

# PEACE CULTURE



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## United Nations Conference to Negotiate a Nuclear-Weapons Ban Treaty

On December 23 last year, the United Nations General Assembly adopted by a majority vote a resolution to hold a conferences in March and June/July to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their elimination. The legal prohibition of nuclear weapons could become an important turning point in creating a nuclear weapon-free world, and there are expectations that this would become the first step towards realizing the fervent wishes of the *hibakusha*.

### Request for all United Nations member states to participate



President Matsui (Mayor of Hiroshima) of Mayors for Peace issued an open letter immediately after the resolution was passed, calling for all states, including nuclear weapons states and those under the nuclear umbrella, to proactively participate in the negotiating conference, and to earnestly address the establishment

of a nuclear weapons ban treaty. He also asked that Mayors for Peace member cities to broadly publicize his message.

### OPEN LETTER FROM MAYORS FOR PEACE (excerpt)

(December 24, 2016)

In so voting, the global majority finally acted on the fervent wish of the atomic bomb survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (*hibakusha*), that no one else should ever suffer as they have. Mayors for Peace, a nonpartisan or-

ganization representing one billion people, wholeheartedly welcomes this landmark vote and calls on all states to participate constructively and in good faith in the 2017 negotiations.

Today, more than 15,000 nuclear weapons, most an order of magnitude more powerful than the bombs that devastated Hiroshima and Nagasaki, over 90% of them held by the United States and Russia, continue to pose an intolerable threat to cities and humanity. With nuclear-armed countries edging ever closer to direct military confrontation in conflict zones around the world, former U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry has warned: "The probability of a nuclear calamity is higher today, I believe, than it was during the cold war."

In this increasingly volatile environment, the illusion of international security still depends on the threatened use of nuclear weapons as prescribed by the doctrine of "nuclear deterrence" – a notion based on mutual distrust and the unspeakable horror the term implies. But nuclear deterrence offers no effective solution to the global security challenges we face. Nuclear weapons are useless both in preventing and responding to terrorism. Their very existence brings new risks of use each day.

In this time of global upheaval and uncertainty, we are witnessing a growing trend towards exclusivity and conservatism, in terms of both economics and diplomacy. Precisely for this reason, all states must redouble their efforts to transcend differences and overcome obstacles through persistent dialogue and cooperation, which are key to creating common values. This applies especially to the nuclear disarmament process. While most of the nuclear-armed states and states under their

### Aiming for 10,000 member cities by 2020

Mayor T.M. Franklin Cownie of Des Moines, Iowa, a Lead City of Mayors for Peace, addressed the US Conference of Mayors (USCM) in January of this year, calling for US cities to work together (excerpt):

"How can we elevate and leverage the USCM's principled consistent position on nuclear disarmament to bring the United States to the negotiating table and redirect military spending to meet human needs?"

"I invite you join me and 7,204 other members of Mayors for Peace in 162 countries, and help us reach our goal of 10,000 members by 2020. I encourage you to act in your city to raise public awareness of the humanitarian impacts and financial costs of nuclear weapons, the growing dangers of wars among nuclear-armed states, and the urgent need for good faith U.S. participation in negotiating the global elimination of nuclear weapons."

"Mayors are primarily responsible for public safety. When it comes to nuclear weapons, President Trump should listen to America's mayors and let us help set sensible priorities with the aspiration that our collaboration puts the hopes, dreams and possibilities of future generations ahead of war."



“nuclear umbrellas” voted against the resolution, the serious sense of crisis shared by the majority of the international community must not be neglected. Participation by the nuclear-armed states in these negotiations can provide a venue for confidence-building and constructive engagement that can contribute to de-escalation of international tensions. We expect the nuclear-armed states and their allies to take innovative approaches and demonstrate decisive leadership in this regard.

When government representatives gather at the United Nations in New York, from 27–31 March and 15 June to 7 July 2017, we call on them to engage in cooperative dialogue, to overcome their political and ideological differences, and to bring us closer to achieving a world without nuclear weapons.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

## Actions by Mayors for Peace leading up to negotiating conference for the establishment of a nuclear weapons ban treaty

Leading up to the adoption of the United Nations resolution to start negotiations on the establishment of a nuclear weapons ban treaty, a number of steps had to be taken. At each of those different steps, Mayors for Peace made various appeals and communicated various messages.

### 【Open-ended Working Group】

Three sessions of the Open-ended Working Group (OWEG) to Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations were held last year in February, May and August at the United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland. The aim of the meetings was to develop proposals on legal measures to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.

Prior to each of these meetings, Mayors for Peace sent an open letter to all United Nations member states, asking that they participate proactively and hold constructive discussions for the abolition of nuclear weapons. The letter also called for the United Nations to support Mayors for Peace activities.

In addition, Mayors for Peace Secretary-General Mr. Komizo (Chairperson of this Foundation) attended the meeting in February and President Matsui (Mayor of



OWEG meeting (February last year): Speech by the Secretary-General Komizo

Hiroshima) attended the May meeting. They said that rather than all states standing in opposition to one another, they should create an environment where discussions are conducted with respect for mutual understanding and diversity, and they can clearly resolve to abolish nuclear weapons.



OWEG meeting (May last year): President Matsui's speech at the ceremony of the planting of A-bomb survivor tree

At the August meeting, there was a large gap between the many non-nuclear weapon states asking for a prompt start to negotiations for the legal prohibition of nuclear weapons, and the states under the nuclear umbrella who said that it is too early to negotiate the legal prohibition of nuclear weapons because of security concerns. Therefore, the adoption of the final report took a great deal of time. On August 19, after the OWEG meeting had ended, a final report was adopted that recommended, with widespread support, “the convening of a conference in 2017, open to all states, with the participation and contribution of international organizations and civil society, to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination.” The report was adopted with two-thirds of the states in favor, and the meeting was closed.

