

#### vol.1 No.83 (semiannual)

## Display of the Pope's message and candleholder given to Hiroshima City

On November 24 (Sunday), 2019, Pope Francis visited Hiroshima City for the first time since the visit of Pope John Paul II thirty-eight years ago. He participated in the Peace Gathering held at Peace Memorial Park, and dedicated flowers at the Memorial Cenotaph for Atomic Bomb Victims, and then listened to *hibakusha* testimonies by Ms. Yoshiko Kajimoto and Mr. Koji Hosokawa (which was read out instead of Mr. Hosokawa who was unable to attend due to poor health).



Pope Francis (photograph: the City of Hiroshima)

Ms. Kajimoto was working as a mobilized student around 2.3km from the hypocenter when the bomb was dropped. She spoke about suffering serious injuries trapped under the rubble of collapsed buildings, the tragic scenes of people with burns fleeing from the city with their skin hanging down, and about her father who passed away a year and a half after the bombing.

Mr. Hosokawa was on the fourth floor of a building 1.3km from the hypocenter at the time of the bombing. In his message, he spoke about the loss of his beloved younger sister in the bombing, the time he spent living in fear of a relapse of radiation sickness, and his work passing on the message of Hiroshima, as the mission of the *hibakusha*.

This was followed by a speech by the Pope on peace. He spoke about remembering all the victims of the atomic bombing, and expressed his deep respect for the strength and pride of the *hibakusha*. The Pope also said that using atomic energy for war is nothing other than a crime today, that possessing nuclear weapons is immoral, and called for the people of the world to express together their wish for no more war.

From December 27, 2019, on the first floor of the East building of the Peace Memorial Museum there is a display of the message that the Pope wrote when he vis-

ited the museum, as well as a lit candle and candleholder.

The message from the Pope states "I have come as a pilgrim of peace, to grieve in sincerity with all who suffered injury and death on that terrible day in the history of this land. I pray that the God of life will convert beauty to peace, unification and fraternity with love."

The candleholder was placed in front of the Memorial Cenotaph for Atomic Bomb Victims at the time of the peace gathering. It is a brass candleholder, 1.15m tall. A candle was placed in it and the Pope lit the candle.

Through this display, we hope that visitors will learn of the Pope's strong desire for peace, and reaffirm the need for the people of the world to join forces to create a peaceful world.

(Peace Memorial Museum, Curatorial Division and Outreach Division)



The International Festival 2019 was held on November 17, 2019, at venues including International Conference Center Hiroshima and the Peace Boulevard green belt. Commemorating the twentieth time this event has been held and the thirtieth anniversary of the opening of International Conference Center Hiroshima, the even this year was expanded, adding the large hall at the Conference Center, Phoenix Hall, as one of the venues.

Seventy-six civic organizations and companies involved in international exchange and international cooperation activities in Hiroshima City and the surrounding areas held forty events of great variety promoting intercultural understanding and consideration for the global environment, multicultural coexistence, Japanese culture experiences and more. A total of around 16,300 people came to the events, which is a record high.

At the opening ceremony, following on from the previous year, there was a Japanese calligraphy performance by the students of calligraphy at Yasuda Women's University Faculty of Letters, Department of Calligraphy. When the students wrote in strong lettering the catchphrase of the International Festival "Let's meet the people of the world" participants gave them a big round of applause.

#### Ken Noguchi Talkshow -Branching out into the Future and the World-My Story as someone who was a failure

The guest speaker, alpinist Mr. Ken Noguchi, spoke about his own involvement in environmental issues in the Himalayas and Mount Fuji, and Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers from JICA and Japanese people living dynamic lives overseas.

Participants laughed at times at the humorous talk by Mr. Noguchi and listened intently to his unique story until the end. Some participants said about the talk



Mr. Ken Noguchi

show that they learned the importance of not only receiving information passively, but also actually seeing the world for themselves.

#### World music and dance

#### -The beat of the Earth, a bounding rhythm-

As a twentieth anniversary event, a world music and dance stage event was held in Phoenix Hall. There were authentic performances from six groups on the themes of Asia, Africa and Central and South America. The groups were: Bapang Sari Balinese Gamelan and Dance, who performed 'Traditional Gamelan music and dance from Bali, Indonesia'; the Hiroshima Korean Traditional Arts College, who performed 'Melodies of the traditional Korean arts'; Dance and Folk Music Departments of Hiroshima Korean School, who performed 'Unified Arirang'; Obaaba Dance & Drum Group and their entertaining friends, who performed 'Experience real African power!'; Unidos Rosa de Hiroshima, who performed 'Samba'; and El Combo de la Paz, who performed 'Passionate Latin and Salsa Beats'.

For the finale, ten organizations who have participated in this festival for twenty consecutive times came to the stage, and were presented with a certificate of gratitude by Mr. Takashi Koizumi, the Chairperson of this Foundation.



