

PEACE CULTURE



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8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace

The General Conference of Mayors for Peace, which takes place once every four years, was held in Hiroshima City from August 3-6 last year.

This was the 8th time that the conference has been held. A total of 305 people from 157 cities, 11 national governments and 18 NGOs and other organizations from Japan and overseas attended the conference, which had as its keynote theme “Toward a World Without Nuclear Weapons—Conveying the ‘Spirit of Hiroshima and Nagasaki’ to the World”. Participants discussed concrete initiatives to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020.

Opening Ceremony



Opening ceremony of the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace

The conference was opened with a speech by Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui, as representative of the host city. Mayor Matsui spoke about the keynote theme of the conference, stating that the theme “reflects our determination that we must achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons while as many atomic bomb survivors as possible are still alive”. He called for support to further strengthen initiatives aiming for the prompt realization of a nuclear weapons convention.

Next was a speech by Hiroshima Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki, representing guests at the conference. Messages were then read out from United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the president of the Russian Cities Federation.

A-bomb witness testimony

Mr. Keijiro Matsushima, an atomic bomb witness, gave an A-bomb witness testimony in English. Mr. Matsushima spoke about the tragic situation at the time of the bombing, saying “The same mistake must not be repeated ever again anywhere in the world. Please go back to your countries and tell people

what you have learned in Hiroshima”.

Agenda I

Mayor Matsui facilitated deliberations on five bills, including the election of executive officials and the action plan from 2013 to 2017. All proposals were passed without change.

Agenda II

Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, Chairperson of this Foundation, coordinated deliberations on the theme of “Future Initiatives for the 2020 Vision Campaign”. A report was given on activities to date aiming for the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020, and participants discussed future initiatives.

At this session there were presentations on activities by the 2020 Vision Campaign Association, Japanese member cities, 2020 Vision campaigners, and Berlin University of Applied Sciences, which is running the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course. There were also proposals made on future prospects for the campaign.

Agenda III

Mayor Thore Vestby of Frogn City in Norway coordinated this session on the theme of “The Creation of Mayors for Peace Regional Groups and the Promotion of Joint Activities with Citizens”. Presentations were given on peace initiatives from all over the world, and discussions were held.

First was a presentation on French activities and plans for a new activity—a peace conference held jointly by cities in the Mediterranean region. There were other presentations on initiatives by cities in Germany, Japan and other nations. Representatives from Turkey and Iraq explained the history of the Kurdish people, many of whom have lost their lives in chemical weapons attacks.

Mayor Vestby closed the session stating “All participants must take what you have heard today back to your home countries, discuss it and move to take action”.

Dialogue Session with Civic and A-bomb Survivors’ Organizations

The theme of this session was “What should we do as citizens to abolish nuclear weapons?” Mr. Kazumi Mizumoto, vice-president of Hiroshima City University’s Hiroshima Peace Institute, coordinated this dialogue session between participants and civic and atomic bomb survivors’ organizations.

Firstly, activity reports were given by two representatives of the Hiroshima Confederation of A-bomb Sufferers’ Organizations, as well as representatives of two civic organi-

zations, Hiroshima Kenren and Hiroshima Jogakuin High School.

This was followed by a presentation from the floor, in the form of a film-based introduction of the activities of an organization that produces documentary films on nuclear weapons.

Vice-President Mizumoto summarized the session saying “In this session we were able to reaffirm the existence of a common awareness among people from various positions of the need to decry the inhumanity, risks and horror of nuclear weapons, and work to prohibit and eliminate them”.

Dialogue Session with National Governments and NGO Representatives

This dialogue session between participants and representatives from national governments and NGOs was held on the theme of “The Role of National Governments and NGOs in the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons”, and coordinated by Ms. Keiko Nakamura, associate professor at Nagasaki University’s Research Center for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons.

The session started with activity presentations by embassy representatives from Norway, Mexico and India, as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the international NGO International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). These were followed by a speech by Governor Yuzaki on the topic of the “Hiroshima for Global Peace” Plan. There were then comments from the floor and a question and answer session.

Associate professor Nakamura summarized the session saying “It was extremely meaningful that we could hold this discussion on why the inhumanity of nuclear weapons is being raised as an issue now and where we are heading”.

Peace Message



Director Oliver Stone delivering his peace message

The American film director Mr. Oliver Stone gave a lecture as a special guest at the General Conference.

During his lecture, Mr. Stone said “The *hibakusha* have spent their lives communicating not revenge, but a message of love, not war, but a message of peace”. He said that we must achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons during the lifetime of the *hibakusha*.

Agenda IV

Mayor Matsui facilitated a discussion on the theme of “Toward the Abolishment of Nuclear Weapons by 2020”.

After the coordinators of the Agenda II and Agenda III sessions as well as the dialogue sessions had provided summaries of their respective discussions, there were comments from the floor and a question and answer session.

Mayor Matsui then summarized this general conference by reading out the Hiroshima Appeal. The appeal was adopted with a round of applause, ending conference proceedings.

Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony commenced with greetings by Foreign Affairs Minister Fumio Kishida, read out in his absence. This was followed by speeches by Mr. Donald Plusquellic, Mayor of Akron City in America, and Mr. Tomihisa Taue, Mayor of Nagasaki City.

Mayor Matsui concluded the closing ceremony by thanking attendees for their participation and cooperation, and a statement of determination to “consolidate our strength and work to enhance initiatives for the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020”.

The Hiroshima Appeal was sent to the United Nations Secretary-General and each nation’s government in September. The Hiroshima Appeal and other bills may be viewed on the Mayors for Peace home page.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

3rd Mayors for Peace Japanese Member Cities Conference and Presentation to the Japanese Government of Appeal Document Requesting the Promotion of Initiatives for the Prompt Realization of a Nuclear Weapons Convention

On August 5 last year, the 3rd Mayors for Peace Japanese Member Cities Conference was held in Hiroshima City, during the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace. The aim of the conference was to enhance initiatives by Mayors for Peace in Japan. It was attended by 107 members (including 34 leaders) from 67 municipalities throughout Japan.

The conference started with a report from the secretariat on measures to strengthen the Mayors for Peace management system.

This was followed by deliberations on a number of items, including: the designation of Hiroshima City as the leader city in Japan; the creation of regional groups in Japan; and the presentation of a request to the Japanese government to promote initiatives for the prompt realization of a nuclear weapons convention. All proposals were approved without change.

