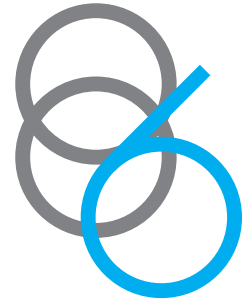


# PEACE 平和文化 CULTURE



vol.1 No.86 (semiannual)

## Peace Memorial Ceremony 76 Years Since the Atomic Bombing

**“No one else should ever suffer as we have.”  
These words express the will of survivors  
who, having known horrors too painful to  
recall, were condemned to fear, frustration,  
and agony by the likely future of their chil-  
dren and their own irradiated bodies.**

On August 6, 76 years since the dropping of the atomic bomb, the City of Hiroshima held its Peace Memorial Ceremony in Peace Memorial Park, Hiroshima City. Approximately 750 people attended, including A-bomb survivors, bereaved families, and guests. They prayed for the repose of the souls of atomic bomb victims, and for perpetual world peace. In the same way as last year, participants in this year’s ceremony were limited in a more compact ceremony, to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus.

The ceremony started at 8:00 a.m. Hiroshima Mayor Matsui and two representatives of the bereaved families dedicated two volumes of the Register of the Names of the Fallen Atomic Bomb Victims to the shrine in the Memorial Cenotaph for the Atomic Bomb Victims. Over the past year, 4,800 people’s deaths had been confirmed and their names were recorded in the Register. This brings the total number of names recorded in the Register to 328,929 people, in 121 volumes.

This was followed by an address by Mr. Yamada, chairperson of Hiroshima City Council, and a dedication of flowers by various representatives. At 8:15 a.m., the time that the bomb was dropped, Mr. Hidemi Murata, the representative of the bereaved families, and Miss. Nagisa Ishida, the children’s representative, rang the Peace Bell, and all participants observed a minute of silent prayer.

Mayor Matsui then read out the Peace Declaration. In the Declaration, the Mayor made a strong demand to world leaders, to move away from a stance of self-defense using nuclear weapons to threaten each other, to security based on trust coming from dialogue. He said that leaders need to understand that experience has taught humanity that rather than threats, treating each other with empathy and building long-tasting friendships will lead to benefits for each coun-

try.

Mayor Matsui also called on the Japanese government to immediately sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), in accordance with the will of the *hibakusha*. He also asked that the government participates in the first Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW as an observer, constructively fulfilling the role of mediator between nuclear and non-nuclear weapon states and creating an environment that restores trust among nations and helps to set a path toward security that is not dependent on nuclear weapons. Mayor Matsui also said that as the average age of the *hibakusha* is now nearly 84, he called strongly for more generous assistance for them and the many others who suffer in their daily lives from the harmful physical and emotional effects of radiation, in addition to immediate aid for the people suffering from exposure to “black rain”.



Mayor Matsui reading out the Peace Declaration

In attendance at the ceremony were representatives of bereaved families from 24 prefectures, in addition to representatives and ambassadors from the European Union and 83 nations, including the nuclear weapon states of the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Russia.

The full texts of the Peace Declaration and the “Commitment to Peace” that were read out at the ceremony are available on the City of Hiroshima website. The Peace Declaration is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Korean, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

(General Affairs Division)

**A New Horizon for Peace:  
Promote a culture of peace**



**Takashi Koizumi**  
Secretary General of Mayors for Peace

On July 7, 2021, the “Vision for Peaceful Transformation to a Sustainable World (PX Vision)” was adopted at the Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace, held online. It replaces the former 2020 Vision. This was the very day four years ago that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted.

In this new Vision, a new target was set: to “promote a culture of peace”. In the Peace Declaration made by Hiroshima Mayor Matsui (President of Mayors for Peace) on August 6 this year, the mayor spoke about the need to promote a worldwide “culture of peace” and create an environment to encourage a policy shift among world leaders. He stated that if the determination to live in peace sweeps through civil society, who elect our leaders, and people renounce nuclear weapons, which symbolize human violence, we will take a definite step towards achieving a nuclear weapon-free world. This is a succinct summary of the significance of the new Vision, including “Promote a culture of peace”, which is a more fundamental objective for civil society.

A key pillar in the vision up until now was “Realize a world without nuclear weapons”. This is a task that needs to be undertaken by all humankind. The second pillar of the vision was “Realize safe and resilient cities”, which focused on initiatives taken by each region to address a variety of different issues. Compared with these, the new pillar of “Promote a culture of peace” includes the meaning of peace on a global scale while at the same time emphasizing the importance of efforts by each individual citizen in their daily lives. In that light, “Promote a culture of peace” contains various meanings; anyone can possess their unique “culture of peace” within themselves. To “promote” this does not mean doing anything in particular that is different from what has been done up until now.

For example, “Promote a culture of peace” could refer to a *hibakusha* who has been speaking about his/her A-bomb experience based on the wish that “No one else should ever suffer as we have.” As a more familiar example, people who pursue their own happiness, or pursue their family’s peace and happiness could also be said to be implementing a wonderful promotion of a culture of peace.

This is because such acts all lead to the creation of peace. In this way, promoting a culture of peace constitutes peace activities that can be conducted by anyone in any city, regardless of race, gender or age. This is why this new vision paves the way for a new horizon for peace.

