

PEACE CULTURE



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NPDI Ministerial Meeting Hiroshima



Commemorative photo with Hiroshima City preschool students, elementary students and foreign ministers

On April 11 and 12, 2014, the 8th NPDI (Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative) Ministerial Meeting was held in Hiroshima. This was the first time that the meeting has been held in Japan.

NPDI is a voluntary cross-regional group in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, made up of twelve non-nuclear-weapon states (Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, the Philippines, Poland, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates). The aim of the organization is to steadily implement the items agreed at the 2010 NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty) Review Conference, and to discuss creative policies on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

The meeting in Hiroshima this time was a rare opportunity for the citizens of Hiroshima to communicate their wishes to foreign ministers from all over the world - their wishes for the abolition of nuclear weapons and lasting world peace. Therefore various related community events were planned and included in the schedule to share the experiences of the atomic bomb survivors and their wishes for peace.

Nuclear Disarmament Symposium

On April 11, the first day of the meeting, a nuclear disarmament symposium was held. The theme of the symposium was "The inhumanity of nuclear weapons and the roles of the government and civic society to abolish nuclear weapons".

With Professor Nobumasa Akiyama of Hitotsubashi University as coordinator, representatives of national governments, A-bomb survivors, NGOs, the mayor of Hiroshima City, governor of Hiroshima Prefecture and others from various positions held a discussion on the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and the way forward to achieve their abolition.

Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui stated "Nuclear weapons are absolute evil, and the ultimate act of inhumanity. I want people to know the actual damage from the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki".



Panel discussion, Mayor Matsui speaks

Discussion session between foreign ministers and A-bomb survivors and citizens

Following on from the disarmament symposium, the Discussion Session Between Foreign Ministers and A-Bomb Survivors and Citizens was held, attended by Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Fumio Kishida, other foreign ministers, A-bomb survivors, NGO representatives, High School Peace Ambassador, the President of Mayors for Peace Hiroshima Mayor Matsui and Vice-President Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue, and others.

Mr. Sunao Tsuboi, director of Hiroshima Prefectural Confederation of A-bomb Sufferers Organization, stated "To achieve peace, we must be rational. War is absolutely wrong". He and others of various positions and generations participated in the discussion.



Participants listening to Mr. Tsuboi, director of Hiroshima Prefectural Confederation of A-Bomb Sufferers Association

Welcome reception and dinner jointly held by the Foreign Minister and NPDI Ministerial Meeting Support and Promotion Council

After the Discussion Session, a welcome reception and

dinner was held. There was a local welcome in the form of a performance of *kagura*, the music and dance form that is an old tradition in Hiroshima, and local participants enjoyed mingling with the guests from overseas.

Program to communicate the actual damage from the bombing

Prior to the main ministerial meeting on April 12, the foreign ministers from each country paid their respects and offered flowers at the Memorial Cenotaph for Atomic Bomb Victims in Peace Memorial Park. As the ministers were passing along the route to the Cenotaph, they were welcomed by local preschool children and citizens waving small flags from each country. Elementary school students from Hiroshima City schools also handed them paper cranes and peace messages written in English.

Next, Mr. Kenji Shiga, the director of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, led the ministers on a tour of the Museum. The ministers then listened to an atomic bombing testimony by an atomic bomb survivor, Ms. Keiko Ogura.

Ms. Ogura said “I don’t want children to experience the same tragedy as we did. Let’s build a peaceful world together”.



Foreign ministers listening to the atomic bomb testimony by Ms. Ogura

Through the series of events over the two days, we could reaffirm that inviting political leaders from all over the world to visit Hiroshima provides a good opportunity to share wishes for peace. The occasion also provided an opportunity to broadly communicate throughout Japan and overseas the message of abolishing nuclear weapons by 2020.

At the ministerial meeting held after these events, foreign, state ministers and other representatives from seven nations attended and discussed nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. At the end of the meeting, the Hiroshima Statement was adopted, which included a call to the world’s political leaders, including those from nuclear weapons states, to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as a proposal for multilateral negotiations for the ultimate abolition of nuclear weapons.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

New York Visit by Mayors for Peace Delegation at same time as NPT Review Conference Preparatory Committee

In conjunction with the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty) Review Conference Preparatory Committee held in New York City in April 2014, Mayors for Peace (President: Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui) sent a delegation to New York. This time, for the first time, eight high school students also travelled together with the delegation, to promote the “No More

Nuclear Weapons! Petition Campaign by Hiroshima High School Students”.

Mayor Matsui made a speech at the NGO session of the Preparatory Committee, where he spoke to the representatives of national governments about the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and the need for actions to achieve the prompt realization of a treaty banning nuclear weapons. He also submitted to Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the United Nations Secretary-General, a document calling for his leadership in starting concrete negotiations on the prompt realization of such a treaty. Mayor Matsui also attended a related event where he gave a speech, and met with representatives of national governments and asked for their further efforts toward the abolition of nuclear weapons. He also held discussions on the global situation regarding nuclear disarmament.

Mayor Matsui’s main activities were as follows:

April 27

Mayor Matsui presented flowers at Ground Zero, the site where the World Trade Center was previously located prior to the 9.11 terrorist attacks in 2001. He paid his respects to the approximately 3,000 people who lost their lives there.

April 28

Mayor Matsui gave a speech at the discussion session between the Hiroshima petition campaign high school students and the students of New York City’s Stuyvesant High School. He gave an explanation of the actual damage from the tragic bombing of Hiroshima, and helped the students to understand the heartfelt wishes of the atomic bomb survivors, who hope for the abolition of the absolute evil that is nuclear weapons, as well as the message of Hiroshima. He also encouraged the students to share their thoughts on how to build a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons, and to develop friendships with each other.

Mayor Matsui then met with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon. After handing him the request from Mayors for Peace and a list of approximately 210,000 signatures from Hiroshima citizens, he then requested that the Secretary-General make efforts to develop momentum for the immediate abolition of nuclear weapons, including the start of concrete negotiations on the prompt realization of a treaty banning nuclear weapons. He also asked that the Secretary-General visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki next year in line with the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing.

Mayor Matsui also attended the reception held by the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, attended by Ms. Angela Kane, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Roman Morey, Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee, and ambassadors from other national missions. In a speech at the reception, the high school students from the petition campaign expressed their determination to communicate to the people of the world the wishes of people in the A-bombed cities, and do what they can, as young people who will lead the next generation, to achieve a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons. They received a warm round of applause.

April 29

The Youth Forum was held by Mayors for Peace, on the theme of “Aiming for a Peaceful World Free of Nuclear Weapons”.

First Mayor Matsui gave a speech. He spoke about the current concerns about the fading memory of the A-bomb experience, and spoke of the importance of young people leading the way to communicate the A-bomb experience to the people of the world and to future generations. The mayor also encouraged the participants to lead future movements to abolish nuclear weapons and to achieve world peace. The coordinator of this Forum was Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, Chairperson of

Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation and Secretary-General of Mayors for Peace. Presentations were made by the eight high school students from the petition campaign, two university students from the Nagasaki youth delegation, and an American university student who is working as an intern in the 2020 Vision Campaign Association. They spoke about their respective peace activities, their wishes for peace, and expressed their determination for initiatives to abolish nuclear weapons.