There was then a discussion on holding the Japanese Member Cities Conference in cities other than Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The conference closed with the adoption of the 2nd Mayors for Peace Japanese Member Cities Conference General Summary, which included an overview of the conference.

In line with the decision made at the conference, on September 10 Hiroshima Mayor Matsui (President of Mayors for Peace) and Mr. Kuroda, chief of Nagasaki City Tokyo Office, visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and presented to Mr. Kishida, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the request to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe for the promotion of initiatives for the prompt realization of a nuclear weapons convention.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)



Presentation of request document (from left: Foreign Affairs Minister Kishida, Mayor Matsui)

International Symposium for Peace 2013 “The Road to Nuclear Abolition: Inhumanity of nuclear weapons and passing A-bomb experience on to the next generation”

The 2nd Session of the Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference 2015 that was held in April 2013 saw the announcement of a joint statement on the inhumanity of nuclear weapons, concurred by over 70 nations. Amidst this growing momentum for the abolition of nuclear weapons, on July 27 Hiroshima City, this Foundation and Asahi Shimbun newspaper jointly held the International Symposium for Peace. This is the 19th time that the symposium has been held, and it took place at the International Conference Center Hiroshima on the theme of “The Road to Nuclear Abolition: Inhumanity of nuclear weapons and passing A-bomb experience on to the next generation”.

Keynote Speech

Ms. Patricia Lewis, Research Director for International Security at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (RIIA), gave a keynote speech on the topic of “The Inhumane Nature of Nuclear Arms; Efforts Toward their Delegitimization”. Mr. Kazumi Mizumoto, Vice-President of the Hiroshima Peace Institute, provided a commentary on Ms. Lewis’ speech.

Ms. Lewis spoke about the current growing momentum of moves to decry the inhumanity of nuclear weapons, expressing frustration at the lack of progress being made on nuclear disarmament through the step-by-step process, and speaking of efforts to further the public’s interest by conveying the message of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and re-examining the destructive impact of nuclear weapons.



Mr. Kazumi Mizumoto (left) providing a clear commentary on the speech by Ms. Patricia Lewis (right)

Speeches by Guests

Ms. Yoko Morishita, the internationally acclaimed ballerina, described the experiences of her grandmother and mother, who experienced the atomic bombing, as well as her own experiences as a 2nd-generation A-bomb survivor. Stating that the atomic bomb must never be used again, she spoke of her wish for the abolition of nuclear weapons and perpetual world peace.

Panel Discussion

Reports by panelists:

Mr. Hidenori Watanabe, associate professor, Tokyo Metropolitan University:

The “Hiroshima Archives” (<http://hiroshima.mapping.jp/>) is a movement where *hibakusha* and local people work together

with producers to link memories of the past to the future. This is played out on a digital globe, and may be viewed by anyone.

Mr. Andrew Gordon, professor, Harvard University:

I believe that the best way to communicate overseas what happened in the atomic bombing is to speak about what you heard and what you feel as part of normal conversation. When there are linguistic barriers, it is effective to use photographs and images as you speak.

Ms. Mayu Yasuda, 3rd Generation Atomic Bomb Survivor, Participant in the *Hibakusha* Successor Training Program:

My generation is now at the age where we are starting to have children. My friends say that even though they want to tell their own children what happened in Hiroshima, they are not able to accurately communicate to them Hiroshima’s history. Anyone living in Hiroshima is a messenger, with a responsibility to pass on the message.

Mr. Ryuichi Narita, professor, Japan Women’s University:

68 years have passed since the atomic bomb was dropped. People have spent a long period of time communicating the atomic bomb experience, and as part of that process atomic bombing literature has developed. The atomic bombing was an incident that humankind had never experienced before, and I think that it is for this reason that people have made the determination to communicate the atomic bombing to future generations as an experience of humankind.

Mr. Toshiaki Miura, Asahi Shimbun GLOBE Editor:

The UNESCO Constitution states “since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed”. I believe that this symposium is one action to construct defenses of peace in people’s minds.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

Chairperson of this Foundation attended the Conference of Cities for Peace in the Mediterranean

On September 21-22, last year, the Conference of Cities for Peace in the Mediterranean was held in Aubagne City, co-organized by Aubagne (France), Biograd na Moru (Croatia) and Granollers (Spain). The theme of the conference was “What kind of local policies to promote a culture of Peace?” Approximately 130 representatives from Mayors for Peace member cities and local municipality unions from 15 countries attended, mainly centering on Mediterranean nations such as France, Spain, Algeria, Cyprus and Croatia. The Chairperson of this Foundation, Mr. Komizo, also attended.

Mr. Komizo read out a message from Hiroshima Mayor Matsui at the opening of the conference, and made a speech. In the speech, he conveyed Hiroshima’s message to the young people of the world, and stated his wish to contribute to the construction of a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons, based on mutual understanding. The following day, participants adopted the Aubagne Appeal, and the conference closed with a speech by the mayor of Aubagne City and others.

Mayors for Peace passed a decision at the 8th General Meeting to work towards the revitalization of regional activities by member cities, and is calling for members to hold regional conferences to discuss and decide on activity contents that match regional characteristics.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

68th Peace Memorial Ceremony

On August 6, for the 68th time since the atomic bombing, Hiroshima City held the Peace Memorial Ceremony in Peace Memorial Park. Around 50,000 people attended the ceremony to pray for the souls of the departed and eternal peace.

The ceremony commenced at 8am. First Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui and two representatives of the bereaved families dedicated two volumes of the Register of the Names of Fallen Atomic Bomb Victims, in which are recorded the names of 5,859 people who have passed away over the past year, to the stone chest in the Cenotaph. The total number of those registered in the Register has reached 286,818 people, in a total of 104 volumes.

Next was a speech by Noriaki Usui, the president of the Hiroshima Municipal Assembly, and offerings of flowers by each representative. At 8:15am, the time that he bomb was dropped, the representative of the bereaved families, Siori Sakoda, and the children's representative Rintaro Ito rang the Peace Bell, and a minute of silent prayer was observed by all in attendance.

Mayor Matsui then made the Peace Declaration. The mayor spoke about not only the physical damage on people caused by the bombing, but also recounted some of the experiences of the survivors who have suffered from groundless rumors resulting from fear of radiation, with his strong statement "Indiscriminately stealing the lives of innocent people, permanently altering the lives of survivors, and stalking their minds and bodies to the end of their days, the atomic bomb is the ultimate inhumane weapon and an absolute evil". He called for the policymakers of the world to come to Hiroshima, contact with the spirit of the survivors, and look toward the future of humankind without being caught up in the past. He urged them to "make the decision to shift to a system of security based on trust and dialogue".