Music and dances of the world

# Presentations on international exchange and cooperation activities

At the section for information on activities by civic organizations, twenty organizations set up information booths on their international exchange and cooperation activities. There were also booths run by public entities, civic organizations, NGOs, university students, companies and more, and visitors went around to the booths they were interested in, interacting with the people there. In particular, this year the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and the Akitakata City International Exchange Association participated for the first time, providing information on their initiatives to promote multicultural cohabitation, which has become a hot topic in recent years.

#### Information and experience of foreign cultures and Japanese culture

In terms of experiencing foreign cultures, there were

sections where visitors could try making a tartan design of Scottish kilt and a Celtic Knot, a section for making Chinese paper cutting art and Chinese knotting, as well as sections for trying on kimonos, tea ceremony, *ikebana* flower arrangement, Japanese calligraphy and more. Both foreign visitors and Japanese participants showed great interest as they participated in experiences of cultures from around the world.

#### World cuisine and traditional craft bazaar

On the green belt of Peace Boulevard in the south side of the International Conference Center was the Hiroshima International Village—Food Stalls of the World, where nineteen organizations sold various food from around the world. At the International Cooperation Bazaar, thirteen organizations sold crafts and other articles from various countries.



Food stalls of the world

Other sections at the festival included: a display of prizewinning artworks by children around the world for an art competition on the theme of 'Peaceful Towns'; a presentation session by international students; 'Earth Square', a space where people of all ages could enjoy intercultural experiences; a section where visitors could learn about Hiroshima City's sister and friendship cities while making crafts; an outdoor stage with performances of dances and music from around the world; a section where visitors could support children in developing countries by donating coins from around the world; and a quiz rally where participants could win prizes by answering quiz questions at each of the different venues. Each venue was bustling with people, and participants were able to deepen their understanding of international exchange and international cooperation.

Many citizens and international students participated as volunteer staff, and helped to make it an exciting event.

It was a day where foreign and Japanese residents could experience their cultures of the world.

(International Relations & Cooperation Division)

### Mayors for Peace Japanese Member Cities Meeting

On October 24-25, 2019, the 9<sup>th</sup> Mayors for Peace Japanese Member Cities Meeting was held in Kunitachi City, Tokyo.

This meeting is held every year with the aim of enhancing Mayors for Peace initiatives in Japan. A total of 147 representatives (including 37 leaders) from 83 municipalities attended the meeting this time.

#### Speech by Mayors for Peace President

Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui, the President of Mayors for Peace, gave a speech, in which he stated "To



Proceedings led by Hiroshima Mayor Matsui (left) and Nagasaki Mayor Taue

reach a situation where there are no nuclear weapons or wars, there are constraints on what we as cities can do. However, I believe it is possible for municipalities that share the intention to achieve peace to raise their voices together, and create an environment where their wishes are properly heard by the national government." He also expressed his determination, saying "Mayors for Peace is made up of leaders who represent cities. We must implement activities that share the atomic bombing experience not as something that is limited only to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but something that is shared widely among civic society, and promote the abolition of nuclear weapons and the realization of world peace."

#### Citizens of Kunitachi also participate in program

Next, the Kunitachi City Program item 'Peace From Kunitachi' was held, and many citizens of Kunitachi participated together with participants from other municipalities. There was a performance by students from Kunitachi College of Music Senior High School, a PR video for Kunitachi City, a presentation on Kunitachi City's peace initiatives, a talk by a Kunitachi atomic bombing and war witness, a chorus of the Kunitachi Peace Song, reports by participants from Kunitachi City in the HIROSHIMA and PEACE (support program for youth exchange for Peace), and more.

#### Reports on examples of peace-related initiatives

In the first part of the conference program, there were reports from the Mayor of Akashi City, Hyogo, Mr. Fusaho Izumi on the Pacific War National Air-Raid Victim Consoling Association, and from the Mayor of Muko City, Kyoto, Mr. Mamoru Yasuda, on examples of Muko City's peace-related initiatives.

Next, there was a report from the Mayors for Peace secretariat on the 2018 financial results for membership fee payments, requests to non-member cities to become members, peace initiatives leading up to the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, and an overview of the 10<sup>th</sup> General Conference of Mayors for Peace. Mayors for Peace Secretary-General Takashi Koizumi (Chairperson of this Foundation) reported on the global situation and Mayors for Peace activities.

This was followed by deliberation on the submission of a Letter of Request to the Japanese Government Calling for the Promotion of Actions to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, which was approved.

The session ended with the adoption of the general summary document, which included an outline of the meeting, and a speech by Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue, Vice-President of Mayors for Peace.

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

# Request for the promotion of actions for the abolition of nuclear weapons is submitted to the Japanese government

Based on the decision made at the 9<sup>th</sup> Japanese Member Cities Meeting, on November 28, 2019 Mayor Matsui, Mayor Kazuo Nagami of Kunitachi, the host city, and Mr. Hisato Mitsutake, director of the Tokyo Office of Nagasaki City and representing Nagasaki City, visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and submitted to Mr. Norihiro Nakayama, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, a request addressed to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe asking for the promotion of actions for the abolition of nuclear weapons.