The Forum was held at the same time as the NPT Review Conference Preparatory Committee. Even so, around 80 people attended and the venue was full, with some participants standing.

Next was the NPT Review Conference 3rd Preparatory Committee NGO session, at where Mayor Matsui and Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue gave speeches. Mayor Matsui used data to explain the tragic state of Hiroshima 69 years ago. He also spoke about the lives of the survivors after the bombing, emphasizing the inhumanity and absolute evil of nuclear weapons. The mayor also stated that, as international discussions proceed focusing on the inhumane aspect of nuclear weapons, he would work together with Mayors for Peace member cities, the United Nations and NGOs aiming for the prompt realization



Speech at the NPT Review Conference 3rd Preparatory Committee NGO Session

of a treaty banning nuclear weapons. The mayor also called for United States President Obama to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

April 30

Mayor Matsui gave a speech at a side event held by Hiroshima Prefecture. The theme of the event was “Making the Most of the Hiroshima Experience”. He explained initiatives that are based on the detailed action plan to achieve 2020 Vision, and stated that Hiroshima City and Mayors for Peace will make the utmost efforts coordinate the wishes of a wide range of civic societies crossing borders and generations toward the abolition of nuclear weapons. He also called for participants to act together for the abolition of nuclear weapons, an absolute evil.

This event was also attended by Ms. Angela Kane, the UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. In her speech, she said that she greatly values the efforts of Mayors for Peace, and emphasized the importance of activities by young people, mentioning the activities of the signing petition by high school students as a good example.

This was followed by a forum held by the NGO Peace Depot and others, on the theme “Now is the time to act for the establishment of a North-East Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone”. In his speech, Mayor Matsui said that the establishment of a nuclear weapon-free zone has an important role to play as one system for the abolishment of nuclear weapons.

Mayor Matsui also met with Mr. Jorge Lomonaco, Mexican Ambassador for Disarmament to the United Nations, as well as other national government representatives. In meeting with them, the mayor asked that they make further efforts for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and discussed the global situation regarding nuclear disarmament.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

Strengthening of Mayors for Peace Activities Visits to America and Mexico

Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, Secretary-General of Mayors for Peace, and Chairperson of this Foundation, made visits to America and Mexico in February 2014. The aims of the visits were to request that the Mayors for Peace Vice President cities assume the post of Leader Cities, to attend the Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, to strengthen ties with the United Nations, and more.

Mr. Komizo's main activities are outlined below.

Request to Mayors for Peace Vice-President Cities to become Leader Cities

Mr. Komizo made requests to the mayor of Akron City (America), the mayor of Mexico City (Mexico), and the mayor of Frogn City (Norway), who attended the Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, to assume the position of Leader Cities. The mayor of Akron City accepted, while the other two cities responded that they would consider the proposal with a view to possibly accepting.

Mr. Komizo had discussions with each of the mayors about future Mayors for Peace activities.

Attending the Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons

This conference took place in Mexico on February 13 and 14, 2014. Representatives from 146 nations attended. Mr. Komizo presented his opinion at the A-bomb testimony session at the start of the conference. After expressing his gratitude and respect for the A-bomb survivors, he stated that we have now reached the time where the people of the world must solemnly accept the message of the A-bomb survivors - the message that such a tragedy must not be inflicted on anyone ever again - a noble message that comes from their deep yet irrepressible emotions as human beings. He also said that it is the “global community” approach that will guarantee a new type of international security that can be trusted and will become the foundation for lasting world peace.

The speech was followed by a discussion between the national government representatives, NGO representatives, disarmament experts and A-bomb survivors living overseas on the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Strengthening ties with the United Nations

Mr. Komizo met with Ms. Angela Kane, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and explained the current Mayors for Peace activities. He also asked for her cooperation for the meeting between Hiroshima Mayor Matsui and the UN Secretary-General when the mayor attends the NPT Review Conference Preparatory Committee meeting at the end of April.

Ms. Kane said that she has great respect for the fact that Hiroshima and Nagasaki are proactively communicating the A-bomb experience, and said that she is satisfied with the ties of cooperation that have been developed between the United Nations and Mayors for Peace.



Mr. Komizo with Ms. Angela Kane, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

Enhancing Mayors for Peace Activities Visit to Marshall Islands

Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, the Secretary-General of Mayors for Peace, and chairperson of this Foundation, attended the official ceremony of Nuclear Victims' Remembrance Day (commonly known as Bikini Day) held in the Republic of Marshall Islands' capital Majuro City on March 1, 2014. He attended on behalf of Hiroshima Mayor Matsui.

Sixty years have passed since the hydrogen bomb tests conducted by the United States in Bikini Atoll on March 1, 1954. Mr. Komizo attended the official Bikini Day ceremony and related events, where he communicated the message of Hiroshima calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons and lasting world peace. He also met with local people who are involved in peace activities.

Mr. Komizo's main activities are described below.

February 27

Mr. Komizo paid a courtesy visit to Mr. Christopher Loeak, President of the Republic of Marshall Islands. He expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to give a speech at the Bikini Day official ceremony, and handed him a letter from Mayor Matsui. President Loeak thanked Mr. Komizo for participating in the ceremony, and spoke of the importance of communicating the damage of nuclear weapons to the young generations and to the world.



Courtesy visit to President Loeak

February 28

Mr. Komizo listened to a dialogue between Mr. Matashichi Oishi, a surviving crew member from Daigo Fukuryū Maru, the Japanese tuna fishing vessel that experienced the US hydrogen bombing on the Bikini Atoll, and residents of the Marshall Islands who survived the bombing on Rongelap Atoll.

March 1

Mr. Komizo gave a speech at the Nuclear Victims' Remembrance Day official ceremony. He stated that we should solemnly share the noble and powerful message of the survivors, and that from a humanitarian perspective we cannot allow nuclear weapons to be used ever again. He also expressed his determination to make all efforts to ensure that there are never again any *hibakusha* anywhere in the world.

The MC at the ceremony also read out a message from Mayor Matsui.

March 2

Mr. Komizo gave a lecture on achieving a world free of nuclear weapons at a workshop for young people about the Global *Hibakusha* Project, which calls for solidarity to abolish nuclear weapons by showing images of the world's *hibakusha* testimonies on the Internet.

He also visited Majuro Peace Park and the Eastern Pacific Memorial to the Victims of War, which were constructed by the Japanese government to pray for the repose of the souls of those who lost their lives in World War II, and for lasting world peace.

March 3

Mr. Komizo listened to the testimony of Mr. Jeban Riklon,

a member of the national parliament who was 2 years old when he experienced the bombing at Rongelap Atoll. He then had a discussion with Mr. Riklon, and requested that Kwajalein Atoll become a member of Mayors for Peace.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

On-Site Learning Support for Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course

The cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are asking colleges and universities around the world to establish and promote Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Courses. The aim of the course is to communicate to the young generation the message of the A-bomb survivors - a legacy common to humankind - as an academically organized and universal discipline, incorporating the survivors' wish for peace.