### 【The First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly】

In line with the United Nations General Assembly First Committee that was held at UN Headquarters in New York in October last year, Mayors for Peace issued a message to nuclear-armed states and those under the nuclear umbrella. Citing the examples of the 1963 agreement between President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchev on the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, and the 1986 discussion between President Reagan and Gorbachev on nuclear disarmament and elimination of intermediate-range nuclear missiles, the message called for the states to combine their courage and wisdom, exercise decisive leadership, and consider a security system that does not depend on nuclear weapons.

At the First Committee, a resolution calling for the start of negotiations on a nuclear weapons ban treaty was passed by a majority. Mayors for Peace reaffirmed to member cities the important role that Mayors for Peace plays as a bipartisan organization in the realization of the sincere wish of the *hibakusha* for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Mayors for Peace also called on member cities to lobby policymakers in their own countries to actively participate in negotiations so that the discussion will make progress.



### 【The United Nations General Assembly】

The key points of the resolution passed at the United Nations General Assembly in December last year on the start of negotiations for the establishment of a nuclear weapons convention are: (1) negotiations will be held on legal measures for the prohibition of nuclear weapons in New York in March and June, 2017, (2) the decisions will be determined by majority vote at the conference in accordance with UNGA procedures, and (3) representatives of civic society will participate and contribute to the conferences.

#### Leading up to the negotiation conference



Preparatory committee for the negotiations conference (February this year)

Mayors for Peace sees the negotiation conference as a major step toward the abolition of nuclear weapons. Firstly, in order to provide support to ensure that the discussion at the negotiation conference in March, 2017 moves in a positive direction, Mayors for Peace issued an open letter to all states, including nuclear-armed states and those under the nuclear umbrella, calling for them to proactively participate in the conference and earnestly engage in the negotiations. At the same time, Mayors for Peace called for all member cities to communicate this and lobby their own national governments. Mayors for Peace Secretary-General Mr. Komizo attended the March meeting, and made various requests, asking that the opinions of citizens and NGOs of the 7,200 member municipalities, who wish for the abolition of nuclear weapons, are reflected in the discussions at the conference.

Mayor Matsui will attend the July meeting and make an appeal to the world's policymakers to see a nuclear weapons ban treaty as a realistic approach toward the abolition of nuclear weapons, and to go beyond differences in position and opinion to implement measures for the establishment of such a treaty. Through meetings with national governments and NGO representatives, we would like to call for collaboration with Mayors for Peace.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

### Memoir of the A-Bombing:

**"I saw the moment that the Atomic Bomb exploded before my very eyes —The days that followed...Life is a mysterious treasure"**



by **Fujio Torikoshi**  
Atomic Bomb Witness  
for this Foundation

### Experienced the bombing in the field in front of my home

At the time of the bombing, I was living in a small town called Yamate-cho. My home was in a relatively high place at the foot of the mountain, and the Sanyo Line ran in front of the house.

In 1945 the situation in the war was getting worse and worse. As soon as I became a Grade 3 student in junior high school, we could no longer have classes at school. Students at junior high schools and girls' schools at that time were involved in production work at munitions plants and were even sent to do demolition work of buildings in the city. I was to be sent to Mitsubishi Heavy Industries in Gion.

I had my medical checkup on Saturday August 4. As I was diagnosed with a vitamin deficiency known as beriberi, I was to go to the hospital with my mother on Monday August 6.

It was very fine weather from the morning on August 6. I was eating breakfast with my mother in the back room when I heard a faint roar. At the time, we had been trained to be able to tell the difference in the sounds of different aircraft engines, and I knew immediately that it was a B-29 bomber. When I finished my breakfast I went outside, and I stood in the field in front of our house and searched the sky above. I could not see it, but eventually the roar faded into the northeast direction.

It was right when I was gazing vacantly at the buildings in the city that I saw a blackish mass of something floating in the sky in the distance right in front of me. In the next instant, it suddenly burst, and transformed into an incredible ball of light. From the middle of the flash, there was something like melted orange-colored lava flowing out, and around that was a ocher-colored light that filled the whole sky. Suddenly everything was bright.

All of a sudden, my face was covered by an incredibly hot blast. Without thinking I closed my eyes, and squatted down where I was. And when I started to stand up again, a strong blast of wind blew through, and my



A-bomb Drawings by Survivors "A strange flash of light" by Mr. Ryuji Ishigai

body felt like it was being lifted up into the air, and then I bumped into something. I do not remember anything after that.

### Sudden tragedy

When I came to my senses, I saw that what I had bumped into was the large cement water tank for putting out fires that was in front of the house. I was surrounded by smoke or dust, and could not see a thing. It was all so sudden I had no idea what was going on, and just squatted there in a daze.

When I gradually became more and more clearheaded, I started to feel a stinging, burning pain on my arms and face. When I looked down I found that the skin on my arms was burned bright red. I felt the same pain on my face and chest. It was so painful that I dipped my arms into the water tank and put water on my face, but the pain only got worse.

After a while, I heard my mother's voice, calling me from far away. I shouted in a loud voice "Mum, I'm here", and guided by my voice, my mother made her way to me through the dust. She looked surprised, saying "What happened!?" I leaned on my mother's knee, sobbing "Mum, it hurts, it hurts."

My mother carried me to a nearby bomb shelter, and laid me down on some bedding that she had brought from our collapsed house. As I tried to put up with the pain it became hard to breathe, and I started to lose consciousness. After a while heavy rain started to fall and flowed into the shelter, and the mattress became completely wet.