From left: Mr. Mitsutake, director of the Tokyo Office of Nagasaki City, Kunitachi Mayor Nagami, Hiroshima Mayor Matsui, and Mr. Nakayama, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Nakayama said "We take the wishes of Mayors for Peace Japanese member cities seriously. The Japanese government acts as a bridge between nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states, and as such we share the goal of Mayors for Peace to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons. The visit by the Pope to Hiroshima and Nagasaki was a valuable opportunity to create awareness among the people of the world of the importance of peace, and we extend our gratitude to you for welcoming the Pope in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The global situation regarding nuclear weapons is unstable, but the Japanese government would like to continue with transparency and further concrete initiatives."

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

# Attendance at Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace (Hanover City, Germany)

The 11<sup>th</sup> Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace (President: Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui), was held over two days from November 11, 2019, in Hanover City, Germany, which is the Mayors for Peace Vice-



Members of executive cities who attended the conference

President City. Attending the conference were Mayor Matsui, Secretary-General Mr. Takashi Koizumi (Chairperson of this Foundation), and members from ten Executive Cities in Europe, North America and Asia.

# Agreement on the basic direction for the next vision

In his opening speech, Mayor Matsui stated that it is necessary to increase the number of member cities in order to strengthen the network that has been built so far, and in particular, to encourage a policy shift among political leaders by developing an awareness of the importance of peace among citizens in nuclear-weapon states and states that are allied with them.

At the conference, there was first a discussion on the status of achievement of the 2020 Vision and initiatives that are under way as part of the current action plan. Attendees reaffirmed the fact that, under the 2020 Vision, many member cities implemented independent activities together with peace-related NGOs and other organizations with the aim of making progress in nuclear disarmament.

This was followed by a discussion on how to develop the next vision and action plan for 2021 and beyond.

For the next vision, it was agreed that the basic direction is "Realizing a world without nuclear weapons". Based on this, with the target of "Realization of safe and resilient cities", the philosophy will be "Promoting a culture of peace", where individual citizens are encouraged to consider and take actions for peace as part of their day to day lives. It was also agreed that there will be further discussions with a view to developing the next vision at the 10<sup>th</sup> General Conference of Mayors for Peace, to be held in August, 2020.

Next there were reports on initiatives that have produced results: from Manchester City, UK, on the peace education using A-bomb trees; from Muntinlupa City, the Philippines, on the International Day of Peace event to raise peace consciousness; and from Hanover City on membership recruitment efforts as a lead city.

There was also a discussion on priority actions for 2020, the final year of the 2020 Vision, to ensure that there is a smooth and steady transition to the next vision and action plan. The three items decided on were: the expansion of membership to achieve the target of bringing into force the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and other targets; the implementation of peace education that aims to develop awareness among the young generations who will be leaders in the future; and the enhancement of support for programs to accept young people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, such as the support program for the Youth Exchange for Peace.

#### Approval of establishment of European Chapter of Mayors for Peace

In addition to the items above, there was a proposal from Granollers City, Spain, and other European executive cities to launch the European Chapter of Mayors for Peace in January 2020. The proposal was approved.

As the plan of the 2020 initiatives, the secretariat also gave an explanation on participation in the PEACE ORIZURU Project (where peace messages are written on paper cranes and sent out on social media) that is run by the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Organizing Committee in the lead up to the Olympic Games, and various activities being held in line with the 2020 NPT (Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons) Review Conference. On the second day of the conference, participants deliberated on the Summary Notes that summarized the conference based on the previous day's discussions. The document was approved.



During the conference

As the proposal from the first day to establish a branch in Europe was approved, when the European executive city members held their first preparatory meeting, Mayor Matsui opened the session by stating that it is extremely meaningful that leader cities take the lead to work together to create a peaceful world, and expressed his hope that they will work in solidarity to build peace not only in Europe but throughout the world.

Mayors for Peace will continue to strengthen the network that has been built to date and expand activities. In order to do so, we will increase the number of member cities throughout the world, including nuclear-weapon states and countries allied with them, and create great momentum for peace in civic society. By doing so, we want to help to create an environment that strongly pushes political leaders to change their policies, to aim for a world that is free of nuclear weapons.

(Mayors for Peace and 2020 Vision Promotion Division)

## Secretary-General Koizumi meets with United Nations and government representatives in Geneva, Switzerland

Mr. Takashi Koizumi, the Secretary-General of Mayors for Peace (chairperson of this Foundation) took the opportunity of his visit to Europe to attend the 11<sup>th</sup> Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace to visit Geneva, Switzerland. He met with United Nations and various government representatives, and asked for understanding and support of Mayors for Peace initiatives prior to 2020, which marks an important year with the NPT (Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons) Review Conference and other events planned.