Mayors for Peace was started on June 24, 1982, at the United Nations General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament when the then-Hiroshima Mayor Araki called on the cities of the world to work in solidarity with each other across borders, and forge a path together for the abolition of nuclear weapons. This came to fruition in 1985 with the holding of the 1<sup>st</sup> World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-City Solidarity. In 2022, Mayors for Peace will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Taking this opportunity, Mayors for Peace will loudly proclaim the target of “Promote a culture of peace”, aiming for a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons.

(August, 2021)

**Mayors for Peace adopts  
its new Vision and Action Plan**

**12<sup>th</sup> Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace**

To date, Mayors for Peace has conducted various initiatives for the abolition of nuclear weapons, based on the 2020 Vision and with the hope of achieving the abolition of nuclear weapons while *hibakusha* are still alive. As the 2020 Vision ended at the end of the previous year, on July 7, 2021, the 12<sup>th</sup> Mayors for Peace Executive Conference was held online, with 18 Executive Cities participating, including Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Conference unanimously adopted the new Vision and the Action Plan up to 2025.



Attendants at the Executive Conference

**PX Vision**

The title of the new Vision is “Vision for Peaceful Transformation to a Sustainable World (PX Vision): Peacebuilding by Cities for Disarmament and Common Security”. As the title indicates, our goal is to achieve a world in which all people can perpetually benefit from peace by realizing the total elimination of nuclear weap-

ons and by attaining and maintaining peaceful coexistence between the whole of humanity. Based on the PX Vision, Mayors for Peace will build cities where citizens act with a strong sense of solidarity for the ultimate goal of realizing lasting world peace. To accomplish this, following three objects are set forth in the PX Vision: to realize a world without nuclear weapons, to realize safe and resilient cities, and to promote a culture of peace.

### **Objective A: Realize a world without nuclear weapons**

With cities and the citizens who live in them being their targets, and catastrophic consequences on a global scale to be inflicted by their use, nuclear weapons are the greatest threat to the safety and security of citizens' lives.

We will urge global leaders to effect peace-oriented policy change by calling on the UN and national governments, especially the nuclear-armed states and their allies, to take concrete action for the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

### **Objective B: Realize safe and resilient cities**

In pursuit of ensuring citizens' safety and security, we will strive to address and solve a diverse range of issues distinctive to each member's region that are threatening the coexistence of the human race such as starvation, poverty, the plight of refugees, human rights abuses, and environmental degradation.

### **Objective C: Promote a culture of peace**

We will seek both to create an environment that urges policymakers to demonstrate decisive leadership to effect peace-oriented policy changes that facilitate the abolition of nuclear weapons, and to establish a civil society in which citizens act with a strong sense of solidarity for the realization of peaceful coexistence between the whole of humanity. To that end, we will cultivate peace consciousness and cause a culture of peace—a culture in which the everyday actions of each member of the public are grounded in thinking about peace—to take root in civil society as the foundation of lasting world peace.

## **Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2021-2025)**

The Action Plan, adopted at the same time as the Vision, incorporates initiatives to be implemented together with member cities based on the three objectives of the Vision, in order to ensure the safety and security of the citizens from the threat of nuclear weapons, and at the same time enable the sustainable and peaceful coexistence of human race.

### **1. Sharing in the *hibakusha*'s earnest wishes**

In Objective A: Realize a world without nuclear weapons, initiatives will be pursued that are based on sharing the wishes of the *hibakusha*.

Specifically, to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons, which the *hibakusha* have appealed for over many long years, Mayors for Peace will work on expanding the number of countries to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), in order to maximize the influence of this treaty, which entered into force in January 2021. To do this, we will urge nuclear-armed states and their allies to first participate in the Meetings of States Parties as observers, and then to join discussions for effective implementation of the treaty and good faith engagement to achieve universal nuclear disarmament regime.

We will also take various opportunities, including international conferences on nuclear disarmament such as the NPT (Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons) Review Conference and the Meetings of States Parties to the TPNW, to make appeals on the importance of moving away from nuclear deterrence, full implementation of the NPT nuclear disarmament obligations, and visiting the atomic bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. To address these, we will urge the United Nations and national governments to establish a common security framework that is based on mutual cooperation, to make substantial progress on nuclear disarmament toward the total abolition of nuclear weapons, based on the earnest wishes of the *hibakusha*.

In addition, we will continue our signature petition calling for all states to join the TPNW as soon as possible, as a way to call on a wide range of citizens to encourage their governments to change their policies.

### **2. Contribute to a sustainable Earth and society**

In Objective B: Realize safe and resilient cities, we will promote initiatives in each region of the world to solve a diverse range of issues and challenges such as terrorism, the plight of refugees, environmental degradation, acceptance of diversity and promotion of inclusion. The aim is to contribute to a sustainable Earth and society by promoting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set forth by the United Nations. The 24 Lead Cities in countries around the world will take the initiative in implementing activities that match the situation distinctive to each member's region.

### **3. Foster and expand of international public support**

In order to reinforce the above objectives (Realize a world without nuclear weapons; and Realize safe and resilient cities), we believe it is important to foster and expand international public support for lasting world peace. Under Objective C: Promote a culture of peace, we will promote three initiatives.

