October 2015 a group of 12 people from Hanover came to Hiroshima, where they made a courtesy visit to the Hiroshima Mayor, visited the Cenotaph for the A-Bomb Victims, and attended a party which was an exchange event with the Hiroshima-Hannover Partnership Society. There was another visit to Hanover City in 2016 by 22 people. In 2018, marking the 50<sup>th</sup> year since the start of exchange activities, there were mutual visits, one to Hanover City by a group from Hiroshima City in April (34 people including 17 young people), and one to Hiroshima City by a group from Hanover City in August (9 people). Both cities held commemorative tree-planting (at Hiroshima-*Hain* (forest) in Hanover City and Hannover Garden in Hiroshima City), thus adding a new page to our history of exchange activities.

In the future, I hope that we can continue to cherish these exchange activities, with the belief that the exchange of a diversity of people, including young people, will lead to mutual understanding and will become a step towards the achievement of world peace.

## Profile

### [Kouki Inai]

Graduated from School of Medicine, Hiroshima University in 1974. Professor in the School of Medicine, Hiroshima University from 1990-2012. Head of the School of Medicine from 2002-2006. Specializes in human pathology.

Joined the International Youth Association Hiroshima in 1963. From 2011, representative director of the Association, which had become a general incorporated association. From 2012, Chairperson of the general incorporated association Hiroshima-Hannover Partnership Society.

## Memoir of the A-bombing “My atomic bomb testimony”



by **Kaneji Ota**  
Atomic Bombing Witness for  
this Foundation

### Introduction

Seventy-three years have passed since the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. That bomb instantaneously took away the lives of tens of thousands of people with its heat wave and blast, and by the end of that year, around 140,000 people had lost their lives. The *hibakusha* (survivors) have suffered the after-effects from the radiation up to the present. Nuclear weapons

are the most evil weapons in human history, and their abolition is the wish of all humankind. I believe that it is the responsibility of us living now to continue to work to ensure that Japan maintains its three non-nuclear principles, and that nuclear weapons are abolished and eternal peace is achieved, so that what happened to Hiroshima and Nagasaki never happens again.

Each year, when August gets closer, I remember the scenes on that day when the bomb was dropped. However, on the other hand, the thing that we fear the most is that memories of the bombing will fade. In actual fact, my memories of the details of that time fade with each passing year, and more and more I find myself trying to recall what happened at the time.

### Damage from the bombing

In 1945 I was 5 years old, and there were four in my family: my parents, my 3-year-old brother and I. Our house was 900m from the hypocenter. On the morning of Monday, August 6, the weather was fine. I walked out the front door behind my mother to go to kindergarten, and at that moment there was a flash of light and a blast, and for a few seconds or minutes I fell unconscious. When I came to at the sound of my mother calling me, the house had collapsed, and the whole family had fallen into the air raid shelter that had been dug under the house. We called out to each other in the dark, held each other's hands, and came up to ground level. Looking around, I saw that the whole house had collapsed and it was impossible to know where the road was.

We fled to Tenma River, which was 30m from our house, walking over houses that had collapsed on top of one another. We finally reached the *gangi* (stairs leading to the dock), but there was nowhere to step as it was full of people who were charred black. There were people with long nails were sticking out of their eyes, their faces covered in blood. On land, collapsed buildings had caught fire, and the fires were spreading, so we went down to the river. On the way down I was surprised when a black hand that was severely burned grabbed my leg, and a low, groaning voice said “give me water, give me water.” The person's skin had completely peeled away and he was covered in blood. My leg slipped out



“People who had fled from the fires gathering at the steps of a pier for water”  
Drawn by Yuna Matsuda and Kaneji Ota

of his grasp. I asked my father if we should give him water, but my father told me that we should not, because if you give water to people with burns all over their body they will die.