The mayor also spoke of the fact that the inhumanity of nuclear weapons is leading to a steady increase in the number of nations calling for their abolition. He also strongly appealed to the Japanese government to promptly develop and implement an energy policy that places top priority on safety and people's livelihoods, thinking about those who were affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and the nuclear accident that followed.

After the Peace Declaration, the children's representatives Syunji Takeuchi and Yuzu Nakamori read out their Commitment to Peace, where they used the metaphor of a relay to express the passing down of the reality of the atomic bombing and the thoughts of the *hibakusha* in Hiroshima over the past 68 years from parent to child to grandchild. They said "It doesn't matter if the methods are different. What is important are the actions of each and every one of us. So, let us create peace together. So that this precious baton may be passed on."

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, in his address, announced that Japan will host the 2014 gathering of non-nuclear weapons states, the Foreign Ministers' meeting of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) in Hiroshima. The Prime Minister also stated his intention to move quickly on discussions on revisions to the system to certify those with atomic bomb disease, discussions that include experts and representatives of atomic bomb survivors.

The ceremony was attended by representatives of bereaved families from 42 prefectures, the Governor of Hiroshima Hidehiko Yuzaki, as well as Vuk Jeremić, the President of the United Nations General Assembly for the 67th Session, and ambassadors and representatives of 70 nations and the

European Union (EU), including the nuclear weapons states of the United States, England, France and Russia.

The Peace Declaration and Commitment to Peace read out at the ceremony may be accessed via the Hiroshima City homepage (<http://www.city.hiroshima.lg.jp/>). The Peace Declaration may also be accessed from the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum website (<http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/>).

(General Affairs Division)

Night Game for Peace 2013

On August 6 last year, this Foundation, Seikyo Hiroshima and other organizations co-hosted the Night Game for Peace 2013. Held at Mazda Stadium, the aim of the event was to use the location where Carps baseball fans gather to spread a message for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the realization of perpetual world peace.

At the Peace Night Game:

- 1, The large screen showed peace messages from Mayor Matsui and Governor Yuzaki.
- 2, The ceremonial first pitch was thrown by Mr. Koji Kikkawa, an actor/singer originally from Hiroshima Prefecture.
- 3, The Carps manager and players wore a patch with a peace symbol on their uniforms during the game.
- 4, At the end of the 5th inning, a red line called Peace Line 25 was formed, at the same height as A-bomb Dome, to appeal for peace. On the field, Mr. Kikkawa sang a solo version of "Imagine", and local high school students gave a "Peace Performance".

At the agreement of all teams in the Central League, events calling for peace and recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake were held at all three official games played on August 6. It became a day where many people had the opportunity to think about the abolition of nuclear weapons and perpetual world peace.



Spectators use green and red peace posters to create the Peace Line 25 at the same height as A-bomb Dome

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

Memorial Gathering for Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Victims

This Foundation, together with Hiroshima City, held the memorial gathering for Nagasaki atomic bomb victims on August 9, the date that the bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. The event was held as an opportunity for the other bombed city, Hiroshima, to express its condolences to Nagasaki's atomic bomb victims and renew its vow for peace.

Around 100 people attended the gathering held last year in the lobby on the first floor of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, including *hibakusha* and visitors from Japan and overseas.

Participants first watched the live television coverage of the Nagasaki Peace Ceremony, and then all observed a moment of silence at 11.02am, the time when the bomb was dropped.

This was followed by a speech by Mr. Sunao Tsuboi, Chairperson of the Board of Hiroshima Prefecture Confederation of Atomic Bomb Sufferers' Associations. The session ended with a video of a Nagasaki atomic-bomb witness testimony (witness: Mr. Sigeru Aoki).

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

A-bomb Experience Lectures

Last year, the Foundation held once again the A-bomb Experience Lectures, which allow people visiting Peace Memorial Park to listen to A-bomb experiences without the need to apply in advance.

On a total of seven days, August 4-6, 13, 14, and October 4 and 5, sixteen A-bomb lectures were held (of which four were held in English), and an animation film on the atomic bombing was shown.

During this period, there were 1,558 visitors from within and outside Hiroshima Prefecture, from small children to those from generations that have experienced war, and all listened intently to the lectures.

Some of the comments provided in the questionnaires included “This made me think once again of the preciousness and importance of peace” and “I want to tell other people I know what I heard today”.

(Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Outreach Division)

Message of Peace Sent Out by Hiroshima’s High School Students

Since 2002, Hiroshima City and this Foundation have been jointly running the High School Students Peace Club, aimed at training human resources for the promotion of peace. In 2013, 26 students participated in the Club, where they learn about the actual damage caused by the atomic bomb, and communicate the importance of peace through activities such as peace study sessions with high school students from other municipalities.

August 3-5: Booth Display at the 8th Mayors for Peace General Conference

In conjunction with the 8th Mayors for Peace General Conference, a booth was set up at International Conference Center Hiroshima to show the Peace Club activities as well as to gather messages for peace. Mayors who participated in the General Conference left warm words of encouragement for the Peace Club such as “It’s wonderful that high school students are taking the initiative to implement peace activities. This is typical of Hiroshima. Keep at it” as well as peace messages. This reaffirmed the importance of continuing with activities to communicate peace.



Representative of Malakoff City, France, Mr. Michel Cibot, writes a message

August 5: Peace Gathering by Hiroshima’s Young People

The Peace Study Session held in the Chugoku Shimbusu Company Building was attended by 86 junior high school students from eight municipalities. After listening to an A-bomb witness lecture by Mr. Syoso Kawamoto, there was a group work session with the Peace Club members acting as facilitators. Discussions were held on the topic of “A Forecast of our Future-2045”, and the groups talked about what the world might be like in 2045, 100 years after the dropping of the atomic bomb, and what should be done now to ensure that the world at that time is a peaceful one. The discussions in the groups ranged from subjects close to home such as “eradicat-

ing bullying”, to more globally-focused discussions on “getting rid of national borders”, with various opinions presented. Through these discussions with junior high school students from



Peace Club members act as facilitators

many different municipalities, participants were able to learn not only about abolishing nuclear weapons, but also about the importance of thinking about peace from a broad perspective.