The rain eventually cleared, and my mother brought me outside, where there were people everywhere. Nearby were people who had fled on trains on the Sanyo Line, which had stopped, and also people who had fled from Nakahiro-cho. People kept coming into my home, which had half collapsed. Everyone had black faces, their clothes were burnt, and their skin was exposed and in a terrible state. "Water, give me water", "I'm in pain", "Help me", "It hurts" — the area was filled with voices asking for help.

### In a semi-conscious state

That evening I was taken to a neighbor's house, and put on a military truck together with other wounded people. We were taken to a hospital in Hatsukaichi. I remember that the hospital was teeming with wounded people, and that the room was filled with a sour odor. Apparently I was treated by having the blisters on my face and arms cut off with scissors, and because there was no medicine, a mixture of flour and vinegar were applied to my wounds which were then wound up in bandages.

For a few days after I came home I was still unconscious. Even after I came to, I continued to have a high fever, and pus mixed with blood oozed from the bandages. Every day was horrible.

Eventually I got bits and pieces of information from people around me. I learned that Japan had lost the war, and that all my classmates who went to the building demolition work that day died. I pictured one by one the faces of the friends that I had seen on August 4, and I was filled with an indescribable sadness.

### Praying for true peace

More than 70 years have passed since the atomic

bombing. Doctors once told me that I would not live past my 20<sup>th</sup> birthday, but in January 2016 I turned 85. I am filled with happiness and gratitude, thinking once again about the mystery of life. I think that life is truly a mysterious treasure.

Although I would like to forget the atomic bombing, every time I look in the mirror I see the scar from the heat wave that burned my throat. I hate the atomic bomb. If the bomb had not have been dropped, if I had not experienced the bombing, I am sure my life would probably have been different.

If only the people on this Earth could live in peace with no sadness —how happy they would be. We cannot let wars takes away irreplaceable lives. I can only hope for true peace.

### Profile

#### Fujio Torikoshi

Born in 1931. Experienced the atomic bombing at the age of 14, as a grade 3 student at Sotoku Junior High School in Hiroshima City. He was in a field in front of his home 2km from the hypocenter, looking up at the sky, when the bomb was dropped.

After the war, worked as an elementary school teacher. After retirement, involved in activities as an atomic bomb witness. Vice President of *Hiroshima wo Kataritsugu Kyoshi no Kai* (Association of Teachers Continuing to Speak about Hiroshima). Director of All Japan Harmonica Federation.

#### Memoir of the A-Bombing:

#### "Evacuation to relatives' home, group evacuation and then the Atomic Bomb —a childhood torn by war"



#### by Mutsuhiko Segoshi

Atomic Bomb Witness  
for this Foundation

### Evacuation to relatives' home in the country

I enrolled in a national elementary school in Tokyo in 1941. Early morning on December 8 of that year, I can still clearly remember how upset my father and mother were when they heard the news flash about the attack on Pearl Harbor. Things at school soon changed completely. Every day the children at school were mobilized by orders and commands, and it could no longer be called a place of elementary education. Sixth grade children dug long holes under the classroom and made air raid shelters, and fourth grade students were made to collect pebbles.

In July 1944, I was sent to Kanon Town in Hiroshima City where my grandmother on my mother's side lived, as part of the evacuations to relatives' homes that were implemented as national government policy. Around that time, Japan's main cities had been subject to air raids by the US military and were being reduced to ashes one by one. However, Hiroshima City had not suffered any formation bombardments, and adults were remarking how strange that was.

The toughest thing was the hunger from the food shortages. There were ‘substitute foods’ such as defatted soybeans, bran paste (the husk of wheat), stalks of pumpkins and sweet potatoes —we ate anything. For a young boy with a huge appetite being hungry was extremely tough.

### Group evacuations (of students)

From April 1945, even in Hiroshima, which had not been bombed, participation in group evacuations became virtually mandatory. At the beginning of July, hundreds of students from Grade 3 to Grade 6 from national elementary schools in Hiroshima City gathered in the square in front of Hiroshima Station at 10am and headed for the Geibi Line platform. Guardians were instructed to send off the train at the Atago railway crossing near the station. Many of the children were nearly in tears to be separated from the parents.

### August 6, that fateful time

Although I too had been part of a group evacuation, I had returned to Hiroshima five days later because I was ill. I clearly remember the morning of August 6, which was one week after I had returned home.

There was a flash of light that came without warning, and for an instant, my mother, who was in front of me, looked like a wax figure. Next the blast hit us with a loud roar. My mother was thrown, screaming, on top of my 6-month old brother Tetsuo who was sleeping nearby. The floor fell through, pillars collapsed, and the roof and tiles fell down. Cursing as I stood in the middle of the rubble, my mother was standing in front of me, hair disheveled and covered in blood, holding Tetsuo. “Brother...” My younger brother Akio, 5 years old, who had been sitting near the window talking to a neighborhood child, approached me, dragging his leg. “Bring the first aid kit. We’re going out!” Pulled by my mother’s loud voice, we headed for the air-raid shelter in the field behind the house.

My mother’s back was covered in so many wounds it was painful to look at, and she had covered them with a towel that was held there by her underwear. The base of her thumb on her right hand was constantly bleeding, and she had applied medicated paste to the wound and wrapped it in a bandage. The joint of my left leg was a red open wound and I felt intense pain. I put cotton wool on it myself and wrapped it in a towel. Tetsuo looked like a black bundle, but I could hear him breathing faintly. I said “Baby Tetsuo is alive” and my mother nodded silently.