When we got down to the river it was just after high tide, and the water came up to my neck. Burned, blackened wood came floating from upstream, so my father picked one piece of wood and stood it up on the riverbank. He then got a mattress that came floating down and put it on top of the wood. We then hid under the mattress and protected ourselves from the burning flames and the summer heat.

### The suffering of the victims

When the tide receded and we could cross the river, we decided to go to the small house that my father had previously built in the mountains in Koi so that we would have somewhere to go “in case anything happened”. We walked along the Tenma River, Fukushima River, Yamate River and others, weaving our way through all the floating corpses.

Our house in the mountains had not collapsed, but window panes were broken and there were shards of glass all over the vegetables and sweet potato leaves in the surrounding vegetable patches. While we were in our house in the mountains, we were eating those vegetables, but we gradually got weaker and weaker, and finally there was nothing to eat. My father and I went to the town together, bought some food provisions and came back, but they did not last for very long.

The heat wave had left my mother with burns mainly at the front of her upper body, and she was enduring the pain. I also remember that whenever she combed her hair, huge amounts of her hair would come out and be left in the comb, and she was crying as she looked at herself in the mirror. After that, my father, then my younger brother, then I, all had our hair falling out, and the whole family became completely bald. We picked the *dokudami* (medicinal herb) that we had planted in the area around our house, rubbed it in our fingers, then applied it to our wounds, or drank it as tea. But it did not have any effect. Eventually our wounds were festering with maggots, and when I think about my parents removing each maggot one by one with chopsticks, I really have so many sad memories.

As time passed we became weaker and weaker, and around November or December, my father, brother and I went to my aunt’s house in Takehara, and my mother went to another aunt’s house in Mihara. They looked after us for about three months. There were hospitals in Takehara and Mihara, we had enough food to eat, and our aunt’s family looked after us very well. I am so grateful, because I am alive today thanks to my aunts.

After that, I was reunited with my mother at Hiroshima Station, and I remember being so happy. The whole family returned to our house in the mountains, and we finally got better. Looking towards the center of the city from the mountains, there were burnt ruins as far as we could see, with some places just barely standing, including A-Bomb Dome, Honkawa National School, and Aioi Bridge, which was the target of the bombing.

Every day, my father and I desperately collected wood from the burnt ruins of our house, so that we could build a new house in the same place in the city. I helped

my father, and by around March or April 1946 we had built a black house out of the burnt wood. However right near our house, people who looked like soldiers cremated black corpses that they carried there on stretchers, day and night; there were so many corpses there I lost count. Words cannot express the smell that came from that place; it was an awful scene.

### Thoughts about the bomb

I really want to yell out in a loud voice that the atomic bomb is inhumane and a mistake.

I believe that the most important thing is to continue to tell the next generation about the bombing, so that memories do not fade, and with the hope that the stories of the suffering inflicted by the bombing will continue to be passed down forever. If we do that, I am certain that we will definitely achieve eternal world peace one day.

### Profile

#### [Kaneji Ota]

Born in 1939. Experienced the bombing at home 900m from the hypocenter at the age of 5, as a kindergarten student.

Involved in activities as an atomic bomb witness from 2015. Appeals for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the achievement of eternal world peace by communicating the truth of the atomic bombing.

### Memoir of the A-bombing

#### “A life saved, becoming a bridge to peace”



#### by Yasuko Kondo

Atomic Bombing Witness for this Foundation

### Motivation for peace activities

I started getting involved in the Hiroshima Peace Volunteer activities from 2001. Specifically, I work as a volunteer tour guide in the Peace Memorial Museum and Peace Memorial Park at least twice a month. When I act as a guide, people always say to me “You’re so well.” I think that I am well because I experienced the atomic bombing 73 years ago. This is because I strongly feel that I never want the next generation to have the same experience.

From 2015, I have been talking about my A-bomb experience to students who come to Peace Memorial Park as part of their peace studies. I feel encouraged when I receive letters from people thanking me.