August 6: Sadako and Paper Cranes Poster Exhibition

The Sadako and Paper Cranes Poster Exhibition was held at the main building of the Peace Memorial Museum. The purpose of the exhibition was to communicate the actual damage of the bombing by telling the life story of Sadako Sasaki, the girl who lost her life to leukemia ten years after the atomic bombing. Peace Club members took special measures to make sure that the damage from the bombing was communicated clearly, such as using models to explain the mechanism of the atomic bomb, for example. Some club members provided explanations in English, and this meant that the truth of the bombing and the importance of peace could be communicated to many people from Japan and overseas.

At the paper crane section set up at the venue, people who empathized with the Peace Club’s message of peace made many paper cranes. Some of the warm messages from participants included “It is important that the children of Hiroshima are involved in activities to communicate peace. I definitely want them to continue”, and “Up until now I had avoided coming to this place on August 6 (because of the sad memories), but now I want to come again next year (from an A-bomb survivor)”. There were also encounters with many different people, including a visit by the Hiroshima-born pianist Ms. Mami Hagiwara, and the students learned much from the event.

August 8-10: Training in Nagasaki

Peace Club members participated in the Youth Peace Forum held in Nagasaki City. This Forum is a learning session where peace delegations from all over Japan, visiting Nagasaki to participate in the Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremony on August 9, gather together to think about the preciousness of peace. The Forum is run by young volunteers (aged 15-30) from Nagasaki City. With a 5-hour bus ride from Hiroshima to Nagasaki, the trip was not an easy one, but the students held discussions on peace with young people from all over Japan and learned about peace activities being implemented by young people in Nagasaki City, and the event was extremely worthwhile for them.

Through activities to date, the Peace Club members have a greatly heightened interest in peace activities, with comments such as “I want to hold activities to communicate the truth of the atomic bombing to more people” and “I want to learn more about damage from war other than atomic bomb damage, and communicate to people the importance of peace”. The Peace Club will continue to communicate the truth of the atomic bombing damage, and the desire for peace, and are planning various activities to do so, including a concert of pianos that survived the atomic bombing.

The Club would also like to increase its membership, building networks with young peace volunteers from Nagasaki City and high school students involved in peace activities in other prefectures, so that the young generations can build the momentum for peace. We appreciate continued warm support.

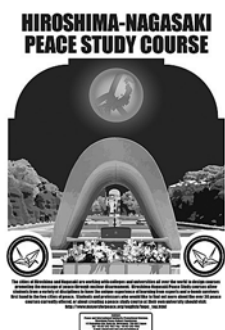
(Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Outreach Division)

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course

Study tour by students from the University of Indianapolis

From May 12-17, last year, students from the University of Indianapolis, United States, conducted the university's third peace study tour of Hiroshima. The tour was held as part of Hiroshima Peace Studies, which is certified as a Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course. A total of fourteen people (twelve students and two teachers) participated in the tour, where they experienced Japanese culture and learned about peace issues.

The group visited facilities such as the Peace Memorial Museum, listened to the testimony of an A-bomb survivor, attended a recital of atomic bomb poetry at the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims, as well as listening to lectures given at the Radiation Effects



Hiroshima Poster

Research Foundation and Hiroshima Peace Institute. The activities helped the students gain a deeper understanding of the actual damage caused by the bombing. Upon their return home, the participating students are involved in the planning of initiatives to make future use of what they have learned. One such initiative was the creation of posters advertising the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course, which the students provided to this Foundation and Nagasaki City.

Central Connecticut State University Field Trip

Central Connecticut State University in America, which runs the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course, held its sixth field trip to Hiroshima from July 11-13 last year.

Two teachers and 15 students from the university learned about the actual damage from the atomic bomb through various activities, including listening to atomic bomb testimonies by Ms. Sadae Kasaoka and Mr. Keijiro Matsushima, touring Peace Memorial Park and Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, and attending a recital of atomic bomb poetry at the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims.

The group also visited other buildings exposed to the atomic bomb including the former Hiroshima branch of the Bank of Japan, and Fukuromachi Elementary School Peace



Discussion between Central Connecticut State University students and university students from Hiroshima

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

Museum, tracing back over the messages and the scars of the bombing left in the buildings.

In their group discussions with university students from Hiroshima, participants talked openly about various topics including what the global community should do to abolish nuclear weapons and energy issues.

International Peace Day Commemorative Event

The United Nations has designated September 21 every year as International Peace Day, and as a day of global ceasefires and

non-violence, calls for an end to hostile actions on this day.

In agreement with such aims, this Foundation commemorated the day by raising the Mayors for Peace banner stating "Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons by 2020!" at



Participants observing a moment of silence at the Memorial Cenotaph

midday on International Peace Day and observing a minute of silence at the Memorial Cenotaph for the Atomic Bomb Victims, as well as ringing the Peace Bell, to pray for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the achievement of perpetual world peace.

In response to calls by Mayors for Peace, various commemorative events were also held in other member cities in Japan and overseas.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

Welcoming United Nations Disarmament Fellows

Trainees participating in the United Nations Programme of Fellowship on Disarmament run by the United Nations to train armament specialists were welcomed to Hiroshima for three days from September 30, last year.

The United Nations Programme of Fellowship on Disarmament is a training program that was initiated by the United Nations in 1979. Trainees have come to Hiroshima every year since 1984, for a total of around 800 trainees who have visited Hiroshima as part of the program.

25 young diplomats from 25 countries participated this time. After arriving in Hiroshima on the 30th, they attended a welcome reception, where they talked with atomic bomb witnesses and other local participants.

On the following day the group viewed A-bomb Dome and the Children's Peace Monument, offered flowers at the Memorial Cenotaph for the Atomic Bomb Victims, as well as visiting Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims. They also listened to the atomic bombing testimony of Mr. Keijiro Matsushima, and gained a deeper understanding of the actual damage that resulted from the bombing. This Foundation's Chairperson Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo provided an explanation of Mayors for Peace, after which there was a passionate question and answer session between Mr. Komizo and the group on initiatives to abolish nuclear weapons.

Comments from the program participants included "Many of the things that we learned in Hiroshima will become emotional support for us as we work toward the abolition of nuclear weapons", "I will definitely convey the message of the people of Hiroshima when I



The group listens to an explanation of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum from the Museum's Deputy Director (left)

go home", and "Every part of the program was well-planned. I love the city of Hiroshima and the people here".

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

New Arrivals Exhibition

- Period: Until June 15 (Sun), 2014
- Venue: Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, East Building, B1 exhibition room (4)
- Artifacts on display: 99 A-bomb artifacts donated in 2012

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum has continued to collect documents, mementos, photographs and other objects from the atomic bombing held by A-bomb survivors and bereaved families, for the purpose of communicating the actual damage inflicted by the bombing. In 2012 there were 950 items newly donated by 67 people, and some of these are on display at the museum.