At that time, large drops of rain began to fall. When I looked up at the sky I saw black clouds overhead, and it was as dark as if it were evening. When I wiped away a raindrop from my arm, it was black, muddy water. It was radioactive rain, but at the time I did not know what fearful rain it was.

### In the aid-raid shelter

My mother said that we should go to our aunt’s place in Yoshiura town, so with all the other people who were fleeing we were packed into a freight train laid with straw mixed with cow’s manure, and went to Yoshiura. We went to the house of my aunt (my father’s older sister) but she was not there. With no other choice, we started walking in the dim light, and came across an air-

raid shelter that had been dug as a long hole in the slope of a mountain. We went inside and my mother took Tetsuo off her back. He let out a small cry. “You’re alive...” My courageous mother had tears rolling down her cheeks.

### In the midst of the ruins

In the middle of August, we returned to Kanon Town, my mother saying that she thought our father would be worried and would come from Tokyo. When we arrived at the nearest station, Koi Station (now Nishi-Hiroshima Station), there was a strange smell. The tenement house divided into five sections that we used to live in was completely destroyed, but part of the closet in the house on the north side remained intact, so my mother and younger brothers slept there, and I slept in the air-raid shelter behind the house.

### Reunion

At the end of August, my mother started saying pessimistic things about the whereabouts of my father: “Tokyo also had terrible air-raids, so I’m worried about your father...” We did not have any electricity so after the sun set the only thing to do was sleep, but if you go to sleep too early you end up waking up at around three in the morning. When I went out of the shelter it was pitch black outside, a soundless world. I started the fire, did the washing for my mother who could now not use her wounded right hand at all, and warmed my cold hands near the flames. I then heard the faint sound of footsteps approaching. “Is that Mutsuhiko? It’s you!” It was the voice of my father, who we had separated from one year before and who shook my hand at Tokyo Station and said “Look after your mother.” He had arrived at Hiroshima Station at 10pm the day before, and had been walking in the dark, charred ruins for over seven hours looking for us. I believe that God had repaid my father’s love for his family by leading him to us.

### Passing on what happened

After the war, neither my mother nor my father spoke about the atomic bombing at all. I too did not want to think about it. However, in 2012 I learned about the atomic bomb testimonial witnesses, and I decided to dedicate the rest of my life to passing on my experience by talking about it. From May 2014 I started activities at the Peace Memorial Museum.

The Peace Ceremony in 2014 was held on a day of heavy rain, for the first time in 43 years. To me, the rain felt like the tears of those who lost their lives in the bombing, at the fact that we still have nuclear weapons and war in our world. I pray for the fast realization of a peaceful world, with no nuclear weapons or war.

### Profile

#### Mutsuhiko Segoshi

Born 1934 in Tokyo. Evacuated to Hiroshima to live with relatives, experienced the bombing as a grade 5 student (aged 11) when sitting at the table at home, 2km from the hypocenter.

Formerly a teacher. From 2014 started A-bomb testimonial activities at the Peace Memorial Museum.



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

The city of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are working on the establishment and spread of Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Courses at universities in Japan and overseas. The aim of the course is to academically organize and structure the message of the A-bomb survivors as a common asset for humankind, and communicate this to young generations as an academic discipline with universal value.

This Foundation provided support for the peace study field trip in Hiroshima by Four American universities from May to December 2016.

### Central Connecticut State University

From May 31 to June 2, 12 students and 2 teachers participated in a peace study field trip to Hiroshima. This time marked the tenth time that this university has conducted a trip to Hiroshima. The group learned about the truth of the bombing by touring the Peace Memorial Park, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic



The group listens to an explanation by a peace volunteer at Peace Memorial Park

Bomb Victims, and listening to A-bomb testimonials, among other activities.

The memorial photograph of the mother of the teacher leading the tour, Professor Tomoda, was registered in the

Peace Memorial Hall, and by viewing the photograph the group felt a little closer to the atomic bombing and the handing down of the memory of that experience.

The group held a discussion with students from Hiroshima City University and Hiroshima University of Economics and it became a good opportunity for meaningful exchange.

### University of Alabama

From June 6 to 14, 8 students and 1 teacher came to Hiroshima for a peace study field trip, the first by this university.

As the period of their stay was long, in addition to tours of Peace Memorial Park, Peace Memorial Museum and Peace Memorial Hall and listening to A-bomb testimonials, the group was also able to visit the Radiation Effects Research Foundation, the Hiroshima Office of



The group listens to an atomic bomb testimony

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and Hiroshima City University Hiroshima Peace Institute, in a meaningful pro-

gram where they could learn about peace and the truth of the atomic bombing from many different perspectives.

### Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

From June 12 to 13, 9 students and 2 teachers from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis came for their first peace study field trip to Hiroshima.

As the participants were students in classes on communication in Japanese medical sites and cross-cultural communication, they listened to a lecture at the



Group visiting Peace Memorial Park

Radiation Effects Research Foundation and visited Funairi Mutsumi-en, a nursing care home for atomic bomb survivors. At Funairi Mutsumi-en, the residents told the students about precious A-bomb experiences that they had not even told their families, and the students looked deeply moved.

### DePaul University

This Foundation provided support for the peace study program of DePaul University (Chicago) from December 2-6 last year. DePaul University has been holding peace study tours in Hiroshima since 2005. This time, the 6<sup>th</sup> tour by the university, the Hiroshima Peace Ambassador Ms. Yuki Miyamoto, associate professor at DePaul, and 19 students came to Hiroshima.