#### Request for efforts toward the NPT Review Conference and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Koizumi first met with Ms. Elayne Whyte Gomez, the Costa Rican ambassador to the UN in Geneva. Mr. Koizumi said that although the current situation is similar to the chaotic situation in the Middle East in 2015, which lead to the derailment of the 2015 Review Conference, there are over one thousand Mayors for Peace member cities in Iran, and thus from the civic society perspective there are some positive aspects. He expressed his hope that the ambassador will work toward the success of the 2020 NPT Review Conference and the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Mr. Koizumi next met with Ms. Kathleen Lawand, Head of Arms Unit at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Ms. Lawand expressed her fear that the termination of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty between the United States and Russia would lead to the inability to legally regulate nuclear weapons, and said that in that sense, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons provides some hope. She also stated that the activities of Mayors for Peace, an organization made up of cities all over the world, are extremely important, as cities are the target of nuclear weapons. Mr. Koizumi asked for her continued cooperation in Mayors for Peace initiatives.

Mr. Koizumi next met with Dr. John Borrie, Research Coordinator of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). He spoke about the importance of civic society, international organizations and NGOs working together for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Dr. Borrie said that while we will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NPT in 2020, the situation for nuclear disarmament is currently extremely difficult, and that this is now also creating divisions between nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states regarding the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. He said that it is precisely because we are in this situation that it is important that civic society creates pressure for nuclear disarmament.

# 2020 Olympics as an opportunity to push for the abolition of nuclear weapons

Mr. Koizumi met with Ms. Tatiana Valovaya, the Director-General of the United Nations at Geneva. Ms. Valovaya stated that the United Nations' Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs) match with the aims of Mayors for Peace. She also said that she would like to use the opportunities of the 10<sup>th</sup> General Conference of Mayors for Peace and the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics in 2020 to appeal to the world for the abolition of nuclear weapons.



With Ms. Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the United Nations at Geneva

Ms. Valovaya said that she is aware that 2020 is an important year for Mayors for Peace, as it is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb, and stated that she would fully support to Mayors for Peace activities. She also spoke about the importance of communicating what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki to young people.

Mr. Koizumi next met with Mr. Nobushige Takamizawa, the Ambassador for Disarmament of the Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament. Mr. Takamizawa referred to the fact that the resolution for the abolition of nuclear weapons that Japan proposed in 2019 was adopted at the 1<sup>st</sup> Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. He explained that in order to ensure that the 2020 NPT Review Conference is a success, rather than adhering to past resolutions, they should be renewed.

Mr. Koizumi also met with Ms. Beatrice Fihn, the Executive Director of the International Campaign to

Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). Ms. Fihn expressed her gratitude for the ties of solidarity with Mayors for Peace. She said that she is greatly inspired by the Mayors for Peace approach of aiming for the abolition of nuclear weapons from the perspective of protecting the safety and security of citizens, and this has led to the

commencement of the ICAN Cities Appeal (where municipalities in countries that have not ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons lobby their own governments to sign the treaty).



With Ms. Fihn (center), Executive Director of ICAN

All those with whom Mr. Koizumi met this time had a common awareness of the great importance of the role that civic society plays in the abolition of nuclear weapons. This is the same direction as that taken by Mayors for Peace, who promote the creation of an environment that developed awareness of the importance of peace in civic society and pushes political leaders to change their policies. The meetings demonstrated the need to continue to steadily implement initiatives that aim for the realization of a world without nuclear weapons.

(Mayors for Peace and 2020 Vision Promotion Division)

# "Peaceful Towns" Children's Art Competition 2019

Mayors for Peace held the "Peaceful Towns" Children's Art Competition with the aim of further enhancing peace education in member cities. The competition was open to children from 6 to 15 years of age in all member cities.

The contest in 2019 was the second time that the competition has been held. There were 2,829 artworks entered in the competition in 70 cities in 21 countries all over the world. After deliberation in each member city, 341 works were sent in to the Mayors for Peace secretariat.

In each of the two categories (Category I: 6-10 years



The Mayors for Peace President's Award, The first prize: Ms. Kiana Bordbar in Shiraz, Iran (10 years old)

《Message from the artist》 Peace means entering into no war, making global peace, establishing sociopsychological and physical security, etc. Kiana drew the mothers with different nationalities who are holding their hands so kindly that all children regardless of their nationalities can live and play happily and in safety. Where there is peace and no war, the sun is brighter, gardens and meadows look more beautify and children are happier. The traditional costumes shown in this work to symbolize the whole world include Austria, Mexico, Yemen, Japan, Russia, Belarus, and India. old and Category II: 11-15 years old), one artwork was selected for the grand prix, two works for awards of excellence and 3 works for prizes. One of the grand prix award winners was then selected for the Mayors for Peace President's Award. Mayors for Peace created clear file folders with a copy of the Mayors for Peace President Award-winning artwork on it, and uses it in various activities to spread awareness of the importance of peace education.

(Mayors for Peace and 2020 Vision Promotion Division)

## Mayors for Peace secretariat is accepting interns from overseas member cities

Mayors for Peace invites young employees of member cities to come to Hiroshima as interns and work in the Mayors for Peace secretariat. Last fiscal year, one intern was accepted from each of five cities in five countries.