First, we will hold a variety of events of art, sports, etc.

to encourage more citizens to think about the importance of peace and to cultivate peace consciousness in civil society. In close collaboration with international peace research institutes, we will share relevant information on nuclear weapons on the Mayors for Peace website and in the monthly newsletter.

To have as many people as possible deepen their understanding of the realities of the atomic bombings and war, we will also hold poster exhibitions and provide opportunities for people to hear atomic bomb testimonies and talks on war experiences.

In addition, in order to encourage young people, who will be responsible for peace activities in the next generation, to deepen their understanding of the realities of the atomic bombings, to think about the importance of peace, and to work proactively for a peaceful world without nuclear weapons, we will promote efforts to enhance peace education, such as the “Children’s Art Competition ‘Peaceful Towns’” and to spread educational activities on peace and disarmament.

**4. Promote sustainable development of Mayors for Peace as an organization**

Sustainable development of Mayors for Peace as an organization will be key to consistent implementation of the above initiatives. For that reason, we will promote the following five initiatives: expansion of our membership, enhancement of member city initiatives, collaboration with a diverse range of groups, strengthening of the functions of the Secretariat, and improvement of our financial capability.

Specifically, while expanding our membership with the

aim of achieving 10,000 cities, we will enhance the above activities and promote collaboration with international organizations, NGOs, and peace research institutes.

We will also work to share information through social media and conduct public relations activities to make more people aware of the activities of Mayors for Peace, gain a greater number of supporters, and receive donations and other forms of support.

Based on this new PX Vision and Action Plan, Mayors for Peace, together with its member cities, will work tirelessly toward the realization of lasting world peace.

(Mayors for Peace Administration Division)

**75 years since the atomic bombing:  
communicating the reality of  
the bombing from Pearl Harbor  
— Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb and  
Peace Exhibition at Battleship Missouri  
Memorial —**



**Takuo Takigawa**  
Director of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

From August 13, 2020 (75 years after the atomic bombing) to February 27, 2021 (80 years after the start of the war between Japan and the United States), the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb and Peace Exhibition was held at the

**A-bomb Testimony Recital Sessions**

The stories written by the *hibakusha*, their families, and the bereaved relatives of the victims are extremely moving, containing truths and emotions that only those who know the reality of the atomic bombing can write.

The Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims holds “A-bomb Testimony Recital Sessions” to share the memories and thoughts of the *hibakusha* with many people and pass them on to the next generation by reading and talking about their testimonies and A-bomb poetry.

At the recital sessions, first images are used to explain the actual damage caused by the atomic bombing. This is followed by the reading of A-bomb testimonies and poetry by A-bomb testimony recital volunteers. Finally, the participants read out their own A-bomb poems. By listening to the readings while imagining what it was like at the time of the atomic bombing, and by actually reading aloud, the experience of the atomic bombing as it was written down is conveyed with a sense of realism, and the sorrow, suffering, and desire for peace of the *hibakusha* is deeply felt.

On August 5 and 6, 2021, four recital sessions were held, twice a day, where visitors to Peace Memorial Park could participate without reservations. A total of 143 people participated in the event, including parents, children, and students who were visiting Hiroshima as part of peace studies. Participants commented, “I could truly understand the sorrow of the *hibakusha*,” and “I was moved to tears when I actually read it out loud.”

The Peace Memorial Hall holds various recital sessions, including regular recital sessions held on the third Sunday of every month, recital sessions for children and students who visit the Peace Memorial Park on school trips or for peace studies, and recital sessions held at schools, where A-bomb testimony recital volunteers travel to the schools. Please contact the Peace Memorial Hall for inquiries.

**[Inquiries]**

Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims / Phone: (082) 207-1202

Battleship Missouri Memorial in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the site of the start of the war between Japan and the United States. Twenty A-bomb artifacts and thirty panels explaining the reality of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were displayed to convey the actual damage inflicted by the atomic bombings.

## Battleship Missouri Memorial

In September 1945, around four years after the outbreak of war between Japan and the United States, the ceremony for the signing of Japanese Instrument of Surrender was held on the Battleship Missouri. After being decommissioned, the Missouri was docked at Pearl Harbor in 1998, and was opened to the public the following year as the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

The highlights of the ship include the deck where the signing ceremony took place, the 16-inch main gun, and the Wardroom in officer's Country.



**Battleship Missouri Memorial (photograph provided by Battleship Missouri Memorial)**

Visitors can also see the Kamikaze Deck, the site of the Kamikaze suicide plane crash. In April 1945, during a battle off the coast of Okinawa, a suicide plane plunged into the starboard stern area of the ship, causing a fire. After the fire had been extinguished, the body of a suicide attacker was found on the deck, with only the upper half of his body remaining. The crew tried to quickly dispose of the body, but Captain William Callahan said, "Now that he is dead, he is no longer our enemy, and we should respect his actions in fighting for his country. He shall be given a military burial at sea." The next morning, with many crew members watching, the burial at sea took place. The crash site was not repaired and remains intact.

## Exhibition held during the pandemic

Due to the spread of the COVID-19, the Exhibition was held amidst some confusion.