From March to May 2014, groups of students from Central Connecticut State University and Indianapolis University in the United States, as well as international students from Japan's International Christian University, each conducted on-site study tours in Hiroshima. Each of the universities offers the Peace Study Course.

The students from the three universities learned about the actual damage from the atomic bombing, through tours of Peace Memorial Park and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, and listening to A-bomb testimonies. They also visited the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims, where they listened to a recital of poetry based on the bombing, and tried reciting poetry themselves.

Central Connecticut State University

For two days over March 19 and 20, a group of 22 students and two teachers from Central Connecticut State University participated in on-site learning as a part of training for new students. The group listened to the A-bomb testimony of Ms. Seiko Ikeda, among other activities.



Students from America's Central Connecticut State University reciting poetry at the A-bomb poetry recital session

International Christian University (ICU)

From April 5 to 8, a group of 12 international students from International Christian University (ICU) participated in on-site learning. The international students participating were selected from countries all over the world by the Rotary Foundation, with headquarters in America, and were all students who are majoring in peace research for their master's course at ICU. This time marked the 9th time that ICU students have visited as part of this initia-



International students from International Christian University offering paper cranes at the Children's Peace Monument

tive.

In addition to listening to the A-bomb testimony by Ms. Seiko Ikeda, the students also participated in a discussion with Mr. Komizo, the chairperson of the board of this Foundation, and researchers from the Hiroshima Peace Institute, and spoke frankly about what they can each do to achieve the abolishment of nuclear weapons.

Indianapolis University

From May 10 to 14, a group of 8 students and 2 teachers from Indianapolis University participated in on-site learning as a part of Indianapolis University's Hiroshima Peace Study course which is certified



A-bomb witnesses and the group from America's Indianapolis University

as a Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course. This was the 4th time that students from this university have conducted on-site learning. The group experienced Japanese culture and learned about peace-related issues.

The group deepened their understanding of the actual damage from the bombing through various activities: they listened to an A-bomb testimony by Mr. Sadao Yamamoto and a lecture by Ms. Mari Tsuruda, emeritus principal of the Hiroshima YMCA School of Languages, on her experience in an internment camp for people of Japanese descent in America during the World War II. They also attended a lecture by Mr. Kazumi Mizumoto, Vice-President of the Hiroshima Peace Institute, and viewed the A-bombed trees at Shukkeien Garden. As a new initiative, they listened to a commentary by the Hiroshima Castle curator about the war ruins at the Hiroshima Castle grounds, including the Chugoku Military Headquarters, together with six students from Hiroshima University of Economics. They also spoke with the Hiroshima students and learned about the historical side of Hiroshima, once a military city.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

Sister and Friendship City Days Commemorative Events Hiroshima Citizens Enjoy Foreign Cultures

Hiroshima City has established Sister and Friendship City Days for each of the six overseas cities with which it has a Sister City or Friendship City relationship. The aim of the events is to have Hiroshima citizens feel a greater affinity with these cities, and develop a deeper understanding of the importance of having friendly relations. The Hiroshima Messengers, who were selected through public recruitment, acted as MC and facilitator for each event.

Daegu Day

The Daegu Day commemorative event was held from May 3-5, 2014, at the location of the Hiroshima Flower Festival. The event was organized by the 2014 Daegu Day Executive Committee.

A commemorative ceremony was held on May 3. On the stage, speeches were made by the Chairperson of the Daegu Day Executive Committee, the Mayor of Hiroshima and the Consul-General from the Korean Consulate General in Hiroshima. The President of the Daegu-Hiroshima Association also read out a message from the Mayor of Daegu Metropolitan City. In the section on culture and the arts, Ms.

Lee Bangul, President of Korean College of the Arts in Ogura, Kita-Kyushu, gave a performance of the Korean koto, known as the *gayageum*, and a fan dance, and as well as a traditional



President Lee plays the gayageum

Korean rural dance and performance known as *Samul nori*, using traditional instruments, by the Hiroshima branch of the Korean Youth Association in Japan. The audience was entranced by the performances.

A Daegu Korea *Madan* (square) was set up with various different sections, including a section with Daegu Metropolitan City tourist information, a place where people could take commemorative photos in traditional Korean dress (*chima jeogori*), a section where visitors could try writing their own name in Korean (*hangeul*) and a stall selling traditional Korean home cooking. Through three days, many people, mainly families and young women, fully enjoyed Korean culture.

During the event, there were over 9,000 visitors and the event was a great success.

Hanover Day

The Hanover Day commemorative event was held on May 25, 2014, at Hiroshima City International House. It was organized by the 2014 Hanover Day Executive Committee.

The event included a tea ceremony experience in the style of Ueda Soko, who had a strong connection with Hanover, tasting of sausages made using the authentic German method and German bread, tasting of *baumkuchen* cake, a demonstration of German cake-making, *Luettje Lage* (a drinking method peculiar to Hanover, where two different alcoholic drinks are poured into two small glasses and then drunk in one gulp), and more.



Tasting of German cuisine

In the hall

after the ceremony, Kai Watanabe, who was born in Germany, provided an introduction of the town of Hanover, and Mr. Koki Inai, President of the Hiroshima-Hanover Friendship Association, gave a report on exchange activities in Hanover. This was followed by the German Music Concert, where three groups of professional musicians gave a wonderful performance of mainly music with connections to Germany. Finally, the event ended with all participants joining in a chorus of "Wild Rose".

In the section introducing Hanover and Germany, a 7-seater bicycle from Hanover, the "conference bike", was on display. There were also panel displays showing the history of exchange activities between Hiroshima City and Hanover City, a craft class teaching how to make paper models of Hanover trains, and a German picture book reading session. Each section was busy with many visitors.

There were approximately 320 visitors to the event over all, which helped people deepen their understanding of Hanover and Germany in a fun way through a varied program.

(International Relations and Cooperation Division)

69th Peace Memorial Ceremony

- Each one of us will help determine the future of the human family -



Mayor Matsui making the Peace Declaration

On August 6, 2014, for the 69th time since the atomic bombing, Hiroshima City held the Peace Memorial Ceremony in the city's Peace Memorial Park. The ceremony was held in rainy conditions for the first time in 43 years. Approximately 45,000 bereaved families and others attended and prayed for the souls of the deceased and for eternal peace.

The ceremony commenced at 8am. First, Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui and two representatives of bereaved families dedicated two volumes of Register of the Names of the Fallen Atomic Bomb Victims to the shrine in the Memorial Cenotaph for the Atomic Bomb Victims. In the two volumes were recorded the names of the 5,507 atomic bomb victims who have passed away over the past year. This brings the number of those registered to 292,325 people, in a total of 107 volumes.

This was followed by a speech by Mr. Noriaki Usui, Chairperson of the Hiroshima City Council, and a dedication of flowers by various representatives. At 8:15, the time when the bomb was dropped, Mr. Kaduki Kato, representing the bereaved families, and Ui Okano, a children's representative, rang the Peace Bell, and all participants observed a minute of silence.