Buddhist statue

Akira Yamada (then, 31), the donor's father, was exposed to the bomb from his home in Onaga-machi about 3km from the hypocenter. Although the roof of the house was blown off, he wasn't seriously injured and he went in to the center of the city the next day to search for family members. Akira found this Buddhist statue in the burnt out ruins of the shoe store run by his older brother and his wife in Tate-machi. In front of the bomb shelter, he found the remains of 2 people and thought they were his brother and brother's wife. Akira was the youngest of 6 children, and only he survived the atomic bombing. Altogether, he lost 10 family members.



A Buddhist statue lovingly kept as a family memento
Donated by: Mr. Mikio Yamada

Mikio Yamada recalls:

My father, who lost many relatives all at once, hardly ever talked about the atomic bombing in his lifetime. He placed this Buddhist statue where he could easily see it and took good care of it. He told me to donate it to the Peace Memorial Museum after his death, but it was so important to him that it was hard for me to part with it after he died. I finally decided to donate it after my mother died in August.

(Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Curatorial Division)



Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, East Building, B1 exhibition room (4)

Exhibition: A-bomb Drawings by Survivors “People who encountered the A-bomb”

- Period: Until June 15 (Sun), 2014
- Venue: Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, East Building, B1 exhibition room (4)

In 1978, 2,225 pictures of the atomic bombing sent into NHK Hiroshima broadcasting station by A-bomb survivors in response to the call by NHK. These were later donated to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. In 2002, the Museum, NHK Hiroshima and Chugoku Shimbun newspaper issued a call for “A-bomb Drawings”, and 1,338 pictures were sent in. People have continued since then to create pictures of the atomic bombing and still send them in to the Museum even today. The Museum sets a theme every year and displays pictures in accordance with the theme.

This time 34 pictures are on display, in line with the theme “People who encountered the A-bomb”, to show various people who survived the massive destruction of the atomic bombing.

The atomic bomb destroyed the city in an instant, and took the lives of so many men and women, young and old. Many of those who managed to survive were left scarred, losing their home and family, wandering around looking for somewhere to evacuate, and forced to live in hardship from day to day.



Created by: Mr. Yoshio Takahara

These pictures convey the suffering and sadness of people who have been on the brink of death, the inhumanity of the atomic bomb that turned their daily lives upside down, and the message of the survivors who lived through the period after the atomic bombing. We hope that these pictures help people understand the actual damage inflicted by the bomb.

(Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Curatorial Division)

Peace Forum for International Students Communicating the “Spirit of Hiroshima” to their homelands

Last year once again the Peace Forum for International Students was held. This forum is a 2-part event, with the aim of ensuring that the international students who have chosen Hiroshima as the location of their study understand the “spirit of Hiroshima” and sow the seeds of peace in their respective homelands.

August 3

(Part 1) Peace Study Session “Learning about the Truth of the A-bomb Damage”

This session was led by Ms. Yumie Hirano (former NAC–Never Again Campaign– Peace Ambassador, and a trainee of a Hiroshima City’s program to foster atomic bombing experience messenger). As a new initiative, lectures of 1 hour each were given in English and Japanese respectively in the training room at Hiroshima City International House.

First was the lecture in English. After viewing a 10-minute DVD entitled “The Ravages of the Atomic Bombing”, photographs and maps were used to provide detailed explanations of Japanese history, Hiroshima at the time of the bombing, and the actual damage caused by the atomic bomb. Ten international students from Indonesia and other countries, who understood English more easily than Japanese, attended the session, which was very well received as it enabled the participants to deepen their understanding by asking questions in English.

The same lecture was then provided in Japanese. A total of 34 international students, from countries such as China, Mongolia, Vietnam and Korea attended this session. The lecturer made special efforts such as writing difficult Japanese that the students may not be used to in large letters on drawing paper, and the lecturer’s passion for the subject was evident.

Answers to the questionnaire included comments such as “I learned about the atomic bombing for the first time”, “The damage was worse than I imagined”, and “I didn’t know that there are people still suffering from the effects of radiation, or that there were bomb survivors who experienced discrimination in marriage, for example”. As many as 83% of respondents said that their way of thinking about the atomic bombing changed, indicating that people were able to deepen their understanding through language-based learning. The international students’ awareness changed significantly as a result of learning about the facts.

August 6

(Part 2) Participation in Peace Memorial Ceremony

Approximately 30 international students and their friends attended the Peace Memorial Ceremony.

The international students were deeply moved by the sight of the many volunteers at the ceremony attended by large numbers of Hiroshima’s citizens. The volunteers worked earnestly under the blazing sun from early in the morning, providing cold



In the foreign attendees’ seats at the Peace Memorial Ceremony

water and hand cloths, taking guests to their seats, and other support activities. The students understood the high level interest of Hiroshima’s citizens in peace activities, and it seemed that they shared with them a renewed de-

sire for peace.

In their reports after the ceremony, some students commented, “I reaffirmed that atomic bombs are an absolute evil”, “I was moved by the wonderful recovery that Hiroshima has made”, and “I want to communicate the truth to the people in my homeland”.

(Hiroshima City International House)

International Students and Community Friendship Event Kojin Area Sports Day

Hiroshima City International House encourages the international students to proactively get involved in events in the Kojin area where International House is located. This is to help the students develop mutual understanding and interaction with local residents and live there as members of the community.

Last year once again, the students participated in the Kojin Area Sports Day, held on May 26 at Hiroshima Municipal Kojinmachi Elementary School, near International House. Residents from six towns in the Kojin area participate in this event, and the international students participated as members of the Nishi-Kojinmachi team. There were 21 students from 5 countries (China, Mongolia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Syria) who joined in the event.

The opening ceremony started at 9am, and each team proceeded into the ground holding their town’s flag. The international students were a little confused during the warm-up exercises, as they did not know the movements for the “Radio



International students proceeding into the venue

Gymnastic Exercises”, but they participated actively in the 3-legged race, ball-toss game, tug-of-war, soda-drinking competition and other fun games that followed, and interacted with the local people. The final competition was the town relay, and the students ran their hardest as the crowd cheered them on loudly. For each competition all participants received a participant’s prize in the form of daily commodities such as soap, a broom or tissues, which pleased the students.