First of all, the exhibition started on August 13, 2020, approximately one month later than originally planned, and the A-bomb testimonies, which are usually given on-site at the A-bomb exhibitions, were given online from Hiroshima on August 21. Immediately after this the infection spread again in Hawaii, and for this reason the Battleship Missouri Memorial was closed from August 27.

I spent many days in confusion in Hiroshima, wondering what would happen next. Every day, as soon as I arrived at work, I opened my computer to check the current situation in Hawaii. It took some time to get the situation under

control, and the museum eventually opened on December 16, just before the end of the year.

Although the museum was open only four days a week, we were able to extend the exhibition period, from the original plan ending at the end of November, to



**Venue of the A-bomb exhibition (photograph provided by Battleship Missouri Memorial)**

February 27, 2021. I felt like I had somehow managed to climb up from rock bottom.

## Visitors' reactions

The A-bomb artifacts and panels were displayed under the title "Of Silhouettes and Ash: The Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki", together with Sadako Sasaki's paper cranes, which the Battleship Missouri Memorial Museum had received from her family in June 2019.

There were around 13,500 visitors to the exhibition, half of whom were in their 20s or younger.

The main results of the questionnaire survey are indicated below. I believe that the exhibition adequately conveyed the reality of the atomic bombing.

### ○ After seeing this exhibition, how did you find the contents?

83.8% responded that the content was understandable. Combined with the 13.1% who said it was "somewhat understandable", the total was 96.9%.

### ○ To what extent did this exhibition help you deepen understanding about the A-bomb and the damage it caused?

66% responded that it deepened their understanding very much, 25.8% said "to some extent", and 6.2% said "a little", for a total of 98%.

### ○ How much did this exhibition help you understand the importance of nuclear disarmament?

58.2% responded that they gained understanding very much, 30.8% said that they gained understanding to some extent, and 4.4% said that they gained a little understanding, for a total of 93.4%.

More than 90% of the respondents had a greater understanding of the atomic bombing, its damage, and nuclear weapons.

### ○ Please provide any opinions or comments.

"I think it is important to know the damage caused by A-bomb in order to understand the history."

"It is important to remember and show the past as it occurred in history not as we wish it was. We must never forget."

"I wish there were more exhibits."

These are some of the comments that were provided by visitors.

## Message from Battleship Missouri Memorial

### Mike Carr, President and CEO

The Battleship Missouri Memorial hosted a brand-new traveling exhibit paying homage to those who lost their lives and loved ones in the 1945 Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. This special display really gave Mighty Mo visitors a sense of the strong ties and partnership between Japan and the United States. We are thankful for our partnership with the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki for sharing their artifacts with us so that the Battleship Missouri Memorial could showcase such remarkable stories and commemorate a significant time in history through its "Of Silhouettes and Ash: The Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki" exhibit.

### Heidi Mooney, Tour Guide

I was so thankful to have the opportunity to view the traveling Hiroshima/Nagasaki exhibit that was temporarily at the USS Missouri Battleship. I lived in Japan for many years, but never made it to Hiroshima or Nagasaki. There were many aspects of the Atomic Bombs that were revealed to me through this exhibit; things I didn't know previously. Thank you for working to educate others about the dangers of atomic warfare.

### Online event linking with Hawaii

Even after the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb and Peace Exhibition concludes, we will continue to work together with Battleship Missouri Memorial to pass on experiences of war. As part of this effort, on July 10, 2021, Battleship Missouri Memorial and Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum co-hosted an online event on the theme of "Communicating the Memories of War and Sowing the Seeds of Peace", where we listened to the stories of two people living in Hawaii.

Mr. Atsushi Maeda, a native of Kochi Prefecture, Japan, who moved to Hawaii in 2005, has been serving as a tour guide at the Battleship Missouri Memorial since then. He told us about the Battleship Missouri and his thought that "peace is not something we can take for granted, but is actually something we are very blessed with and must cherish."

Ms. Hiromi Peterson is a second-generation A-bomb survivor from Hiroshima City and a former high school teacher who has been involved in peace activities for many years. She spoke about her family's experience of the atomic bombing, the Sadako Project at Pearl Harbor, and the development of human resources who can take action to achieve peace. She said "Let each one of us be a person who thinks and acts for peace. If we all do something small, society will change a little."

The event was attended by 267 people in Hiroshima,



Atsushi Maeda (left), Hiromi Peterson (right)

who provided the following comments: "It was a really valuable opportunity to hear the real voices of people who live and work in Hawaii. Their honest words touched my heart," and "Their perspectives on Hiroshima and Japan from overseas were very refreshing to hear, and I realized that there are still many issues that need to be addressed." We also received many requests to hear about museums overseas that have held A-bomb exhibitions.

### Support in Hawaii

Hiroshima's immigration to Hawaii began in earnest in 1885. Hiroshima City formed a sister city relationship with Honolulu in 1959, so the two cities have a long relationship.

The City of Honolulu and the Honolulu Hiroshima Kenjinkai provided enthusiastic support for the holding of this Atomic Bomb and Peace Exhibition, including PR activities for the citizens of Honolulu.

Initially, it was planned to hold an A-bomb panel exhibition at the Honolulu City government office and have face-to-face testimonies by members of the Kenjinkai, but these were cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. While this was very unfortunate, we were able to create new connections between Hawaii and our museum, such as when the Honolulu Hiroshima Kenjinkai sent us masks to help prevent infection in March of this year.