Mayor Matsui then read out the Peace Declaration. He said "To avoid forgetting that sacred sacrifice and to prevent a repetition of that tragedy, please listen to the voices of the survivors". Presenting some of the atomic bombing experiences and wishes for peace that he has heard from the survivors, he firmly stated "To make sure the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki never happen a third time, let's all communicate, think and act together with the *hibakusha* for a peaceful world without nuclear weapons and without war".

The mayor also called on the world's policy makers to visit the areas that were bombed and see the truth of the bombing for themselves, and to work to build a new security system based on trust and dialogue. Addressing the national government of Japan, he said that at this time when the security situation is particularly severe, Japan must continue to be a nation of peace both in word and in deed, enhance support measures for *hibakusha* and others suffering from the effect of radiation, and expand the "black rain areas".

After the Peace Declaration, the children's representatives Yuichiro Muta and Reiko Tamura read out the Commitment to Peace, saying "We are waiting for all of you here in this city. Let's all talk and share opinions about peace, about the future, Believing that many different thoughts will become a powerful driving force for peace".

In his speech, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said that he is directly calling on the heads of the relevant nations to ratify

the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and ensure its early entry into force. He also stated that he will work to make further progress on initiatives to realize a "world free of nuclear weapons" leading up to next year, which is the milestone year of the 70th year since the atomic bombing and also the year when the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) will be convened.

Representatives of bereaved families from 41 prefectures attended the ceremony, as well as Mr. Hidehiko Yuzaki, the Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture, Ms. Angela Kane, the United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and ambassadors and representatives from the European Union (EU) and 68 nations, including nuclear states such as America, the United Kingdom, France and Russia.

The ceremony was relayed live on the Internet. The full texts of the Peace Declaration is available in ten languages (Japanese, Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Korean, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish) on the Hiroshima City home page (<http://www.city.hiroshima.lg.jp/>) under "The Atomic Bomb and Peace" >> "Peace Declaration, Protest Letters, etc".

(General Affairs Division)

Memoir of the A-bombing:

1st and 2nd year students at Hiroshima Second Middle School - A difference of life or death



by Sadao Yamamoto

Atomic Bomb Witness
for This Foundation

That fateful day of Hiroshima Second Middle School

When the bomb was dropped, I was 14 years old, a 2nd year student at Hiroshima Second Middle School. At that time, all the 3rd year students and older students had been mobilized and were working at munitions plants and other places, and only 1st and 2nd year students were left in the school.

Even though it was the summer holidays, those 1st and 2nd year students were taking turns going to class at school (to make up for lost classes) and going to building demolition work. Building demolition work refers to pulling down buildings in the central area of the city, to create a fire preventive belt in case of air raids.

Students from all junior high schools and girls' schools in the city area were called up to participate in building demolition work. The place that our school was asked to go to was the banks of Honkawa River, just 500m from the hypocenter. It was there that 1st and 2nd year students from my school took turns to do building demolition work. On that fateful day, August 6, it was the 1st year students who went.

1st and 2nd year students, a difference of life or death

The 2nd year students, myself included, were to go to school on the 6th. However, when we had finished the demolition work on the previous day, we were told by the teacher not to go to school the next day, but rather to gather at the Eastern Drill Ground to weed the school's sweet-potato field. So that is where we went.

The place that the 1st year students went was 500m from

the hypocenter, while we the 2nd year students were at the Eastern Drill Ground, 2.5km from the hypocenter. This difference was the difference between life and death. The 322 1st year students and the 4 teachers with them all perished. The 2nd year students who had gathered at the Eastern Drill Ground had some burns on their faces and bodies, but I did not hear of anyone who died as a direct result of the bombing.

In actual fact, if 2nd year students had gone to school that day, 8:15 was the time when I was walking through the middle of the city on the way to school, and I would surely have died. I was saved because we gathered at the Eastern Drill Ground that day.

Eastern Drill Ground at the time of the bombing

I think that the teacher at the Eastern Drill Ground had just called us 2nd year students to gather together, but it was right at that time that three B-29 heavy bombers came flying overhead from the south. But since the air-raid alert had been lifted and there had been few planes flying over, we all looked up thinking that it must be some kind of reconnaissance. Those planes suddenly turned around and flew away, which we thought was strange. It was at that moment that there was a huge booming sound and at the same time a forceful blast that blew us away. When I regained consciousness and stood up, huge brilliant pink flames were billowing up with a monstrous force right in the direction of Hiroshima Station.

I was certain that Hiroshima Station had been bombed, and thinking that another bomb would be dropped, I fled with a number of my friends to Onaga Tenmangu Shrine, which was located on a nearby mountain. I had burns on one side of my face. I had my burns treated with tempura oil at the shrine, and then fled into the valley behind the shrine. Tempura oil was used at the time as first-aid treatment for burns.

I hid there until around 3 or 4 in the afternoon. After checking that the fires in the city had died down a little, I returned home. The inside of my house was a mess as a result of the bomb's blast, but thankfully all my family members, both those who were in the house and those who were out, survived. My father was particularly fortunate. He was in a building around 700m from the hypocenter when the bomb was dropped, but luckily was on the other side of a thick concrete wall and was not even injured. He was one of the few survivors in that building.

Tragedy of the 1st year students of Hiroshima Second Middle School and Requiem for Them

The 1st year students were in a location that was close to the hypocenter. They were almost directly below the atomic bomb that exploded approximately 600m overhead, and for a long time I believed that they had all met a violent end in that place.

However, in 1969 there was a drama series called "*Ishibumi* (Stone Monument)" aired on TV. It was the story of the 1st year students of Hiroshima



Ishibumi, A Book Recording the Fate of Hiroshima Second Middle School 1st Year Students (Edited by Hiroshima Telecasting Co., Ltd., Published by POPLAR Publishing Co., Ltd.)

Second Middle School, and when I watched it I was surprised. The depiction of the students in the drama was unbelievable. Together with the TV drama series, a book called "*Ishibumi*" was also published, and described them in great detail. According to the book, while around one-third of the 1st year students did fall on that spot, each of the other students were named and described in detail – children who, although seriously burned, tried desperately to get home, driven by the thought of seeing their mother or going home again; children who tried to get back to the school with their teachers; children who lined up on stone steps with their friends and died; children who fled to the river, formed a circle with their friends and encouraged each other by singing war songs. Thinking of them filled me with emotion.

On October 2 in the following year, 1970, the male chorus for which I was the conductor performed "*Requiem Ishibumi*" at Hiroshima Public Hall (a building that was where the current International Conference Center Hiroshima is located). It is a requiem to the 1st year students of Hiroshima Second Middle School. When I opened the back door of the Public Hall, I could see the Hiroshima Second Middle School memorial monument. We dedicated the encore to the children of the memorial monument. This is something I will never forget.

We must abolish nuclear weapons and achieve world peace to ensure that this kind of tragic history is never repeated. I too will continue to do my best through atomic bombing testimonials and other activities.