The international students have participated in the sports day every year since International House opened in 2001, and it is now a fixture in the annual calendar. In addition to participating, the students are also involved in the operation of the event as committee members, and the community now depends on them. Six of the students joined in preparations at the venue from 7am. While there was some confusion when the students could not understand the local Hiroshima dialect, they watched everyone else and copied what they were doing, to set up the tents, chairs and tables, and sort the prizes. They also helped in the cleanup after the event, for which the local residents were very grateful.

Participating in this event also led to new friendships between international students who have few opportunities to talk to each other. As they enjoyed competing together, cheered each other on, and ate lunch together, students from different countries got to know each other.

At International House we will continue to provide support to enable the students to proactively participate in events where they can interact with members of the community.

(Hiroshima City International House)

Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims: Homepage Renewal



Top page (English)

The Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims has a public homepage, to ensure that many people know about and visit the facility. The homepage is available in four languages (Japanese, English, Chinese and Korean), and provides information on the Memorial Hall. On June 28, 2013, the Japanese and English versions of the homepage (Japanese:

<http://www.hiro-tsuitokinenkan.go.jp/>, English: <http://www.hiro-tsuitokinenkan.go.jp/english/index.php>) were renewed, with a view to making it easier to understand. The main changes are indicated below.

Addition of a movie about the facilities: “An Encounter with Memories”

This 9min 17sec movie provides detailed information on the Memorial Hall facilities such as the commemorative space from the entrance hall, the Victims’ Information Area, the Library and the Temporary Exhibition Area, as well as document viewing methods and more.

Videos from the program exhibition’s three-screen theater uploaded

In the Memorial Hall’s Temporary Exhibition Area, a program exhibition is held on a theme decided every year. A three-screen theater has been installed to show films of the atomic bomb testimonies to make them easier to understand. The films are around twenty minutes long and have English subtitles.

The videos from the three-screen theater are already lent out to schools and other organizations as peace education materials, and as many visitors to the Memorial Hall say that they would like to view the videos outside of the facility, such as in their homes or at schools, it was decided to upload the videos to the homepage.

These videos can be viewed on smartphones and tablets as well as computers.

We will continue to work to make the homepage easier to use and clearer. We encourage you to visit our homepage.

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

Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims: Chairs Installed in the Temporary Exhibition Area

In the Temporary Exhibition Area at the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims, a program exhibition is held on a theme decided every year, to communicate the reality of the atomic bombing mainly through displays of atomic bombing testimonies. The three-screen theater installed in the Temporary Exhibition area also screens 20-minute videos with English subtitles that explain the atomic bombing testimonies on display in a way that is easy to understand.

This area can be found on floor B1, on the left immediately after alighting the escalator, and is viewed by many visitors. However some visitors have commented that due to old age, it was difficult to view the videos standing up, and have recommended that we install chairs in the room so that many people can watch the videos to the end.

In response to such requests, the central display stand was removed from the area and ten chairs have been installed in its place, in time for the Hiroshima Peace Ceremony on August 6 when many people visit the facility.



The Temporary Exhibition Area after the installation of the chairs

Since the chairs were installed many people sit there to watch and fully appreciate the videos.

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

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum A-bomb Study Group Issues Research Report

On August 1, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum A-bomb Study Group issued the 9th issue of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum A-bomb Study Group Research Report, which is a compilation of the results of the Group’s survey and research activities. Report contributors and topics are indicated below.

<Member Research Reports>

- Kenji KITAGAWA (Professor Emeritus, Hiroshima University)
“Trends Among Students Visiting Hiroshima on School Excursions”
- Takayasu KOEZUKA • Yousei KOUZUMA • Soichiro WAKIYA • Akinobu YANAGIDA
“Conservation Science Research on A-bomb Artifacts – Deterioration and Conservation State Survey and Research on Conservation and Storage Methods”
- Kazumi MIZUMOTO (Vice-President, Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University)
“Can Fukushima Accidents Change Japan’s Nuclear Policy?: Events and Debates on Nuclear Issues in 2011”
- Akimasa YOKOYAMA (Professor Emeritus, Hiroshima Jogakuin University)
“The ultimate figures of *hibakusha* captured in A-bomb drawings by survivors —from the 6th till the 11th August 1945—”

<Museum Staff Research Reports>

- Ariyuki FUKUSHIMA (Curator, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum)
“On the 19th Regular Meeting of the Association of Japanese Museums for Peace”

This report may be read at Hiroshima City libraries, and 100 copies are being distributed freely. The report can also be sent via post, with postage paid by the user.

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by **Ken INOKUCHI**
Atomic Bomb Witness
for this Foundation

Early years spent in state of emergency

August 6, 1945 was a midsummer's day with the sun beating down harshly from the morning. I was 14 years old, a second-year student at the former Sanyo Junior High School. I had left my home in Miyajima to work as a mobilized student at the Toyo Seikan factory in Temma-cho (1.5km from the hypocenter). In Japan at the time, even junior high school students were pulled in to work at factories producing commodities needed for war, and we worked from morning until night. At the factory where I worked we were making cans for canned food to be sent to the battlefields.

Tired from the tough work every day, on the morning of August 6 I said "I want to take a day off". But my mother urged me on, saying "I've made your lunch, so chin up and do your best". There were food shortages at the time, and having a delicious home-made lunch was very special, and something I was grateful for. Wanting to follow my mother's encouraging words I quickly got ready just like any other day, boarded the 7:10am boat leaving Miyajima, crossed over to Miyajimaguchi on the opposite shore, and then got on the Hiroshima Electric Railway train heading for Hiroshima. I got off the train at Koi (now Nishi-Hiroshima) Station, met with three friends, and we walked together to the main gate of the company.

Trauma from the A-bomb experience continues today

When we arrived at the factory I went to the toilet, and then headed for the main meeting room for the roll call to be held at 8:20am. Just before the entrance to the room, in the instant that I looked up at the sky, there was suddenly an intense, dazzling flash of orange light. I was knocked down by the shock of it, and I crawled into the room. It was then that there was an awful rumbling boom, and with that the large room collapsed, with us students all trapped in the rubble. The room was pitch black, the air foul and stifling. I passed out.

After a while the heartbreaking voices of some of the 150 students trapped in the rubble could be heard calling out to friends and mothers—"Help! Help!" Fires had taken over the whole factory, and the main meeting room had also started to burn. I was awoken by the fiery wind. Looking around me, I saw that my classmates who had been on the east side of the large room had been thrown by the blast to the corner of the west side of the room, and were piled on top of one another together with desks and chairs and rubble.