Masks received from Honolulu-Hiroshima Kenjinkai

The Atomic Bomb and Peace Exhibition was significantly affected by the coronavirus pandemic sweeping the world, and I would like to express my gratitude once again to everyone involved for their enthusiasm and support, which enabled us to achieve various results under these adverse circumstances.

(August 2021)

## Introducing Peace Memorial Park in English

— Activities of the Youth Peace Volunteers —

This Foundation has been training Youth Peace Volunteers to communicate the reality of the atomic bombing in English to foreign visitors to Peace Memorial Park. This is to ensure that the youth of Hiroshima, who will lead the next generation, learn the importance of peace and have more opportunities to convey the “Spirit of Hiroshima” to visitors from overseas. We have been conducting guide activities since 2020.

This year, the second year of these activities, we could not provide volunteer guides to foreign tourists due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, so a video (URL: <https://youtu.be/xOXheWj-Eq4>) was made. The video introduces in English ten locations in Peace Memorial Park, including the Cenotaph for the Atomic Bomb Victims, the Atomic Bomb Dome, the A-bombed *aogiri* tree, and more.



Title image of the video, created by Youth Peace Volunteers.



## Training sessions for Youth Peace Volunteers leading up to start of activities

This year, 37 new members (21 high school students and 16 university students) are participating in the Youth Peace Volunteer training. At the first training session held on July 18, participants were able grasp the point of the activities and deepen their understanding of the reality of the atomic bombing. First, they attended a peace study course, where they learned about the process leading up to the atomic bombings, the damage caused by the atomic bombs, and the current status of nuclear disarmament in the international community. The students who attended the peace study course commented, “There were many things I did not know. I would learn more in the future.” Next, the students listened to a senior Youth Peace Volunteer demonstrate how to talk to people when actually guiding them, and explain the guide video that was created during the coronavirus pandemic. The new members received explanations and advice from the senior members based on their experiences, which seemed

to ease their anxiety about guiding activities and gave them the desire to engage in various activities even during the pandemic. Finally, the participants listened to an A-bomb testimony in English, hearing about the actual experiences of *hibakusha* as well as their struggles and thoughts about sharing their A-bomb experiences. For some of the students, it was the first time that they had heard an A-bomb testimony. The experience seemed to renew their desire to become guides, as they said “It was a very valuable experience. I would like to convey the thoughts of the *hibakusha*.”

Youth Peace Volunteers started their guide activities on November 21.

(Public Collaboration for Peace Division)

## Online A-bomb Testimonies for Overseas Audiences

— A new way of passing on A-bomb experiences becomes more common during the pandemic —

Since 2010, Peace Memorial Museum has been conducting the Online A-bomb Testimonies for Overseas Audiences program, which connects *hibakusha* in Hiroshima with people around the world to listen to their testimonies.

The program is available to those who are outside of Japan, and is free of charge as long as there are at least ten people in the audience. Participants can hear directly from *hibakusha* and interact with them through a question & answer session, all while remaining their own countries.

In order to continue to deliver the voices of *hibakusha* to the world even in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, online conference tools are becoming increasingly important. Since 2020, the museum has been making further efforts to improve the environment for this purpose. Until 2019, online testimonials had been conducted approximately ten times a year, but in 2020 the number was more than doubled, at 23. The number continued to increase in 2021 and as of the end of August, the program had already been conducted 13 times in eight countries, including the U.S. and Hungary, and around 550 people had heard the stories of the *hibakusha*.

The audiences were from different regions, backgrounds, and age groups, including countries with nuclear weapons, countries



Keiko Ogura speaking about her A-bomb experience online to people in Bosnia-Herzegovina in June 2021

without nuclear weapons, and countries under the nuclear umbrella.

An American university professor who applied for the online testimony for the second year in a row said, “These testimonies are the first step in a long dialogue.” Students who listened to the testimonies said, “I was shocked by the real stories of those who experienced the atomic bombing, which I cannot learn from books or history classes,” and “I was able to learn properly about the effects of nuclear weapons on humans for the first time.” There were also comments such as, “Peace in a world with nuclear weapons is impossible,” showing encouraging signs that they are trying to think about the role of the younger generation in the future. The comments of these students illustrate how important it is to remember the perspective of each individual person who was under the mushroom cloud when we think about nuclear issues.

As the *hibakusha* continue to age, the museum will continue to offer the online environment to ensure that the pandemic does not prevent the handing down of stories from the *hibakusha*. We will also continue to seek ways to help as many people as possible learn about the horrors of the atomic bombing and think about nuclear issues.

(Peace Memorial Museum Outreach Division)

### Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum New Arrivals Exhibit

Dates: March 26, 2021 - April 3, 2022 (tentative)

Venue: East Building B1, Special Exhibition Room, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

Items: 176 atomic bomb artifacts donated in fiscal year 2019

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum collects and stores A-bomb artifacts preserved by *hibakusha* and their bereaved families, as valuable materials for conveying the reality of the damage inflicted by the atomic bomb. In fiscal year 2019, 47 people donated 4,758 items. Some of these are currently on display.