The interns gained experience in work such as updating the information on member cities in their home countries and conducting surveys on cities that have not joined Mayors for Peace. The interns also provided information on peace activities being conducted in their own city to employees of this Foundation and members of the public, thus enhancing mutual understanding and solidarity.

The interns also participated in other activities such as visiting Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, Peace Memorial Park, the Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims and the Radiation Effects Research Foundation, listening to atomic bombing testimonial talks, and holding discussions with young people in Hiroshima. By doing so they were able to develop a

Country	City	No. of interns	Period of stay
Kazakhstan	Semey	1	June 19 – July 2, 2019
Spain	Granollers	1	July 9 – 26, 2019
Iran	Tehran	1	September 4 – 27, 2019
Brazil	Santos	1	November 18 – 29, 2019
England	Manchester	1	February 3 – 14, 2020



An intern giving a presentation on Tehran City's peace activities to Hiroshima citizens



An intern visiting Peace Memorial Park

greater understanding of the reality of the bombing and share a desire for peace.

After the interns return to their respective home countries, they conduct various peace activities based on what they learned in Hiroshima. Through this internship program, the secretariat hopes to spread the desire of Hiroshima to create a world free of nuclear weapons throughout the world.

(Mayor for Peace and 2020 Vision Promotion Division)

# Support for universities offering Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Courses

#### First Peace Study Course at University of Science Malaysia

On August 20, 2019, twenty students and two teachers from University of Science Malaysia conducted a peace study tour in Hiroshima City, which was the first such tour since the course received certification as a Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course. This Foundation provided support in implementing the program for the tour. The group visited the Peace Memorial Park and Peace Memorial Museum, as well as listening to an atomic bombing testimony by Ms. Keiko Ogura and a recital of atomic bombing testimonies. Through these activities, the group learned about the truth of the atomic bombing.



Touring the Peace Memorial Park guided by peace volunteers

# University from Korea conducts peace studies in Hiroshima

On January 21, 2020, 18 students and one teacher from Kyungpook National University College of Humanities conducted their second peace study tour in Hiroshima City since the certification of their Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course. They were provided support by this Foundation. The group visited Peace Memorial Park and the Peace Memorial Museum, listened to an atomic bombing testimony by Lee Jongkeun, participated in an atomic bombing testimoni-



A peace volunteer shows the group around Peace Memorial Park

al recital and other activities, learning about the reality of the atomic bombing.

(Mayors for Peace and 2020 Vision Promotion Division)

## Participation in the Obama Foundation Leaders: Asia-Pacific Program

For five days from December 10-14, 2019, a staff of this Foundation participated in the Obama Foundation Leaders: Asia-Pacific Program 2019.

This program was organized by the Obama Foundation for around two hundred participants from thirty-three countries and regions, including Indonesia and Australia. The aim of the program was to enhance the skills of young leaders, thus empowering their activities, developing connections among participants and creating a new generation of role models.

#### Talk by former President Obama

As part of the program, there were talks by people who are successful in various different fields, including former President Barak Obama and his wife, and Mr. Tony Fernandes, CEO of the Air Asia Group, the largest LCC in Asia. There were also workshops where participants could learn about how to develop leadership skills, opportunities to participate in volunteer activities in the local community, and more.



Former US President Obama giving a message to participants

This Foundation's staff, through participating in discussions with young leaders in the Asia-Pacific region, had the opportunity to discuss values with the other participants. Our staff also spoke about the actual damage from the atomic bombing and the activities of Mayors for Peace, and asked for understanding and support for future activities.

(Mayors for Peace and 2020 Vision Promotion Division)



**Date** December 27, 2019 – Late July 2020 (tentative) **Free Admission** 

Photo materials have an important meaning to better understand the real aspects of the atomic bombing. Besides a number of photographs that we are already aware of, it is believed that many photos unbeknown to us still exist overseas; there were many foreigners who entered Hiroshima after the atomic bombing.

The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum has col-

lected photographs and other materials held by various institutions and private individuals overseas by acquiring photographic data and dispatching staff members abroad.

In this exhibition, we look back on the atomic bomb damage suffered by Hiroshima and the restoration after the atomic bombing, with a focus on photographic materials and witness accounts that we have collected from overseas in recent years.



ca. October, 1945—Photo by U.S. Military Donated by Mrs. John V. Peterson Courtesy of the Naval History and Heritage Command Collected in 2016

(Peace Memorial Museum Curatorial Division)

# Hiroshima training for United Nations tour guides

The City of Hiroshima has permanent atomic bombing exhibitions at United Nations facilities in New York, Geneva and Vienna. The exhibitions are organized jointly with the Nagasaki City, and include atomic bombing artifacts and photo panels. Large numbers of visitors, including state leaders, visit the exhibitions every day.

To be able to communicate the truth of the atomic bombing more effectively through the exhibitions, it is crucial to share information on the reality of the bombing with tour guides and guided tour employees. To do so, from 2017 the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum has been inviting tour guides from the three United Nations facilities to Hiroshima, and holding the Hiroshima Training for United Nations Tour Guides, to ensure that the tour guides understand the reality of the bombing. This time was the third time that this training program has been held. Six tour guides participated in training over five days, from November 30-December 4, 2019.