### August 6, 1945

On that day, the sky was perfectly clear from the morning, and it was scorching hot. I was four years old, and at 8am that morning I was playing with my friends in the stream next to the food supply station in what was then known as Furuta-machi, Hiroshima City (3.5km from the hypocenter), which is where I was evacuated.

At 8:15am, there was a flash! And a boom! I felt an

unbelievable ray of light, and dropped down onto the river bank.

My mother immediately rushed out from the supply station carrying my younger sister, and we ran to the air-raid shelter. On the way there, my sister starting behaving strangely. Her eyes rolled, and her mouth was moving as though she was chewing something. There was something in her mouth. My mother put her hand in my sister's mouth, and pulled out four pieces of glass one after the other. I'll never forget my sister's mouth and my mother's hand covered in bright red blood.

The residents of Furuta-machi were out doing building demolition work near the hypocenter, but around midday, they all came back in a group, everyone completely blackened, naked, rags hanging off their bodies, their arms held forward.

My cousin (7), who had gone to school, came back in the evening carried on someone's delivery bicycle. He looked like an old rag, completely different from the boy who had left in such high spirits early that morning. He died fifteen days later, on August 21. I can only imagine how hot it must have been for him. Every year on August 6 I put my hands together in prayer for him at his grave.

One of the people in the group that came shuffling back to escape the disaster sat down next to the jizo (guardian deity of children) stone statue in front of my evacuation house. He had nothing on, and was sitting there hiding his body with a paper bag. It seemed like the jizo statue had divided into two statues. When I approached he said "Young girl, give me some water", but as a 4-year-old child there was nothing I could do.

### Back to my home, 800m from the hypocenter

The next morning, my mother, sister and I left to check our house, which was 800m from the hypocenter. However, it was very difficult to get to the area near the hypocenter. We walked around, and finally reached our



"Family walking over the rubble"  
Drawn by: Kyoka Shintaku and Yasuko Kondo

HIROSHIMA PEACE CULTURE FOUNDATION

PEACE CULTURE

home on August 8.

Even on the third day after the bombing, there was smoke rising up from the burned remains. Around us was complete burned devastation. Our large house was burned down with only the garden rocks from the big pond and the stone steps to the storehouse remaining. There was also one Japanese lantern plant with red berries that survived.

### To my mother's family home

We went from our home to my grandparent's house on my mother's side in Kure, via the naval academy on Etajima Island. We started living there from around August 12. For about one month, I had a continuous high fever and diarrhea. In the end I was producing bloody and black stools, and my intestines came out from my anus. I will never forget the pain I felt when my mother applied a steaming hot towel to my intestine to push it back in. My little sister was nine months old and had just started to crawl, and because of her bloody stools when she crawled she left a path of blood.

I developed rashes on my head. Since there was no medicine, cooking oil mixed with baby powder was rubbed onto my head, and until around December of that year my head was completely white. We heard that boiled Dokudami plant is good for rashes, so I drank Dokudami tea. People at that time were saying that a new kind of bomb had been dropped on Hiroshima, and that *hibakusha* were saved by flushing out the poison using the Dokudami plant.

### Appealing for the abolition of nuclear weapons

The reason I am alive now is because of the warm support of the people around me at that time, and I am grateful to them. In this life that was saved, I wonder how many more years I have left. I will work as a peace volunteer, talk about my atomic bomb experience and appeal for the abolition of nuclear weapons as long as I have the energy to do so.

### Profile

#### [Yasuko Kondo]

Born 1940. Was aged 4, at an evacuation site 3.5km from the hypocenter, when the atomic bomb hit. Three days after the bombing, walked home with mother and younger sister. Home was in the city, 800m from the hypocenter. Will never forget walking over the rubble in wooden clogs.

Involved in activities as a Hiroshima peace volunteer since 2001. Active as an atomic bomb witness since 2015.

### 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

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

Phone. 81-82-241-5246

E-mail: [p-soumu@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp](mailto:p-soumu@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)

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