Before the group came to Hiroshima, the Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Exhibition was held in Chicago (October 1-29, 2016), and the students were extremely enthusiastic. In Hiroshima, they took tours of Peace Memorial Park, Peace Memorial Museum and the Peace Memorial Hall, and listened to an A-bomb testimony by Ms. Emiko Okada. They also visited the Mayor of Hiroshima, and then had a discussion with students from Hiroshima University of Economics. After returning to America, the group sent origami cranes with messages written on them.

Through the peace study tour in Hiroshima, the group was able to learn first-hand about the truth of the atomic bombing. It was an extremely meaningful program.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)



Mayor of Hiroshima (front row, right) with students from DePaul University

## Activities by Mayors for Peace in the United States for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons

The nuclear policy of one of the nuclear power, the United States, is still unclear, and under these circumstances it has become even more important to pursue activities that heighten public opinion in the United States for the abolition of nuclear weapons. In this issue, we provide information on Mayors for Peace activities in the United States aiming for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

### Visit to United States by Mayors for Peace Secretary-General

In June last year, Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, the Secretary-General of Mayors for Peace (and Chairperson of this Foundation), visited the United States with the aim of strengthening connections with member cities in the US. His main activities are described below.

### Request to Des Moines Mayor to become a Lead City

Mr. Komizo met with the Mayor of Des Moines, Iowa, Mr. T. M. Franklin Cownie. Mr. Komizo communicated his view that as the momentum towards nuclear disarmament is building with US President Obama's visit to Hiroshima, now more than ever close cooperation is needed. He said now is the right time for member cities, especially in the US, to build a strong foundation for their further independent activities to promote peace and nuclear disarmament, and requested that the city of Des Moines become a Lead City for Mayors for Peace in the US. Mr. Komizo also presented Mayor Cownie with paper cranes that had been dedicated to the Children's Peace Monument in the Peace Memorial Park, and explained the 'desire for peace' that was incorporated in the paper cranes.

Mayor Cownie immediately signed the document to accept the position as a Lead City and said that he would start straight away on examining future regional activities.



Mr. Komizo presenting paper cranes to the Mayor of Des Moines

### Attendance at the Annual Meeting of the US Conference of Mayors

Mr. Komizo attended the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the US Conference of Mayors held in the city of Indianapolis, Indiana, and made a speech at the Standing Committee on International Affairs.

The US Conference of Mayors is a non-partisan organization whose members are cities in the US with populations of over 30,000 people. For eleven consecutive years, the Conference has adopted a resolution

agreeing with the activities of Mayors for Peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons.

In his speech, Mr. Komizo spoke about how the non-partisan Mayors for Peace has implemented activities that respect the independence of each nation and region, while at the same time maintaining the common objective of creating a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons. He also thanked the US Conference of Mayors for adopting resolutions that support Mayors for Peace for so many years, and said that he would like to further develop the connection between the two organizations in the future.

In addition to this, Mr. Komizo also met with the Mayor of New York Mr. Bill De Blasio, the Executive Director of the US Conference of Mayors Mr. Tom Cochran, and US Conference of Mayors President Ms. Stephanie Rawlings-Blake (Mayor of Baltimore).

### Meeting with think tank members

Mr. Komizo met with Dr. Barry Blechman, Co-founder of the Stimson Center, and Mr. Brian Finlay, the President and CEO of the institution. Dr. Blechman stated that due to heightened activity in civic society the initiatives by politicians toward nuclear weapons will change, and therefore the Mayors for Peace activities are very meaningful. Dr. Blechman also spoke about original photographs that he has of Hiroshima and Nagasaki immediately before and immediately after the atomic bombing, which he will send to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

### Meeting with members of the US government

Mr. Komizo met with Ms. Rose Gottemoeller, Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security for the US State Department. Mr. Komizo said that with President Obama's visit to Hiroshima, there is growing momentum for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and therefore now is the time he decided to make a visit to the US to enhance initiatives using the Mayors for Peace framework. He also explained that the US Conference of Mayors had adopted a resolution of support for Mayors for Peace.

There were three major accomplishments achieved through this trip.

The first was that the Mayor of Des Moines accepted the position of Lead City of Mayors for Peace in the US. We hope that Des Moines will effectively work as a Lead City, creating a structure facilitating US member cities to implement independent activities and lobby political centers in the US government.

The second accomplishment was participating in the US Conference of Mayors as representative of Mayors for Peace. We will continue to monitor this conference, participate and strengthen connections.

The third accomplishment was the presentation of a thousand paper cranes from Hiroshima to the President of the US Conference of Mayors. When President Obama visited Hiroshima in May 2016, he handed paper cranes he folded himself wishing for peace to an elementary school student and a junior high school student who were there to welcome him, one apiece. The two students' schools then folded one thousand paper cranes in return with their wish for Japan and the US to work together for a world without nuclear weapons. The pre-



sensation of the one thousand paper cranes was meaningful as the President of the US Conference of Mayors for Peace was very pleased to receive cranes with the students' sincere wish for peace.

During the trip this time, two executive advisers from this Foundation living in the US were involved through the preparation stages, and accompanied Mr. Komizo on his visit to each city. Executive advisers were very effective in their daily activities, and as a result the trip proceeded smoothly and was extremely productive.

### Acceptance of interns from Des Moines

Mayors for Peace invites young staff members from member cities to come to Hiroshima as interns. The aim of this initiative is to give the interns a deeper understanding of the reality of the damage from the atomic bombing and to share the desire for peace, so that when the interns return to their own countries they can work on furthering activities in the respective cities for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and we can strengthen the network between member cities.

As part of this initiative, Hiroshima City accepted a staff member from Des Moines, Iowa, as an intern for around two weeks in January of this year.