With 76 years having passed since the end of the war, it has become increasingly difficult to collect A-bomb



Lunch box left by Hideo Yamane (then 12)  
(Donated by Yoshie Yamane)

Hideo Yamane was a mobilized student working at a building demolition work site (700m from the hypocenter) when he was exposed to the atomic bomb.

artifacts and detailed information related to them. Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum will continue to convey the various damage caused by the atomic bombing, to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons. We would appreciate your cooperation in donating the A-bomb artifacts to the museum.

#### [Inquiries]

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Curatorial Division  
Phone: (082) 241-4004

### Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Special Exhibition

#### What The Items Tells Us

Dates: October 1, 2021 - February 13, 2022

Venue: East Building 1F, Special Exhibition Room, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

Cosmetic bottle with a fancy lid on it, beer bottle leaving the content inside, clock of modern design—these items left at the burnt-out ruins remind us that people always seek a little joy and comfort in their lives whether 76 years ago or today. No matter how severely deformed, items that had been used in daily life help us realize that people at that time had some of the same feelings as we do today.

This exhibition traces the lives and memories of people of that time by using items found at burnt-out ruins after the atomic bombing as clues. The model, visual materials, and graphic charts in the exhibition provide a clear description of the fierceness of the heat rays and the fire which burned and deformed the items. Some of the items on display were collected by those who were left behind; they kept the items carefully to remember their loved ones.

#### Exhibition Contents

1. Tracing everyday life through the items
2. With just one bomb-heat rays and fires
3. City of ruins
4. Memories found at the burnt-out ruins



A deformed cosmetic cream bottle  
(Donated by Toshiyo Nakamura)

Toshiyo Nakamura (then, 40) and her elder sister Kameyo were exposed to the A-bomb at their home and fled through the flames. When they returned after the war to clear the debris of their home, the house and all their possession lay in burned ruins. In the rubble, they found this cosmetic cream jar, disfigured by the heat. They kept it for many years on display in their home, then donated it to the museum in 1979.

#### [Inquiries]

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Curatorial Division  
Phone: (082) 241-4004



## Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation and Nagasaki University Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition expand collaboration on peace and disarmament education

The Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation (HPCF) and the Nagasaki University Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (RECNA) have been collaborating and cooperating with each other for some time. The two organizations held an online signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on May 13, 2021, with the aim of contributing to the common goal of abolishing nuclear weapons and promoting peace by expanding cooperation in research and dissemination of peace and disarmament education.

The four items of collaborative cooperation are as follows:

- (1) RECNA will conduct status surveys and needs analysis of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Courses operated by the HPCF,
- (2) RECNA will create and provide peace and disarmament education materials and model curricula for use in the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Courses,
- (3) Provision of information on peace and disarmament education to the member cities of Mayors for Peace
- (4) Other matters deemed necessary to achieve the purpose of the collaborative cooperation.

As an example of this collaboration, RECNA's materials are posted on the Resource Room on Nuclear Weapons, which was launched in April 2021 on the Mayors for Peace website, and RECNA has contributed to the Mayors for Peace newsletter since the June issue, following on from the Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University.

With the conclusion of this MOU, HPCF will further cooperate and collaborate with RECNA to contribute to the abolition of nuclear weapons and the promotion of peace.



Online signing ceremony  
(Left: RECNA Director Yoshida, right: this Foundation's Chairperson Koizumi)

### Overview of online signing ceremony

- (1) Date/time: May 13, 2021 (Thurs) 10:30-11:30
- (2) Attendees  
Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation  
Chairperson KOIZUMI Takashi  
Nagasaki University Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition  
Director YOSHIDA Fumihiko

## International Resident Consultation Service is Renewed

The International Resident Consultation Service that commenced in April 2021 is now used by foreign residents not only in Hiroshima City but also in Aki County, and is now known as the Hiroshima City & Aki County International Resident Consultation Service.

In addition, a new Filipino consultation day will be held every Friday, and counselors who can speak Chinese, English, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Filipino will be available to help with various notifications to government agencies and consultations on problems.

On the second Friday of every month, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., a staff member from the Immigration Bureau will be available for on-site consultation. On-site consultations are available by appointment only.

Also, for foreign residents who have moved to Hiroshima City, our counselors will provide information on their new life in Hiroshima City.

Please feel free to use this service.

### 【Inquiries】

Phone: (082) 241-5010

Email: soudan@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

### 【Location】

International Relations and Cooperation Division, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, International Conference Center Hiroshima

\* The service moved from the International Exchange Lounge on the first floor in August of this year.

### 【Opening hours】

Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

### 【Languages】

Chinese, English, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese, Filipino (Friday only), and others.

### 【Closed】

Public holidays, August 6, December 29–January 3.

### Facility Introduction

## International Conference Center Hiroshima

— From the world's Hiroshima, communicating to future generations —

The International Conference Center Hiroshima (ICCH) is located in Peace Memorial Park, and has as its aim the promotion of international exchange and the enhancement of civil culture. With a capacity of 1,504 people in the main hall, an international conference hall, and large, medium, and small conference rooms, the ICCH can be used for a

variety of purposes, including concerts, lectures, domestic and international conferences, as well as exhibitions and parties.