The training included listening to lectures, visiting the Peace Memorial Museum, touring monuments and building remains from the bombing, listening to atomic bombing testimonies, participating in sessions with volunteers, and touring Hiroshima City.

As a new initiative, this time an atomic bombing testimony was interpreted into English by an A-bomb Legacy Successor who is the daughter of the person who gave the testimony, and together mother and daughter communicated the reality of the atomic bombing and



Tour of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum led by the director, Mr. Takigawa



Tour of monuments led by a volunteer guide

their desire for peace. After touring the exhibits at the museum, the curator provided an explanation to the participants on how the museum decided on the display concepts and the exhibit selection process, and there were many questions from participants based on their perspective as atomic bombing exhibit guides.

The participants made comments such as: "Listening to the testimony, I was shocked to the extent that it changed the way I view life," and "This was a valuable experience that I could only have in Hiroshima, and it has given me great encouragement for my own work in the future. By using what I've learned here in my tours, I will be able to communicate the need to abolish nuclear weapons with a greater sense of reality."

Based on this project, we will continue to work to strengthen our capacity to communicate the 'Spirit of Hiroshima' in the international community, by enhancing the exhibits on the atomic bombing at United Nations facilities, and expanding the tour commentary about the atomic bombing and the abolition of nuclear weapons. We are also examining the possibility of dispatching atomic bombing witnesses and museum staff to United Nations facilities in the future, to conduct atomic bombing testimonies and on-site training on the reality of the bombing.

(Peace Memorial Museum Outreach Division)

Memoir of the A-bombing "The day that changed the fate of my family"



by Noboru Sueoka Atomic Bomb Witness for this Foundation

### Our family before the bombing

In the year the atomic bomb was dropped, 1945, my family moved from Tokyo to Hiroshima in May or June because my father got a work transfer. It was a sudden transfer. My father worked at a major chemical factory. There were four in my family: my father Shigeru, my mother Kikuko, me (7 years old) and my younger sister Yukiko who was two.

My father's family home was in Nishi-shin-machi (now known as Dohashi-cho, which is very close to Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum), and for a long time the family ran a large traditional inn.

Once my father's transfer was decided, we packed

our household belongings, sent them to the employee lodgings in Funairi Town in Hiroshima, and left Tokyo in a rush. However, since military supplies were prioritized when sending cargo at that time, we did not know when our belongings might arrive. We did not even have the necessities we needed to live in the employee lodgings, so the only thing we could do was to temporarily move in to my father's family home in Nishi-shinmachi.

At that time in 1945, the inn that my father's family owned had stopped business due to the war. There were five people living there—my grandfather Eikichi, my grandmother Ryou, my father's younger sisters Hatsuyo (the eldest daughter), the frail Tsuyuko, and Fujiko who worked at the prefectural government office. Our family of four was added, and on July 20 my younger brother Hiroshi was born, making us a family of ten.

Up until August 5, the day before that fateful day, we were living a completely normal life as citizens in Nishi-shin-machi.

#### Coincidence determined the fate of our family

Because there was a concern about air raids on Hiroshima too, at the end of July my mother took just my newly-born brother and younger sisters and temporarily evacuated to a relative's house near Miyajima. My father had to work and I had to go to school so we stayed in Hiroshima.

Coincidence changed the fate of our family. August 5 was a Sunday. I had decided to go to visit my mother's place alone. My grandfather strongly opposed this, so I promised him that I would "definitely come home by the end of the day on the 5<sup>th</sup>, and go to school on the 6<sup>th</sup>". However, when I met up with my mother for the first time in a long time and saw my newly-born baby brother, I broke my firm promise to my grandfather and did not come home on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

The next morning, the 6<sup>th</sup>, I went out to the seashore in front of my relative's house and was idly looking over the sea to Hiroshima, which was 20 kilometers away, when all of a sudden, I witnessed a powerful flash, something that I had never seen before. About ten seconds after that came a dull booming sound.

When I think about the fact that in the instant of that flash, Hiroshima was destroyed and tens of thousands of people lost their lives, even now I get goosebumps.

At the time that the bomb was dropped, my father was working at the factory five kilometers away from the hypocenter. For days and days after the bombing, he walked around the burnt ruins of the city looking for his parents and sisters. Finally, he found the bodies of his parents, Hatsuyo, and Tsuyuko under some rubble. It was more than ten days after the bombing that he found their bodies.

On August 18, my father, mother and I went to the



Hiroshima reduced to ashes (October 1945, Photo by US Army, Contributed by Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum)

burnt ruins of the family's inn. We dug out the bodies of my grandparents, half of which were not burned, from under the rubble, and cremated them there. When we cremated them, my mother was saying something in a low voice, but I did not know what she was saying. My mother said "Look, this is your grandfather," but I could not believe that the dead body in front of me could be my grandfather, who had seen me off at the front door on the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup>. I still keenly remember the smell, which was something like rotten fish. Even today, decades later, when I smell anything similar to that smell, the scene from that time flashes vividly in front of my eyes.