The intern was involved in the work of the Mayors for Peace secretariat, such as conducting surveys of US cities that are not yet members of Mayors for Peace.

The intern visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, Peace Memorial Park, the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims and the Hiroshima Laboratory of the Radiation Effects Research Foundation, listened to an A-bomb survivor's testimony and a presentation by an A-bomb Legacy Successor, participated in presentations of A-bomb testimonies, and also made a presentation to students at Hiroshima Jogakuin Junior and Senior High School about Des Moines' peace activities.

### Des Moines Mayor participates in US Conference of Mayors Winter Annual Meeting

In January of this year, the 85<sup>th</sup> Winter Annual Meeting of the US Conference of Mayors was held in Washington DC, and Mayor Cownie of Des Moines, Iowa, which is a Mayors for Peace Lead City in the US, attended. Mayor Cownie made a speech at the Standing Committee on International Affairs, where he spoke about Mayors for Peace activities and also called for new membership and cooperation. His call for new members was positively received, and the mayors of two cities signed up for membership to Mayors for Peace on the spot.

As a follow-up to the meeting, Des Moines City has sent a membership request letter to the cities that are members of the US Conference of Mayors. Working closely with Des Moines and about 200 member cities in the US, the Mayors for Peace secretariat intends to revitalize activities in the US to build momentum for nuclear disarmament in the country.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

## Mayors for Peace Secretariat Accepts Interns from Member Cities

Since FY2014, Mayors for Peace has been inviting young staff members from overseas member cities to Hiroshima as interns, where they are involved in work at the secretariat. Last fiscal year, we accepted seven interns from seven cities.

The interns experienced various different types of work in the secretariat, including updating information about member cities in their own country, surveying cities in their country that are not yet members and requesting that they become members, creating the certification and procedures for new member cities, and more. On the other hand, the interns also provided the secretariat staff with information on peace-related activities in their own member cities, and thus helped to promote mutual understanding and stronger links.

The interns also visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, Peace Memorial Park, Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims and the Radiation Effects Research Foundation, listened to A-bomb testimonies, and participated in discussions with high school students. In this way, they could deepen their understanding of the actual damage from the atomic bombing, and share Hiroshima's wish for peace.



Intern listening to an explanation of the Cenotaph for the A-Bomb Victims by a peace volunteer

After they return to their countries, each intern is involved in activities to abolish nuclear weapons based on what they learned in Hiroshima, such as giving lectures and providing peace education to young people. Through this internship program, the secretariat hopes that the wish of Hiroshima to achieve a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons will be spread to the rest of the world.

Name of city and country	Number of people	Period
Hanover, Germany	1	May 26 – June 8, 2016
Volgograd, Russia	1	June 16 – 29, 2016
Wellington, New Zealand	1	July 4 – 15, 2016
Santos, Brazil	1	Nov 28 – Dec 9, 2016
Des Moines, America	1	Jan 11 – 23, 2017
Muntinlupa, the Philippines	1	Jan 26 – Feb 8, 2017
Malakoff, France	1	Feb 13 – 24, 2017

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)



## Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibition in Chicago

The 2016 Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Exhibition was held from October 1-29 at the Japanese Culture Center in Chicago, following on from last year where it was also held in the United States, a nuclear super-power.

At the venue were thirty panels explaining the reality of the damage of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. There were also 17 artifacts on display, including objects that remained after the blast, such as the burnt water bottle of a junior high school student who had been working as a mobilized student and perished in the bombing, and the origami cranes made by Sadako Sasaki. There was also a section where visitors could make their own origami cranes.

The opening ceremony was held on October 1. After speeches by Mr. Kenji Shiga, the Director of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, and Ms. Keiko Yanai, Principal Consular Officer at the Consulate of Japan in Chicago, there was a tape-cutting ceremony by Mr. Shiga, Ms. Yanai and others.



Visitors making origami cranes at the A-bomb exhibition venue

Following the opening ceremony, many visitors gazed at the A-bomb artifacts and photo panels. One visitor, looking directly at objects that one would not normally be able to view, seemed to deeply feel the horror of the atomic bombing, saying "Looking at the articles remaining reminded me of the inhumanity of the atomic bombing."

At the closing ceremony on October 29, Mr. Takashi Teramoto, who is a *hibakusha*, gave an A-bomb testimony effectively using slides made up of maps, pictures and other materials. This was followed by a recital of A-bomb testimonies by Ms. Ikuko Katsura and Ms. Mayumi Yamamoto, who are volunteers at the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims.

Visitors listened intently to the testimonies and recitals. After they ended, a visitor commented: "Listening to the testimonies made me feel that it is important to work towards preserving peace in the future."

Held in the city of Chicago, which has a connection with former US President Obama, the exhibition communicated what happened on that day under the mushroom cloud.

(Peace Memorial Museum Outreach Division)

## Pictures of the Atomic Bombing Complete

-High school students depict the atomic bombing in pictures-

Since 2007, this Foundation has worked with students from Hiroshima Municipal Motomachi Senior High School's Comprehensive Creative Expression Course to produce Pictures of the Atomic Bombing. The students work together with this Foundation's A-bomb witnesses to depict scenes from the time of the bombing that remain in the memories of the witnesses.

From 2015, 12 witnesses worked on the pictures with 30 students, graduates and teachers divided into 12 groups, and as of July 2016 they had completed 35 pictures.

At the completion exhibition held in the Motomachi High School Exhibition Gallery on July 4, 12 A-bomb witnesses attended, together with the students who created the paintings, other students from the Creative Expression Course, and members of this Foundation and Motomachi High School.