The students at the top of the pile pushed off the desks and they were all able to get out, but with the sea of flames surrounding us, everyone desperately looked for a way to escape. The building was located on the river shore, so most students jumped 10 meters from the window down to the riverbank. The flash of light had injured my eyes and I could not really see what was below, but I didn't want to die, so I jumped. However, below me was scrap from building demolition work, and there were a number of long nails sticking up from the scrap. When I pulled out one of the nails that had pierced through the *tabi* boots that I was wearing, the pain nearly reduced me to tears.

When I looked along the riverbank, there were 200–300 people who had been involved in building demolition work. The skin on their backs was all peeled away and hanging down from their waist, and the sinews carrying their lifeblood were also swept away. The faces of the people suffering facial burns

did not look like human faces. There were people who had been thrown by the blast suffering major injuries, people trapped under buildings, people who had passed out by the multiple shocks of it all, and people running around in confusion saying "Water, please give me water"...the tragic scene was like a living hell.

I wiped my face with my handkerchief, feeling something like sweat; when I looked at my handkerchief it was stained with bright red blood, and I felt incredible pain. Countless shards of glass and other material were stuck in my head and face. I wanted to somehow get home as quickly as possible, so I picked up a stick lying on the ground nearby, and using it as a crutch. I started to walk slowly, step by step, enduring the pain in my leg.

The bridge that I always crossed had collapsed, so I crawled over the Hiroshima Electric Railway railroad bridge. The sleepers on the bridge were burning here and there. The opposite riverbank was also covered in rubble, and there were flames rising up in some places. It was hard to see where the road was. There were people covered in blood, people with burns all over their body fleeing on unsteady feet in the same direction as me. Those people looked more like ghosts than human beings. When I finally reached a place where I could see the burning cinema in Koi, I felt loneliness but at the same time a sense of relief that I had managed to walk this far.

It was then that the sky suddenly grew dark, and large droplets of black rain began to fall. When the rain hit my body I felt a little pain. With that rain, the blood from my head ran down to my tattered uniform, and I was now covered in blood and at a loss as to what to do. A middle-aged man in a rescue truck passed by, and took me in his truck to an emergency aid station. In that moment I really felt that I had met with God, and tears of gratitude streamed down my face.

(Full texts is available at our web site: www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/hpcf/english/)

Message for peace

Peace is created by valuing every individual human life. This can be achieved by placing importance on human relationships in one's everyday life. Having compassion towards others, understanding people's pain, believing in people, putting yourself in someone else's shoes, learning about other countries' customs, lifestyles and cultures through cross-cultural interaction, a willingness to accept each other. Once people come to understand one another through such interaction, the small peace around us will grow to become peace throughout the world. To all those who take on the responsibility for world peace from now on—remember my atomic bomb experience and my thoughts so that the awful atomic bomb that threw human beings into the depths of hell will never again be repeated.

Profile

Ken INOKUCHI

Born in Miyajima in 1931. Graduated from Chuo University Faculty of Law in 1958. Passed the Hiroshima City senior administrative officer exam in the same year. After starting work, obtained professional license in social education from the Ministry of Education. Mainly involved in the field of communication including peace culture, international exchange and sound youth development. After retirement, elected for four terms as representative of the World Heritage-listed Itsukushima Shinto Shrine and for two terms to the Miyajima Town Assembly (prior to the merger with Hatsukaichi City). In 2001, participated as chief promoter in the establishment of the Miyajima UNESCO Association. Currently serving fourth term as President. Recently spent four months travelling to 23 countries to participate in atomic bombing testimonial activities.

Special feature: International Exchange Festival “Pe-A-Ce-Lo-Ve” 30 Years of History –FINAL– Volunteer Activities Enriching My Life



by **Maeko NOBUMOTO**
Pe-A-Ce-Lo-Ve Executive
Committee Advisor

Pe-A-Ce-Lo-Ve

On November 4, 1984, the 1st Pe-A-Ce-Lo-Ve was held in the lawn area of Hiroshima City Central Park under the slogan of Peace and Love, with twelve organizations participating. At the time, Prime Minister Nakasone had developed a plan called “International Students of Asia to Japan”, to increase the number of international students to Japan. As a result, the number of international students coming to Hiroshima City also increased, and there were more non-Japanese people in the city. Pe-A-Ce-Lo-Ve was initiated for Japanese people who were not sure how to communicate with non-Japanese people, as a place to enable natural interaction between the two groups. This festival, whose name comes from the Spanish pronunciation of “Peace and Love”, was held for the 30th time on October 27, 2013, and ended its role as a forum for exchange activities.

At Pe-A-Ce-Lo-Ve, the participating organizations are the main players, who decide on the content of the festival. The job of myself and others in the operating committee is to work to ensure that the wishes of



Closing ceremony (message and paper cranes conferred)

the participating organizations are fulfilled. Therefore, while the format is the same, the content changes every year. In some years the number of participating organizations was as many as 56; the organizations participating change a little from year to year. Even if the same organizations participate, the content of the events may change. Of the thirty times Pe-A-Ce-Lo-Ve was held, it was never completely the same festival. So I think this is why we could continue every year for 30 years with a fresh perspective.

The promises that we kept for 30 years were: the principle that people using tents put up their tents themselves (even so we helped each other prepare and clean up); no promotion of ideologies at the festival; commercial organizations cannot attend; even when the deadline has passed we will accept as many participants as possible; and everything is approached with a flexible mindset.

In the early days many international students participated, but after Hiroshima University moved to Higashi-Hiroshima City their numbers declined. In their place, there was increased participation by non-Japanese people living in Hiroshima and grass-roots organizations involved in bilateral exchange activities. The state of Pe-A-Ce-Lo-Ve graphically reflected the changes in the city of Hiroshima.

Doubts

Does Pe-A-Ce-Lo-Ve fulfill its role as a place of exchange between non-Japanese people living in Hiroshima and

Hiroshima citizens? Sometimes I wondered whether we needed to change what we were doing. At a time like that, I heard a person from an organization supporting Asian nations say “It is the profits from this festival that allow us to continue our activities”, and this made me happy. It made me think that what we are doing is useful for international exchange.

I once heard a person from an organization that introduces Japanese culture say, “One of the foreigners that I met here told me that he wanted to introduce Japanese culture to his own country, and as a result I went to America and Germany”. This is a place to meet new people. I heard that another participant, when he went to Malaysia, bumped into an international student there who had been studying in Hiroshima, who said “Pe-A-Ce-Lo-Ve was fun. I want to start up an old boys/old girls club”. This moved me because it made me think that the festival has created good memories for the international students in Hiroshima. These anecdotes that I heard now and then dispelled my doubts.