Later in life, my father contracted lung cancer and passed away. Fujiko, who left the house together with my father on the morning of the 6<sup>th</sup> to go to work at the government office, was never found.

#### In conclusion, our request

Life during the war was full of uncertainty and there were restrictions, but the Japanese people worked together in family units, leading a happy life looking after and supporting one another. That was the case for my family too. That family was taken away from me in an instant.

At this very moment there is a war waging between countries somewhere. We do not know when nuclear weapons might be used. Nuclear weapons must definitely be abolished. As *hibakusha*, this is our strong request. Seventy-four years have passed since the end of the war, and there are fewer generations who have experienced war. I firmly believe that now is the time to pass on the tragedy of nuclear weapons more broadly to the whole world—this is the path that will lead to the abolition of nuclear weapons.

#### **Profile**

#### [Noboru Sueoka]

Born 1937. At the time the atomic bomb was dropped, was living in a family of ten people, including his grandparents, in Nishi-shin-machi, 800m from the hypocenter. On the day of the bombing, the life or death of the family members was decided by pure coincidence.

Has worked as a Hiroshima Peace Volunteer since 2004, as an A-bomb Legacy Successor since 2016, and as an Atomic Bomb Witness since 2017.

Thinking about Peace:

When the state collapses: Taking the example of the collapse of the Ceausescu regime -Thirty years after the end of the Cold War-



**by Yasuhito Fukui, LLD** Associate Professor, Hiroshima City University Hiroshima Peace Institute

#### 1. Introduction

Even today, thirty years later, I cannot forget the first

time in my life I experienced the collapse of a communist state, the People's Republic of Romania, currently just named Romania after the 'Revolution'. At the time, I was a student at the linguistics department at Bucharest University and working as a Romanian language trainee posted at the Japanese Embassy. I received a phone call from Counsellor Tsushima, who was the deputy chief of Mission (DCM), who told me that because of some unstable situation in the country, he requested me to come to the embassy from tomorrow and work there temporarily. In Romania at the time freedom of speech was strictly controlled, and the only things broadcast on the television or radios were communist propaganda programs or news about the activities of the president, such as 'Our great leader Comrade Ceausescu visited a factory and encouraged the workers'. Because of the propagandist language used, Romanians called jokingly that time 'The Golden Age (Eopoca de Aur)'. The greatest enjoyment for the people was distracting themselves by satirizing the political situation.

In Eastern Europe at that time, it was a popular trend to use the recreation tickets handed out at the workplace to spend holiday such as in the areas around Balaton Lake (Hungary) and the Black Sea. In 1989, because of the political unstability in Central and Eastern Europe in particular, Hungary's border security was relaxed, and people from East Germany coming on holiday started to enter Austria. I presume the Austrian border police, who were at the front line in the Cold War, were also astonished, because many East Germans continuously defected to West Germany via Austria. People in East Germany soon found out about this situation, and many East Germans said they were going for a 'picnic' then took this route, ultimately leading to the collapse of East Germany. In West Berlin, which had become an isolated inland island under the joint control of the four winners of the war (United States, United Kingdom, France, Soviet Union), the wall that surrounded the area except Soviet Union sector occupied by the western winners was destroyed, and people were now free to move between East and West Germany even in areas other than Checkpoint Charlie (the border control point between East and West Berlin).

This was the kind of political situation occurring consecutively in East Germany, Czechoslovakia (which was later divided) and Hungary, and apparently it was so busy that the Foreign Service officers working in the Eastern Europe Division of Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the time were exhausted from working day and night and were sleeping on the floor. One key point in analysing the situation was whether or not the political turmoil taking place in Eastern Europe would also spread to Romania and Bulgaria, which were under strong political controls. Political officers in the Embassies had a meeting for exchange of views in Vienna, which was the gateway towards Eastern Europe at the time, to discuss this issue. In particular, in the case of Romania it was thought that any contact with dissident groups would result in arrests, imprisonment and torture, and it was an open secret that Romanian local staffs at the Japanese Embassy at the time were regularly reporting on the internal goings-on at the embassy to the Protocol office in charge of the diplomatic corps that also dispatched them. There was also a possibility that listening devices had been installed in the Embassy, and for this reason, the consultation of a confidential nature were often held in the Embassy compound outside of the office building.

At this time, a valuable information source was Radio Free Europe (RFE), where defectors from Eastern Europe broadcasted information to their home countries. The BBC, Deutsche Welle and others also broadcasted in the Romanian language. RFE was based in Munich, and was an important activity base at the time for European intelligence service, just like the German Federal Intelligence Ministry today. In this way the Romanian language broadcasting unit was broadcasting the latest information about Eastern Europe, which was not broadcasted domestically in Romania. On December 16, 1989, it reported on the news that the people had finally revolted in Timisoara, and had clashed with the security forces and were suppressed, and this led to the start of rumors of riots among the people. For this reason, the Japanese Embassy also entered a state of alert. I was one of the stuff assigned temporarily as an extra member of the political affairs section, and began to work immediately.