The student who produced a picture of a mother carrying her dead child on her back said "I wanted to depict a memory that doesn't disappear even after 70 years. It was tough drawing the expression on the dead child's face." Another student who drew a huge blaze that had resulted from a fireball of nuclear explosion said "I had never seen a fireball so it was hard to create an image of what it was like. I did some research at the Peace Memorial Museum." They spoke about the difficulty of

trying to depict the experiences of the A-bomb witnesses in their pictures.

The Pictures of the Atomic Bombing preserve the devastation of Hiroshima after the bombing in pictures. They are being used to provide people with a deeper understanding of the A-bomb experience, and are being made use of to communicate the reality of the bombing to the next generation, in talks



**"Mother carrying her dead child on her back"**  
by Kana Tsumura (3<sup>rd</sup> year student, Motomachi High School Comprehensive Creative Expression Course) and Hiroko Kishida (A-bomb witness)



**"Huge blaze of nuclear explosion viewed from the Eastern Drill Ground"**  
by Nanako Ishida (2<sup>nd</sup> year student, Motomachi High School Comprehensive Creative Expression Course) and Sadao Yamamoto (A-bomb witness)

given by *hibakusha*, lectures to pass on the A-bomb experience by A-bomb Legacy Successors (A-bomb experience memory-keepers), and other activities.

(Peace Memorial Museum Outreach Division)

## Sister and Friendship City Day Commemorative Events

~Introducing Sister and Friendship Cities to Hiroshima Citizens~

Hiroshima City has established Sister and Friendship City Days for each of the six overseas sister and friendship cities and holds commemorative events. 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. From 2003, Hiroshima City has consigned the organization of these events to this Foundation. The MCs for the events were the Hiroshima Messengers selected through a public selection process.

### Montreal Day

On July 10, 2016, a commemorative event for Montreal Day was held in the multi-space area on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the department store Fukuya in front of Hiroshima Station. The event was organized by the 2016 Montreal Day Executive Committee.

The event started with tasting of maple water and original maple rusks from Hiroshima City Social Welfare Corporation Hiroshima Minaga-en.

At the commemorative ceremony, there were speeches from the organizers and a video message from the Mayor of Montreal, as well as speeches from guests—a representative of the Quebec Province Office in Japan and the First Secretary of the Embassy of Canada in Japan.

Next, the Hiroshima Messengers Jean-Bernard Garipey and Miho Kawamoto held a quiz on Montreal City where visitors could participate, and a present was awarded to the winner.

There was a humorous commemorative performance by the Canadian street performer Jeremy Eaton, which involved the whole audience, and the venue was filled with laughter and applause.



Commemorative performance by Jeremy Eaton

There was also a fun lottery draw with maple syrup

and other local specialties as prizes, an exhibition introducing Montreal and Canada, display and sales of specialty products, and an explanation of Cirque de Soleil's show TOTEM.

There were around 400 visitors to the event, and they deepened their understanding of Montreal and Canada while enjoying food and artistic culture.

### Volgograd Day

On September 11, 2016, a commemorative event for Volgograd Day was held in Hiroshima International House. The event was organized by the 2016 Volgograd Day Executive Committee.

Visitors who completed registration viewed the panel display section introducing the Russian city Volgograd, which also had displays of traditional Russian crafts, photographs of Volgograd scenery and displays of commemorative gifts. High school and university students from Hiroshima who visited Volgograd in August to attend the International Youth Conference for the Peace in the Future provided explanations of the exchange activities they were involved in.

Next, at the food and culture experience section, visitors listened to a live piano performance by Kaduki Tanaka while enjoying the classic dish of borsch, black bread and other Russian food, as well as Georgian wine.

At the ceremony in the hall, there were speeches by the head of the Executive Committee and the Mayor of Hiroshima, and messages from the Mayor of Volgograd and the Consul General from the Russian Consulate General in Osaka were read out respectively by the Hiroshima Messengers Ekaterina Simakina and Chiharu Kando.

The two Messengers also organized a presentation, where they used photos that were taken when they went to Volgograd in July to provide an introduction to Volgograd's streetscape, tourism, cuisine, famous people and more. They also held a quiz and simple Russian language class. They ended their presentation with Ekaterina playing the violin and Ms. Kando performing a Russian dance, and the venue was filled with loud applause.



Singing by Hiroshima Choir (above) and a violin and dance performance by the 2 Hiroshima Messengers (below)

Next was a Russian music concert. The Hiroshima Choir performed various different Russian songs. There was a fun lottery draw with Russian goods as prizes, and after the quiz the Hiroshima Choir appeared once again to lead lively singing with the audience.

There were about 240 visitors on the day and it helped to strengthen ties of exchange between the sister cities.



## Chongqing Day

On October 23 last year, a commemorative event for Chongqing Day was held at JMS Aster Plaza. The event was organized by the 2016 Chongqing Day Executive Committee.

Visitors to the event first had a taste of mooncake or *mahua* (Chinese sweets) together with oolong tea. At the venue there were displays of items given to Hiroshima City by Chongqing City in exchange activities, such as chrysanthemums, collages made from Japanese *washi* paper and origami cranes. There were also sections where visitors could try speaking Chinese, making *washi* paper collages and making Chinese tea themselves, and visitors enjoyed the experience of Chinese culture.

At the opening ceremony there were speeches by the chairperson of the executive committee and the Mayor of Hiroshima, and a message from the Mayor of Chongqing was read out.

This was followed by a presentation by the Hiroshima Messengers Ye Tian and Jing Chen, who gave a clear explanation of Chongqing City's history, cityscape and culture illustrated with photos. They also led a quiz on Chongqing and a mini-lesson on the Chinese language.