Profile

Sadao Yamamoto

Born in June 1931. When the bomb was dropped, was in the Eastern Drill Ground 2.5km from the hypocenter, a 14-year-old 2nd year student at Hiroshima Second Middle School. Worked many years in a company, participating in a male chorus in his spare time. Conducted the first performance of "*Ishibumi – Requiem for a Male Chorus*" on October 2, 1970, in memory of the 1st year students at Hiroshima Second Middle School, which was completely destroyed in the bombing - the performance is an unforgettable memory even today.

Memorial for the Atomic Bomb Victims of Nagasaki

On August 9, 2014, the day that the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, this Foundation holds the Memorial for the Atomic Bomb Victims of Nagasaki. The event is held so that the people of Hiroshima, bombed like Nagasaki, can send their condolences for the victims of the bombing of Nagasaki, and renew their pledge to achieve peace.

Memorial 2014 was held in the 1st floor lobby of the East Building of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. Approximately fifty people attended, including atomic bomb survivors and visitors to the museum from Japan and overseas.

Firstly, Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, the Chairperson of this Foundation, opened the ceremony with a speech. A live television relay of Nagasaki Peace Ceremony was then shown. At 11:02, the time when the bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, all participants observed a minute of silence.

Mr. Yukio Yoshioka, the secretary-general of the Hiroshima Alliance of A-bomb Survivor Organizations, then gave a speech, and the ceremony concluded with a video of Ms. Sumiko Takano (A-bomb witness), who gave her testimonial of the bombing of Nagasaki.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

Memoir of the A-bombing:

Surviving Hiroshima as a Korean Resident in Japan



by **Park Namjoo**

Atomic Bomb Witness
for This Foundation

Student mobilization and life during wartime as a subject of Japan

My parents came from Korea to Japan during the war. They lived relatively well, and I went on from elementary school to a girls' school. The Pacific War broke out when I was in elementary school, and when I was at the girls' school, students were mobilized to grow vegetables, and demolish buildings (pulling down buildings so that fires would not spread), and as a result there was little time to study. Pencils and the like were rationed out, but all we could think was that we wanted to do our best to help Japan win.

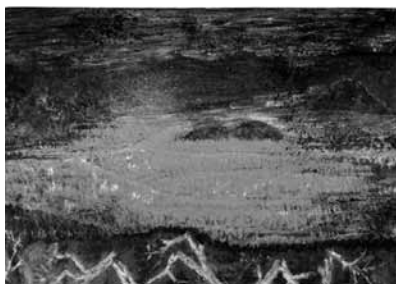
8/6, that fateful day

I was going to a girls' school, but on August 6 I happened to have a slight injury and stayed home from school. I was on a streetcar with my younger brother and sister traveling from Fukushima Town.

At around 1.9km from the hypocenter, I heard a faint boom of the B29 heavy bomber, and at the same time a great flash of light and sound, and a huge ball of flame enveloped the streetcar. Uninjured, I jumped off and the next thing I knew I was grabbing my brother's and sister's hands. We walked past people bleeding from various parts of their bodies as we headed for home. When we climbed the banks of the river, the city of Hiroshima had truly disappeared. Many people were fleeing from the central part of the city, and it was unspeakable, a horrifying sight. My parents had been in Fukushima Town when the bomb was dropped, but they returned home in one piece.

After a while, black rain like oil started falling. We ran through the rain to the mountain in Koi together with our neighbors. Once night fell, we could see the city of Hiroshima burning bright red, as if it would scorch the sky. Some of our neighbors were mobilized as students on August 6, and not one of them came home alive.

The next morning, the surrounding area was so horrible that even the term "disastrous scene" does not describe it. The wounds of living people were filled with maggots, and people were cremating the corpses of people whose whole bodies were swollen up and whose eyeballs were popping out. Children were helping. The wound on my head started festering and became sticky, but I do not remember any pain. The only thing I clearly recall is a fear that maggots would come.



"A-bomb drawings by survivors" by Giso Shimomura
Seen from the hills of Koi, Hiroshima was a burning, burning hell of flames. Approx. 3km from the hypocenter (August 6, 1945, night)

Struggling to survive after the war

When I heard that the war was over, I was so happy that

there would be no more air raids by those horrible B29 planes. After the war, for some reason my father stopped working, saying that he felt sluggish, and so the rest of the family did any work we could to make ends meet. I learned later that my father had liver cancer.

Encouraged by the next generation - sending a message to the future

The reason that I started atomic bombing testimony activities was that in May 2002, I was approached, coincidentally, by three elementary school students from Osaka, and I spoke to them about my experiences. Those children made a presentation about my story at parents' day at the school, and sent me a thank you note, telling me that when they gave their presentation there were some mothers who shed tears.

Every time I speak about my experiences I tell the children, "Although I have been bullied because I am Korean, I have received much more kindness and affection than cruel words, and that has helped me to forget the bullying and hatred. Kindness and affection are truly much more important than bullying". The atomic bomb kills people before they have a chance to call out for help. War means people killing each other, so whether you win or lose, many people die, many people are injured. This is why there must be no war, and no use of nuclear weapons. I want to communicate this to the next generation.

Profile

Park Namjoo

Born in Hiroshima City in 1932. Parents came to Japan from Jinju city, South Gyeongsang Province, South Korea. Was riding in a streetcar 1900m from the hypocenter with two siblings when the bomb was dropped. Has continued with atomic bombing testimony activities since 2003. From 2005, involved for three years in Japan-Korea exchange and peace activities as the chairperson of the Hiroshima Branch Women's Association of Mindan (Korean Residents Union in Japan).

Start of Renovations of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

Preparations have been under way at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum to preserve the aging main building and to completely update the permanent exhibition. The aim of the update is to ensure that the truth of the atomic bombing can be clearly and accurately communicated to the public, of which the majority now has no experience of war.

Renovations to the East Building commenced in March 2014, starting with the 1st floor basement. An escalator will be newly installed and the office that had been on the 3rd floor was relocated to the 1st floor basement, so that the 3rd floor can be used as an exhibition room.

Work on exhibition rooms from the 1st floor to the 3rd floor commenced on September 1, 2014. While the exhibition rooms in the East Building are closed during the construction work, temporary exhibitions showing the same content as the East Building exhibitions are being shown in the Main Building. The updated East Building exhibitions will be opened in 2016.

Work on the Main Building will take place in 2016 - 2017, after the renewal of the East Building is complete. The grand opening of both the East and the Main Buildings is planned for 2018.

(Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Curatorial Division)

The Inhumanity of Nuclear Weapons – From Medical Evidence



by **Nanao Kamada**
Director, Hiroshima A-Bomb
Survivors' Relief Foundation

Introduction

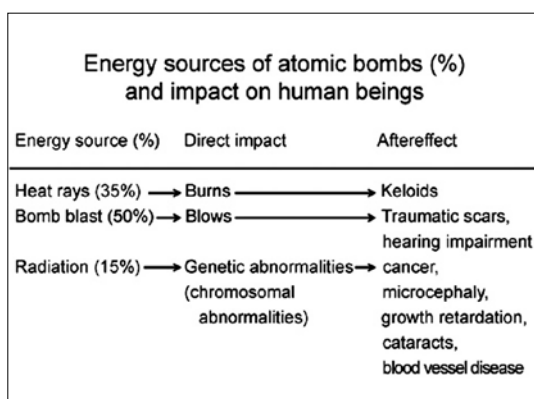
The Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons was held for the first time in Norway in March 2013, and for the second time in Mexico in February 2014. In 2011, the International Federation of the Red Cross in Geneva raised the issue and initiated discussion on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. I am sure that the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki feel that this is all coming too late, but from the viewpoint of people in other places in the world, although they might have heard of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, they do not really know what happened there, and in particular, do not know much about the inhumanity of nuclear weapons.

In this article, I would like to discuss the fact that nuclear weapons are inhuman from the perspective of the medical evidence, and then look at the inhumanity of nuclear weapons that is demonstrated through the lives of each individual atomic bomb survivor.

1. Types of disease differ according to the atomic bomb energy source

Fig.1 shows atomic bomb energy sources and their effect on human beings. Fifty percent of the energy from the atomic bomb was emitted by the bomb's blast, and immediately after the bomb was dropped, causing direct damage such as blows and lacerations. Thirty-five percent of the bomb's energy is emitted as heat rays, which produce Keloids as an aftereffect. The remaining 15% of the energy is emitted as radiation. Radiation caused genetic damage, with aftereffects such as cancer, microcephaly, growth retardation, cataracts and blood vessel disease.

(Fig.1)



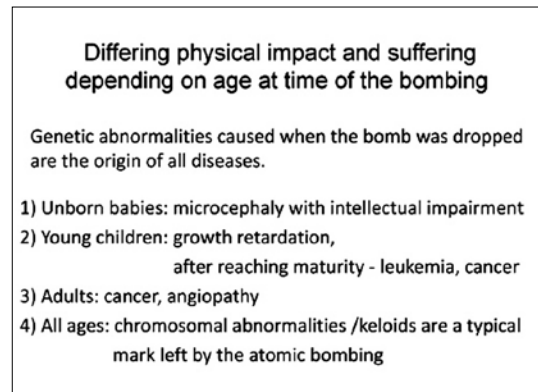
On March 10, 1945, Tokyo was the subject of a massive air raid, and in the same way as Hiroshima, over 100,000 people lost their lives. However, because the atomic bomb carried radiation, survivors continued to suffer and struggle both physically and emotionally 10, 50 and even 60 years later. This is the source of the inhumanity of nuclear weapons.

2. Differing physical impact and suffering depending on age at time of bombing

The physical suffering and state of one's life after the bombing differ depending on the life stage of that person at the

time of the bombing (Fig.2).

(Fig.2)

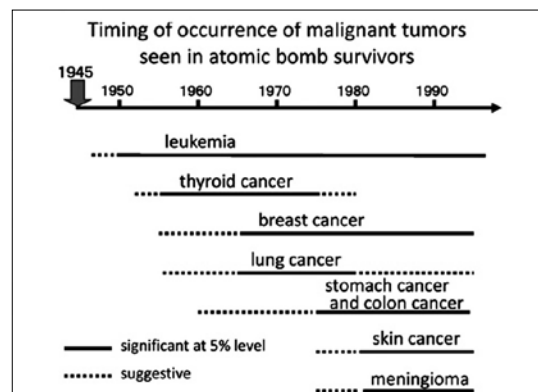


Unborn babies at time of bombing: Impact of the bombing appears as microcephaly accompanied by intellectual impairment. In Hiroshima there were 48 people and in Nagasaki there were 17 people, for a total of 65 people, with microcephaly and intellectual impairment. As of February 2014, there are 10 people with this condition still living in Hiroshima City. Their guardians have all passed away. There are approximately 7,000 people who were unborn babies at the time of the bombing and are not showing any symptoms, 2,600 of whom live in Hiroshima.

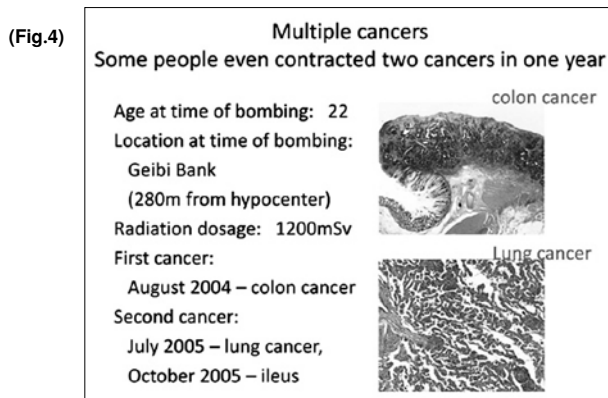
Young children at time of bombing: People who were exposed to a significant amount of radiation had stunted growth of their height and weight for a period after the bombing, resulting in low height and weight. There were also many cases of leukemia soon after the bombing. Further, it is thought that the occurrence of cancer (including multiple cancers) increases as people age.

Adults at the time of the bombing: Many cases of cancer and blood vessel disease. Fig.3 shows the period where there were many cases of cancer occurring, following on from leukemia. The dotted line indicates where there is likely to be (suggestive) statistical significance, while the solid line shows the period where statistical significance has been recognized. Following on from thyroid cancer, breast cancer, lung cancer, stomach cancer and colon cancer, there was also an increase in skin cancer and meningioma (a type of brain tumor). From around 1995, the number of survivors suffering from their second cancer started to increase. As Fig.4 shows, 59 years after the bombing there were many survivors who had been exposed to high levels of radiation who were suffering from multiple cancers: first colon cancer and then lung cancer in the follow-

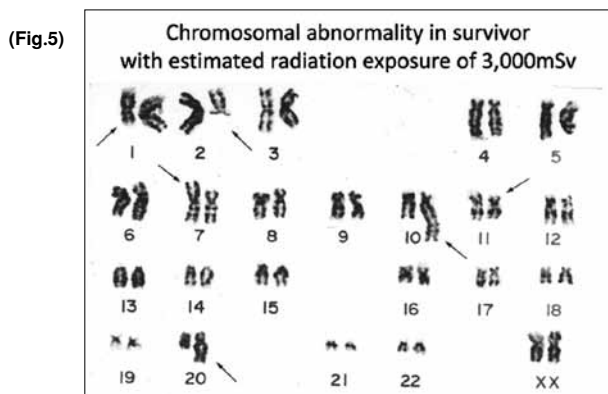
(Fig.3)



ing year.