Volunteering and Me

Although I have been involved in volunteer activities, starting with the Pe-A-Ce-Lo-Ve Executive Committee, for many years, I never had a clear intention to volunteer. I was never burning with desire to do something to help people. I am just weak-willed and cannot say no when asked to do something, and I am also foolish, because when I accept a task I never stop to think about whether or not I can actually do it. My motto is that I will do my best for any job that I accept, so I have worked hard to make sure that the job is successfully completed. I have done this again and again over the past thirty years, in what has become a long volunteering experience for me. When I was young I once came home dripping wet after spending time out in the rain for international students, and when my husband saw me he looked annoyed, saying, “I don’t know how you do that”. After that he never said anything about what I do. I think he just gave up and decided to let me do what I want.

Volunteer activities have made my life richer. I have met many different people, and learned things: things that they do not teach at school, important things that you could never buy with money. I have so much gratitude for Pe-A-Ce-Lo-Ve, for giving me these opportunities.

When I see people all over the world who make use of their skills in volunteer activities, I sometimes think that I could have been of more use to people if I had studied a little more.

But we should not have any regrets about things we have not done in life. I intend to continue in the same way, accepting anything that comes, and doing the very best that I can. If I can be useful to someone by doing so, then nothing will make me happier.

Profile

Maeko NOBUMOTO

Born 1948. 65 years of age. Has three sons, now living with husband. Assisted operations of Pe-A-Ce-Lo-Ve from 1985 – 2013. General manager, Nobumoto Dental Clinic. Director, Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation. Former deputy director-general of the Hiroshima Canada Association. Yes! Campaign representative. President, Hijiya Girls’ Junior and Senior High School. Member of JOIN Hiroshima.

Complete Renovation of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum marks its 58th anniversary in 2013. With the Main Building showing signs of aging, renovations are required. Today, the majority of the population in Japan has never experienced war, so to more clearly and accurately communicate the reality of the damage caused by a atomic bomb, the museum's exhibits will also be fully re-viewed together with the building renovations.

With input from Hiroshima city residents, numerous studies were conducted by the Exploratory Committee made up of members with experience in academic positions, A-bomb survivors and others. We will be going ahead with the renovations in line with the Basic Plan for the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum's Displays developed in July 2010.

Viewing route will change

Currently, visitors enter the museum from the 1st floor of the East Building, and after first viewing the exhibits there, move via the connecting corridor to the Main Building, where they view the exhibits and then leave via the Main Building.

The results of a survey of visitors to the museum showed that on average, it takes around 45 minutes to view the exhibits. Of that time, 19 minutes is spent viewing the exhibits in the Main Building. These results indicate that inadequate time is being spent on viewing the exhibits in the Main Building, which form the core of the museum and convey the actual damage from the atomic bombing.

To resolve this issue, after the renovations the viewing route will be different. Visitors will enter the museum from the 1st floor of the East Building, take the new elevator up to the 3rd floor, view the introductory exhibits and then move immediately to the Main Building via the connecting corridor, so that they can view the Main Building exhibits first. Visitors will then return to the East Building via the connecting corridor, viewing the East Building exhibits as they move down the floors, and exit from the 1st floor of the East Building.

Exhibits based on four themes

The permanent exhibition will be divided into four themes: "Introduction" (3rd floor, East Building), "Truth of the Bombing" (Main Building), "Danger of Nuclear Weapons" (3rd floor, East Building) and "Hiroshima's Progress" (2nd floor, East Building), and the content of the exhibits, including the composition and materials, will change significantly. In particular, the "Truth of the Bombing" section in the Main Building is positioned as the central exhibit theme, functioning to achieve the mission of the museum.

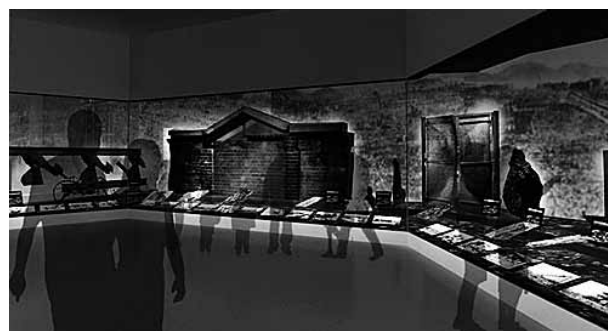
Greater focus on human damage

The museum's "Truth of the Bombing" section will convey more powerfully the inhumanity of atomic bombs, the enormous extent and devastation of the damage, as well as the suffering and sorrow of A-bomb survivors and families. This section is divided into two main zones: "Hiroshima on August 6" and "A-bomb Survivors".

The "Hiroshima on August 6" zone will show how the heat waves, blast and radiation from the atomic bomb combined in a complex way to bring about such great damage to the city and its people. To show how many lives were lost in the city

that was destroyed in an instant, the zone will include large-scale A-bomb artifacts such as broken brick walls, the clothes that the deceased were wearing, photos taken of corpses and people suffering from burns, and more. Many artifacts will be combined in this aggregate exhibit to convey an image of the devastating situation at the time.

In the "A-bomb Survivors" zone, the focus is on people. The belongings of the deceased are exhibited together with photographs of the deceased and detailed descriptions of the situation when the bomb was dropped. The exhibit also shows the thoughts of those who donated the articles on display, communicating each individual life and the sorrow of the bereaved families. This section also uses the accounts of the survivors to communicate the reality of the A-bomb damage, including the physical and mental health problems that continue up to the present day.



Aggregate exhibit "Hiroshima on August 6" in the Main Building

Large-scale information search device

Upon returning to the East Building from the Main Building, visitors will view the "Danger of Nuclear Weapons" exhibit on the 3rd floor and the "Hiroshima's Progress" exhibit on the 2nd floor. Here will be installed a new Media Table, which is a large-scale information search device allowing visitors to investigate topics they are interested in, in greater depth. The Media Table is equipped with touch panel screens, and visitors may obtain information on various topics that they would like to know about.

Grand opening in 2018

The renovation work on the East Building will commence in 2013 and continue until 2015, while the work on the Main Building is planned for 2016 and 2017. Either one of the buildings will be open for visitors during the renovation period. The grand opening for viewing of both the East Building and the Main Building is planned for 2018.

(Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Curatorial Division)

Information

Our Newsletters Are Accessible on the Internet

You can read our newsletters (Japanese version and English version) on the Internet.

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

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

HIROSHIMA PEACE CULTURE FOUNDATION

PEACE CULTURE



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