Each conference room is connected via optical fiber, which allows for transmission from the lecture hall to each conference room, as well as online and hybrid conferences.

It is also equipped with simultaneous interpretation facilities in six languages, and many international conferences are held there every year.

The ICCH hosted 31 international conferences in 2019, mostly peace-related conferences, which is the 8<sup>th</sup> highest number in Japan.

It has also hosted many international events, and in May 2021, it was the venue for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Torch Relay Celebration Event, sending out the message to the world of Hiroshima Prefecture residents' desire for peace.



International Conference Center Hiroshima

In addition to these international conferences and events, the ICCH also takes advantage of its location in the Peace Memorial Park to serve as a place for peace education for more than 100 school trips per year, helping to convey the reality of the atomic bombing to the next generation.

Due to the spread of the COVID-19, there are currently various restrictions on holding conferences, but all possible measures are being taken to prevent infection by providing sterilizing alcohol, thermal imaging cameras, and acrylic panels for speakers free of charge.

The ICCH will continue to send out messages of Hiroshima's openness to the world and its desire for peace.

## Overview of main facilities

### 1 Main hall (Phoenix Hall)

- Capacity: 1,504 people
- This hall has two Steinway pianos. The pianos are open for use by the public twice a year at a reasonable price.



Phoenix Hall

### 2 Conference hall and rooms

- International conference hall (Himawari): 600 m<sup>2</sup>
- Large conference room (Dahlia): 650 m<sup>2</sup>
- Medium conference room (Cosmos): 350 m<sup>2</sup>

- Small conference room (Orchid): 260 m<sup>2</sup>
- Conference room management office: 520 m<sup>2</sup>

※ In addition to school style and theater style, various layouts are available. Please contact us for details.



Dahlia

### [Inquiries]

International Conference Center Hiroshima  
1-5 Nakajimacho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima City 730-0811

Phone: (082) 242-7777

URL: <http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/icch/>

E-Mail: [eigyo-icch@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp](mailto:eigyo-icch@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)

## International Symposium for Peace

On July 31, this Foundation, the City of Hiroshima, and the Asahi Shimbun co-hosted 2021 international peace symposium on the topic of The Road to Nuclear Weapons Abolition: A New World Illuminated by a Treaty of Hope. In order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, participants were not invited to the venue, and instead a free live webcast was provided from the International Conference Center Hiroshima.

### Keynote speech and panel discussion

In the first part, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs whose efforts led to the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), gave the keynote speech titled “How will the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons will change the world?” Ms. Nakamitsu praised the achievements of the *hibakusha*, saying, “The *hibakusha* played a very important role in the establishment of the TPNW. The establishment of the treaty is the result of the tireless efforts of the *hibakusha*.” She said “we must redouble our efforts to achieve the UN’s highest disarmament priority, the total elimination of nuclear weapons.”

In the panel discussion that followed, Ms. Nakamitsu, Ms. Rose Gottemoeller, who was in charge of nuclear dis-



Panel Discussion

armament and non-proliferation as Under Secretary of State in the Obama administration, Mr. Hiroshi Nakanishi, a professor at the Graduate School of Law, Kyoto University, and Ms. Natsuki Yasuda, a photojournalist, discussed how to promote nuclear disarmament from now on and the future role of the A-bombed cities.

### Special talk by actor Akira Takarada and university students

In the second part, Mr. Akira Takarada, an actor who starred in the first Japanese monster movie “Godzilla” inspired by the Bikini hydrogen bomb test, Mr. Yuta Takahashi, a Keio University student from Hiroshima Prefecture and co-chair of KAKUWAKA Hiroshima, a group of young voters who want to know about nuclear policy, and Ms. Suzuka Nakamura, a researcher for Parliamentary Watch who promotes the TPNW and a student at Sophia University from Nagasaki Prefecture, gave a special talk titled “Connecting War Experiences to the Future”.

At the beginning of the special talk, Mr. Takarada spoke about his own horrific war experience after the war ended in Harbin in the former Manchuria, where he was shot by a Soviet soldier and underwent an operation to remove the bullet without anesthesia, and stressed the importance of peace. Mr. Takahashi and Ms. Nakamura, who established “KNOW NUKES TOKYO” as a place for the younger generation to think about nuclear abolition, also spoke about their activities and thoughts, and Mr. Takarada sent cheers to them, saying, “The road may be rough, but actions will eventually blossom into a big movement.”



Special Talk

(Public Collaboration for Peace Division)

## Memoir of the A-bombing Fate of life or death



**Junko Yamase**  
Atomic Bomb Witness for this  
Foundation

### Situation on the day of the bombing

In 1945, my family consisted of eight members: my grandmother, my parents, my older brothers who were in the second year of junior high school and the sixth year of national elementary school, myself who was in the third year of national elementary school and was eight years old, my younger sister who was four years old, and my younger brother who was two years old.

At 8:15 a.m. on August 6, I was in the kitchen and saw the orange light of a bare light bulb on the window pane, and the next thing I knew, a bomb fell on the Japanese-style room right next to me with a tremendous roar. I thought a bomb had been dropped on our house.