All ages: Chromosomal abnormalities and Keloids appeared as a mark of exposure to the bomb. Survivors' lymphocytes are cultivated for two days, and mitosis of at least 100 cells is analyzed to calculate the chromosomal abnormality ratio. From the chromosomal abnormality ratio, we can estimate the radiation dosage at the time of the bombing. Chromosomal abnormalities are more apparent the closer the subject was to the hypocenter at the time of the bombing. Fig.5 shows the chromosomal abnormalities seen in a person who was at the Bank of Japan Hiroshima Branch at the time of the bombing. In this example, the radiation dosage is estimated at 3,000mSv. As chromosomal abnormalities continue over a long period of time, the abnormalities can still be confirmed 30 or even 50 years after the bombing. It was possible to prove that there were chromosomal abnormalities from the lymphocytes (T cells, B cells), bone marrow cells, and skin cells where there were Keloids. The important thing is that there was damage from radiation in the stem cells of all tissues, and that these were passed on to the daughter cells after cell division. The issue when Keloids appear as an aftereffect is that they lead to contracture in the arm and leg joints, causing impairment of normal motor functions. Moreover, when Keloids occur on the exposed sections of arms or legs there is a great emotional burden on the person affected. The surgeons at the time worked very hard to help survivors recover their motor functions and appearance.



3. Emotional suffering

The following four points may be made concerning the emotional suffering of atomic bomb survivors:

1. Feelings of regret and guilt: Feelings of guilt arising from an awareness that they survived leaving behind students and relatives who needed help. Regret that they were not able to help people at the time – even though, naturally, they themselves were also suffering from the effects of the bomb and were not in a position to help people. These feelings gradually changed to a wish to apologize to and atone for those who lost

their lives.

2. Endless anxiety: Watching people die of radiation sickness, a sense of anxiety that they too will eventually meet the same fate.

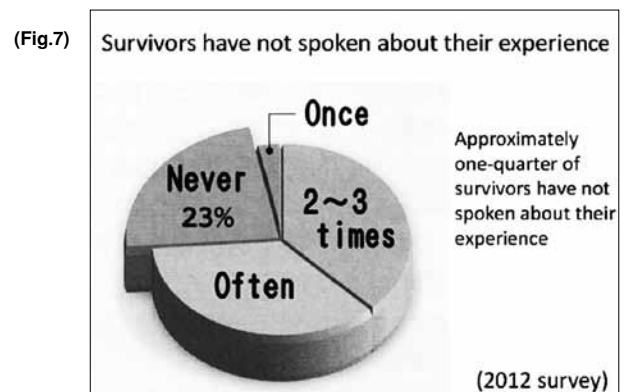
3. Escape from “that scene”: People who witnessed scenes from hell feel that they never want to experience the same thing again. This feeling leads them to build a wall around their emotions. Trying to protect this wall, they refuse strong light such as lightning and loud noises.

4. Feelings of respect and reverence for the dead: Feeling that it could have been themselves that died, survivors see those who lost their lives as people who died on their behalf, and hold respect and reverence for the victims of the bomb. They strongly feel that mourning the dead fervently is the least they can do to atone.

Hiroshima City and NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) asked for survivors to send in their “memorable scenes” from the bombing. The first time the call went out, which was 30 years after the bombing, 2,225 pictures were sent in. The second time was 57 years after the bombing, and 1,338 pictures were collected (Fig.6). For example, the picture on the left shows many people getting into water pool as fires approached, and there are dead people outside the water. This image must have remained in the memory of the person who drew it. The picture on the right depicts a scene where soldiers in a boat are pulling up people who have died. All the corpses floating in the water are facing upward because of putrefaction gas.



Fig.7 shows the results of a survey conducted for approximately 900 people in a region in the Hiroshima Prefecture in November 2012. In the survey, 77% of the survivors responded that they had spoken to their children about their experience of the bombing at least once. On the other hand, the number of survivors who said that they had never spoken of their experience was as high as 23%. The reasons given included - they had continued to keep their experience a secret, they did not want to talk about it, or they did not want to remember it.



4. Social suffering

Many atomic bomb survivors lost all their property in the bombing, and became poor. Suddenly, they lost their families, became orphans, and then became solitary elderly people. Because the survivors are frail, it was difficult for them to obtain work. For a certain period in the past, companies stopped hiring survivors. The reason was that survivors need to take numerous days off, and this affects their work. It was then that municipalities started hiring survivors who could perform a certain level of work. The daily wage at the time was 240 yen, so these workers were called “*Nikoyon*” (means two 100 yen coins and four 10 yen coins). Municipalities continued unemployment relief projects such as building riverbanks, preparing soil, and tidying up parks.

In the 2012 survey of the living situation of the survivors, it was found that one-quarter live alone, and combined with those living only with their spouse accounted for 75%. Recently the number of elderly couples living alone as a couple who are not atomic bomb survivors is also increasing. However, even combined with those living alone it only accounts for 50%, which is not as high as the ratio seen amongst atomic bomb survivors.

5. Inhumanity of the atomic bomb as seen in people's lives

Thus far I have reported systematically on the damage suffered by atomic bomb survivors. From here, I will discuss the inhumanity of nuclear weapons as seen throughout the lives of the survivors.

1. The life of Mr. H.O. after the bombing (Fig.8)

H.O. was 8 years old and in the basement of his elementary school 460m from the hypocenter when the bomb was dropped. He miraculously survived. A chromosomal analysis estimated the amount of radiation he was exposed to at 1,960mSv. Six of his nine family members died in the bombing. He was handed around among his relatives, and then enrolled at Hiroshima Prefectural War Orphans Foster Home Ninoshima Gakuen as an atomic bombing orphan. After graduation, he made his living as a cleaner, and finally got married. However, in 1991 he received operations twice for stomach cancer, and had his whole stomach removed. As the esophagus and bowel are directly connected, he continued to suffer from reflux esophagitis and anemia. His eldest son died in a traffic accident in 1998. In 2001, his first grandchild (his second son's eldest daughter) contracted leukemia. However, his second son did not tell his father (H.O.) about his eldest daughter's (H.O.'s grandchild) illness. The reason he did not tell him is that he thought that his father might think that the reason his grandchild was sick was because he was an atomic bomb survivor, and he did not want him to suffer. H.O. wanted to know about his granddaughter's illness, but decided not to ask his son about it. Father and son were both trying to protect one another, and both experienced emotional conflict over the situation. The granddaughter received a bone marrow transplant but

(Fig.8)

Inhumanity of the atomic bomb as seen in people's lives - 1		
<u>The life of Mr. H.O. (8 years old at the time of the bombing)</u>		
Location at time of bombing: Underground, 460m from the hypocenter		
Radiation dosage: 1,960mSv		
<u>Life history</u>	<u>Medical history</u>	
1946	6 members of the family died after the bombing, became an atomic bombing orphan.	
1947	Enrolled at Ninomiya Gakuen.	
1957	Employed as cleaner.	
1967	Married.	1991 Stomach cancer.
1998	Eldest son dies.	
2001	First grandchild died of leukemia.	2005 Interstitial pneumonia.
		2007 Suicide.

passed away. After that, in 2005 H.O. contracted interstitial pneumonia. It is not clear whether or not the large amount of radiation he had been exposed to was the cause, but his condition did not improve despite regular doses of antitussive drugs and steroids, and he suffered. In 2007, at home, he took his own life.

2. The life of Mr. A.I. after the bombing (Fig.9)

A.I. was 17 years old and in a streetcar 730m from the hypocenter together with his older brother when the bomb was dropped. His brother died one week after the bombing. The radiation dosage estimated by a chromosomal analysis was 2,650mSv. Of six family members, two died from causes related to the bomb.