On the commemorative stage, there was a *tai chi* performance by the members of the Hiroshima Branch of the Japan-China Friendship Association, and visitors were able to experience together the slow, graceful moves of *tai chi*. This was followed by a Chinese folk dance performance by Ruri Miura, and an *erhu* (2-stringed instrument played with a bow) performance by Rongchun Zhao, and visitors enjoyed the dancing in brightly-colored costumes and the tones of the *erhu*.



Chinese folk dance performed by Ruri Miura

After the event there was a lottery draw for commemorative gifts provided by Chongqing City.

There were around 190 visitors to the event, and by experiencing various elements of Chinese culture they enjoyed themselves as they deepened their understanding of Chongqing City and China.

## Honolulu Day

On November 5 last year, a commemorative event for Honolulu Day was held at the underground event space at the south exit of Hiroshima Station. This event was organized by the 2016 Honolulu Day Executive Committee.

Visitors to the event were first welcomed by flavored



Colorful hula dance performance

coffee and fruit juice.

The event opened with the classic hula dance *Kahiko*, which was followed by speeches by the chairperson of the executive committee, the Deputy Mayor of Hiroshima, and a video message from the Mayor of Honolulu.

Next was a presentation by the Hiroshima Messengers Tomonori Komatsu and Syoko Inoue. They showed photos on a big screen at the venue to explain high school student exchange activities between Hiroshima and Honolulu, as well as talking about the origami cranes made by Sadako Sasaki that were donated to Pearl Harbor.

This was followed by a performance by a Hawaiian band and hula dancers. The audience was greatly excited by the authentic performance and colorful hula dancing, and the venue was filled with a tropical Hawaiian mood.

The event ended with a performance of the song 'Hawaii Aloha'—the audience all joined in the singing and experienced the Hawaiian atmosphere.

At the venue were Hawaiian goods on display and for sale, as well as a section where visitors could make their own ribbon leis. Around 500 visitors had a good time as they gained a greater understanding of Honolulu.

(International Relations & Cooperation Division)

## International Exchange and Cooperation Day 2016

This event was held at International Conference Center Hiroshima, the green strip on Peace Boulevard and other venues on November 20, 2016, marking the 17<sup>th</sup> time the event has been held.

Sixty-nine civic organizations and companies that are involved in international exchange and cooperation activities in Hiroshima City and the surrounding areas held 37 diverse events on intercultural understanding, the global environment, multicultural coexistence and Japanese cultural experiences, and a total of around 9,500 people participated in the various events.

This became a day for both non-Japanese and Japanese participants to come into contact with cultures from around the world (Organizers: this Foundation. Joint organizers: Japan International Cooperation Agency Chugoku International Center, Hiroshima International Center, the City of Hiroshima).



## Talk show: "Becoming the Indy Jones of the World of Science"

The guest speaker Professor Takeshi Naganuma, of the Hiroshima University Graduate School of Biosphere Science, gave a full 2-hour talk on "Becoming the Indy Jones of the World of Science". Professor Naganuma travels the world conducting research on living creatures in places that are hard to survive in, called outlying regions. "Hard to survive" has two meanings: "hard to get to" and "hard to live in". Among the living creatures living in such extreme environments is a mysterious creature known as the 'tube worm', which is receiving attention in cancer prevention research. The audience was captivated by the photos shown on the screen. Professor Naganuma's talk included descriptions of various different outlying regions, from the deserts of Chile and Tunisia and the mountaintop glaciers of Uganda, to high-altitude caves in Venezuela, sea-floor volcanoes, the Arctic, Antarctica, and then moving away from Earth, he talked about Mars and Europa, the second of Jupiter's orbiting moons.

## Presentations on international exchange and cooperation activities

In the section for activities by civic organizations, there were booths on the activities of sixteen organizations, explaining the international exchange and cooperation activities of each of the respective organizations. There were also booths set up for public entities, civic organizations, NGOs, university students and companies. Participants enjoyed looking at displays of photos, trying on the local dress of different regions, and participating in quizzes. There were also presentations and report sessions on international exchange and cooperation activities by young people and university students.

## Introduction and experience of foreign cultures and Japanese culture

In the area for experiencing foreign cultures, there were sections set up where participants could try making paper flowers from England, paper collages from China and Chinese knotting, and in the traditional Japanese culture section, visitors could try wearing a kimono, tea ceremony, *ikebana* flower arrangement, Japanese calligraphy



International students from Asia trying Japanese calligraphy

and playing the *koto* (a Japanese stringed instrument). Both foreign and Japanese participants directly experienced the wonderful cultures of different countries.

## World cuisine and craft bazaar

At the green strip on Peace Boulevard on the south side of the International Conference Center, there was a section called Hiroshima International Village World Food Stalls, where nineteen organizations sold various foods from all over the world at food stalls. Thirteen organizations participated in the International Cooperation Bazaar, where they sold crafts and the like from different countries.



International cooperation bazaar

There was also a quiz rally, where participants could win a present by answering the quiz questions at each of the different event venues, the 'Earth Stage', where visitors young and old could enjoy cross-cultural experiences, a section where participants could learn about Hiroshima City's sister cities and friendship cities while making crafts, an outdoor stage with performances of dances from all over the world, a free consultation section for foreigners about visa matters, a display section introducing Japanese language schools in Hiroshima City, a section supporting children in developing nations by donating coins from all over the world, and others. Each section was bustling with people, and participants developed greater knowledge of international exchange and cooperation.

Many citizens and international students participated in this event as volunteer staff, and had a great time together.

(International Relations & Cooperation 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

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

Phone. 81-82-241-5246

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

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

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