The wind pressure from the atomic bomb caused the ceiling to fall down, dust to fly, and *shoji* screens, *fusuma* sliding doors, and furniture to blow away. Instinctively, I got down on the floor, hugging my mother. Shards of glass were all over our backs. As I hurriedly walked out to the bus road in front of my house (Danbara-nakamachi), neighbors were shouting that a bomb had fallen on their houses, and they were scared. The woman from the pharmacy next door crouched on the road holding her child, blood spurting from her arms, screaming “Please help me! Please help me!” My mother tied her arm with the Japanese hand towel that she was wearing, as first aid to stop the bleeding. The pharmacy woman’s four-year-old son was blinded by a piece of glass in one eye. The town of Danbara had been destroyed and there were collapsed buildings as far as the eye could see. The sky, which had

## Hiroshima Scholarship

This Foundation provides 30,000 yen per month for one year as the Hiroshima Scholarship to privately financed international students enrolled in universities and graduate schools in Hiroshima City. In 2021, 30 scholarship recipients were selected in late June.

The Hiroshima Scholarship program started in 1988, and by the end of fiscal year 2020, 1013 students had been awarded the scholarship in total. The Hiroshima International Student Fund is funded by donations from the city of Hiroshima as well as from citizens and organizations. However, due to the recent decline in interest rates, financial resources are in a very tight situation. We look forward to your warm support for the Hiroshima International Student Fund.

### **[Inquiries about the Hiroshima Scholarship]**

International Relations and Cooperation Division, Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation

1-5 Nakajimacho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima 730-0811, Japan (3<sup>rd</sup> floor, International Conference Center Hiroshima)

Phone: (082) 242-8879

been clear until a few moments before, was now covered with atomic clouds and a cloud of dust that instantly darkened to something like dusk. It was a world of eerie horror.

Eventually, an open three-wheeled truck passed in front of the house. On the back of the truck lay motionless, near-naked people covered in blood and dust. As the truck bounced over obstacles on the road, the injured people in the back of the truck bounced along with it.

After that, a procession of injured people with shaggy hair and torn, dirty clothes continued down the narrow, unfenced, steep mountain path of Hijiyama, as if they were climbing a precipice, shoulder to shoulder, using a piece of stick as a cane to support themselves, or crawling while sitting with their buttocks on the ground. They must have come over the mountain from the direction of the city center. A man in national dress and gaiters was going around with a megaphone, telling people to be careful, because there were “crazy” people running around. It is no wonder that there are people who went through the hell of the atomic bombing in an instant and are no longer in a normal state of mind.



A-bomb Drawings by Survivors: “People evacuating to Hijiyama”(Created by: Chieko Matsumura)

### My father’s burns and keloid scars

It was nearly evening when my father came home with severe burns on the left side of his body. A few days later, our house was too badly damaged to live in, so we evacuated to Fuchizaki (currently Niho 1-chome), 4.5 kilometers from the hypocenter. My father had burns on his neck, from his upper arm to his wrists, and on his fingers, and he could only lay down as he recuperated. The flies smelled the blood pus and flew in with a buzzing sound. It would be terrible if flies laid eggs in the infected wounds and maggots sprang up, so the family took turns fanning him with fans to get rid of the flies. The cells in my father’s burn scars multiplied abnormally, causing the skin to rise and stretch across his joints, leaving behind keloid scars. The joints of his arms were bent, and his small finger and ring finger were also bent like crab legs, and he would never be able to straighten them out for the rest of his life.

### Survival of a family of 8

My eldest brother was a sophomore at the prefectural first junior high school. The day the atomic bomb was dropped was a Monday, but it had coincidentally been changed to a holiday, so he was saved. However, my eldest

brother’s senior and junior classmates, 353 excellent students, were killed in the bombing. My father was on his way to work, and he had been standing at a streetcar stop 1.8 km away from the hypocenter. He did not get on a crowded streetcar that was going to the hypocenter, and so was saved. My mother had wanted to take my eldest brother on a bus to the countryside to go shopping, but my brother did not want to go, so they had to cancel the trip. The bus they were supposed to take was passing near the hypocenter, so they survived. My grandmother had evacuated to her relative’s home in the countryside and my second older brother had also evacuated with classmates away from Hiroshima, so they were safe. I was at home before going to school for remedial classes. My younger sister and brother were also at home, and the family of eight survived.

### From Hiroshima to the world

There are countries that develop and possess nuclear weapons. Even if they do not develop or possess them, there are countries that believe in nuclear deterrence and allow other countries to possess them. I long for a peaceful world without nuclear weapons, and I want to pass on my experience of the atomic bombing to as many people as possible. It is no exaggeration to say that if people connect with each other and spread the peace movement throughout the world, this will become a force that can move the leaders of many countries. The messages and actions from Hiroshima carry weight.

### Profile

[Junko Yamase]

When eight years old and in the third year of National School, Junko Yamase and her family were forcibly evacuated from their home in front of Hiroshima Station. They moved to Danbara-naka-machi at the foot of Hijiyama, 2.2 kilometers from the hypocenter, and this is where she was exposed to the atomic bomb. Retired from the Hiroshima Shinkin Bank in 1966. Later worked as a real estate agent, notary public, and director of medical and social welfare corporations before retiring in 2015.

#### information

Our newsletters (Japanese version and English version) are accessible on the internet.

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

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

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