A.I. contracted atomic bomb cataracts in 1971. In 1997, he contracted cancer of the larynx, and recovered a year and half later through radiation therapy. In 2002, skin cancer appeared on his right shoulder. The following year, he contracted really bad dermatomyositis. A.I. contracted aspiration pneumonia in 2003 and passed away at the age of 75.

A.I. said “The people of the world might know the name ‘Hiroshima’, but they don’t know what happened there”. He strongly felt that he should tell the world about the reality of the damage from the atomic bombing.

(Fig.9)

Inhumanity of the atomic bomb as seen in people's lives - 2		
<u>The life of Mr. A.I. (17 years old at the time of the bombing)</u>		
Location at time of bombing: In a streetcar 730m from the hypocenter		
Radiation dosage: 2,650mSv		
<u>Life history</u>	<u>Medical history</u>	
1945	2 family members die in the bombing.	
1946	Employed as junior high school teacher.	
1951	Married.	1971 Atomic bomb cataracts.
1973	Plaintiff in radiation sickness case.	
1983	Commences assemblyman activities.	1997 Cancer of the larynx.
		2002 Skin cancer.
		2003 Dies from aspiration pneumonia.

3. The life of Ms. K.I. after the bombing (Fig.10)

K.I. was 11 years old and in the first floor of the elementary school building 410m from the hypocenter at the time of the bombing. She miraculously survived. A chromosomal analysis estimated her radiation dosage at 4,830mSv. Of the four members of her family, she was the only one to survive.

After the bombing she became an atomic bomb orphan, and for a period after that worked as a live-in employee. She married in 1953 at the age of 19, and fell pregnant a number of times but had repeated premature deliveries and miscarriages. She was divorced in 1965, and remarried in 1966. She went through bankruptcy in 1997. Her husband had become the guarantor of a friend's debt, was under pressure to repay the debt, became unable to live even in public housing, and ended up living in their car. The couple was later able to rebuild their lives with support from the Christian church.

In terms of medical history, we know that when she underwent a detailed examination in 1973, K.I. had impaired hearing and atomic bomb cataracts. She had an operation for thyroid cancer in 1985, and also contracted restrictive lung disorder. In 1996 she had an operation for colon cancer, in 2001 an operation for meningioma, and in 2008 contracted two small tumors of neuron sheath (Schwannoma). Because of the neurilemma, K.I. suffered continued stinging pain similar to shingles, requiring medication. This situation remains unchanged current at April 2014.

The atomic bombing caused great chaos to the survivors' daily living as well as their health. It is clear that the bombing con-

(Fig.10) Inhumanity of the atomic bomb as seen in people's lives - 3

The life of Ms. K.I. (11 years old at the time of the bombing)			
Location at time of bombing: In school building 410m from hypocenter			
Radiation dosage: 4,830mSv			
Life history		Medical history	
1945	3 family members die in the bombing.		
1946	Atomic bombing orphan.		
1953	Married.		
1965	Divorced.		
1966	Remarried	1973	Atomic bomb cataracts.
		1985	Thyroid cancer.
		1996	Colon cancer.
		2001	Meningioma.
1997	Bankruptcy.	2008	Two small tumors of neuron sheath (Schwannoma).

tinues to inflict constant suffering. I would like to emphasize there that the cases described above are only three of the many cases of the atomic bomb survivors who are suffering.

6. Encouraging words from survivors

After graduating from medical school in 1962, I was employed at the newly-established "Department of Internal Medicine for Survivors" of Research Institute for Nuclear Medicine and Biology, and have spent the 52 years since then together with atomic bomb survivors. In conversations with the survivors, there were hints for scientific research and leads for the further development of the research. Here I would like to present some of the elements that can be found in casual remarks made by the survivors, reflecting a crystallization of that person's suffering, the emotional strength that helped them to overcome their hardships, and the way they lived their lives (Fig.11).

(Fig.11)

A-bomb survivors say:
* It's hard to live all by myself. (She has lived all alone since the atomic bombing.)
* If I have a positive way of thinking, I can be happy. (This person has experienced poverty and two cancers.)
* I try to overcome my hardship. (This person has suffered burns to the face and three cancers.)
* It is important for us to show compassion to others. (This person experienced both the atomic bombing and the Kobe Earthquake.)
The atomic bombing survivors have no words of hatred.

The person who made the comment "Life without a husband is hard" was a woman who continued to live alone after losing her husband in the atomic bombing. These are extremely serious words, reflecting just one part of the suffering that this woman had experienced up to that point, and incorporating various emotions.

The person who said "People can achieve happiness by thinking positively" was a woman who had experienced poverty and overcome two cancers. She did not say anything about what kind of life she had led in the ten years after the bombing. She had remarried. Six years ago, she came to visit me at Kurakake Nozomi-en Atomic Bombing Nursing Home with her two daughters. It was then that I immediately knew the reason why she had not spoken about a part of her life. The face of her eldest daughter was not a Japanese face. Currently

she also has a grandchild, and is living very well. Recently, she sent me a letter with a haiku, saying "I guess I'm an eighty-year-old who's crawled through a quagmire to get this far". This person has a very positive outlook.

The person who said "I live on through the hardships" is a woman who had Keloids all over her face. She was over forty when she got married, and has one child. She has lived through three cancers, and states firmly "I will survive".

The person who said "It is important to have a kind heart" was a man who experienced both the atomic bombing and the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake (Kobe Earthquake). At the time of that earthquake, he was the head of the Chamber of Commerce. After the earthquake he worked hard to achieve recovery, looking after people at the same time. Two years later he collapsed from overwork, and now requires kidney dialysis.

Atomic bombing survivors clearly state that happiness can be achieved through positive thinking. Non-Japanese people probably think that the survivors must talk about resentment and bitterness, or that they must be demanding that the United States that dropped the bomb apologize for its actions, but that is not the case. Thinking about the hardships that one has experienced in a positive way leads to feelings of kindness toward the people around one. It is we, who did not experience the bombing, who are encouraged to be stronger by their words. The survivors truly teach us so much.

In conclusion

This article is a written summary of a speech that I gave at an event held by an NPO the day before the 8th NPDI (Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative) Ministerial Meeting on April 12, 2014. We must not forget that the record of no use of nuclear weapons for 69 years has been achieved with huge sacrifices and constructive efforts made by the survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

(Article contributed June 20, 2014)

Profile

Nanao Kamada, M.D

Born 1937. Doctor of medicine. Professor emeritus at Hiroshima University. Honorary member of Japan Radiation Research Association, member of Hiroshima Prefecture Cancer Prevention Promotion Council, director of the Japan chapter of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW). Winner of the Chugoku Cultural Award, Takashi Nagai Peace Award, and the Japan Cancer Society Award. Assumed current post in April 2001. Works include: *Hiroshima no obaachan* ("One Day in Hiroshima: An Oral History").

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HIROSHIMA PEACE CULTURE FOUNDATION

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

Phone. 81-82-241-5246

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

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

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