#### 2. Insurgence at Timisoara

Although people had started to talk covertly about the insurgence at Timisoara, crucially, there was no evidence, so other embassies were frantically trying to gather information. The embassies of the major nations decided to dispatch diplomatic staffs to verify the situation in Timisoara. The ambassador at the time, Ambassador Ichioka, consulted the matter with the Ministry in Japan, and as a result decided to dispatch two officers to the area. Of course, if they failed, there was a risk of retaliatory measures, such as diplomatic officers being expelled from the country as persona non grata and the Romanian driver being arrested on a charge of treason. While some thought that we should be cautious, the conclusion was that the only way to obtain evidence was to go to Timisoara. An ambassador's car vehicle was used as it was less likely to be blocked by authorities along the way, and the three members quietly departed from the Embassy, trying not to attract attention.

The United States, France and Germany had all tried in the same way, but because they tried to enter from the main road they were stopped at the police security checkpoint and sent back. The Japanese team tried to enter Timisoara from not the main road but a rural road, although they nearly got lost along the small traffic road where there were no streetlights. Although they were seen by a policeman at a village police station along the way, they somehow arrived in the center of the town. There, they saw stores that had been destroyed, their windows smashed and the glass shattered everywhere; and marks from gunshot and bloodstains-it was clear that an insurgence had occurred in Timisoara and that the general public had been suppressed. After this, they were found by the secret police that were patrolling the city and were kindly requested to come to a hotel where a temporary command post had been set up. There, they were interrogated briefly. They were told that because they had entered the city, which had been designated as an area that foreigners are prohibited to enter, thus they were requested to leave and led out of the city escorted by a police car.

The two diplomats were only asked why they had come to the city, but the Romanian driver had his hair pulled during the interrogation and was continually threatened—he must have been terrified surely. In the end, Japan was the only country to successfully enter Timisoara, and the news of the tragedy there was communicated to the world from Tokyo. Later, corpses that became proof of the suppression of the people were unearthed, and images of the many coffins carrying the dead bodies at a church were broadcast on television. However, we still do not know how many people lost their lives in that clash, even today. One thing that is clear is that the insurgence was triggered by the gathering that was held to protest the persecution of the pastor Laszlo Tokes, whose name indicates that he was a Hungarian minority Romanian and that in response, the security forces opened fire in attempt to stop the protest, and as a result many people lost their lives. In the background is the fact that communist regimes in Eastern Europe were falling like dominos and there were regime changes one after the other. The security authorities in Timis County, consulting with the central government, took hard-line measures in order to maintain the administration at that time.

# 3. Official protest meeting organised by the government in front of the Communist Party headquarters

What was President Ceausescu doing at the time of the Timisoara revolt? He was on a trip abroad in Iran. Naturally he must have been informed the uprising in Timisoara. Although there were information that the president returned home a few days later, Romanian state-run television broadcast no reports on what happened in Timisoara. After a while, the Japanese Embassy received information that the Romanian government was planning an organised protest meeting where Ceausescu would criticize the insurgence in Timisoara. The meting was to be held on the afternoon of December 21, five days after the incident. The location was not very far from where the Japanese Embassy was located at the time, so we also went there, monitoring the situation in the city along the way.

At the place where the official protest meeting was held, there was the former Royal family's Palace, which was transformed as the national art gallery; the Romanian Athenaeum concert hall, which is an historical building; the prestigious Athenee Palace Hotel and Bucharest University library; and also the headquarter of the Communist Party. The headquarter was used before as the Ministry of Home Affairs to protect the palace located just in front of the Palace, and the access to the surrounding area was restricted. Something that came to light after the gun battle described below was that people who were loyal to the Ceausescu regime lived in the apartments surrounding the party headquarters, such as members of the secret police, and they protected the headquarters. This was the historical background of the headquarter building, and there were many surprising things that were found out about it later, including the fact that these two buildings such as former Palace and the Ministry was connected by underground tunnels. We were told to take care in the surrounding area, as cars with 1B3 number plates, which were allocated to the cars of party officials and government VIPs, drove recklessly in the area. When Ceausescu came to the official residence and the Communist Party headquarters in the Primavera area, the roads would sometimes suddenly be blocked, even though it was in the middle of the city.

This was the place that was chosen for the meeting, and the residents who were mobilized gradually filled the location. There were heavy security measures; presumably to prevent any reoccurrence of what happened in Timisoara. We were watching the meeting from a little further away, near the Athenee Palace Hotel, but because there were a few Japanese people who spoke Romanian, it is likely that the plain clothes security police noticed that we were from the Japanese Embassy and had come to monitor the meeting. The organised meeting this time was different from usual one that had been held in the past: after transporting people who had been mobilized, a bus parked lengthways in front of the Communist Party headquarters, like a shield. In a short while Ceausescu appeared on the balcony at the front of the building.

The statement criticizing what happened at Timisoara had already been released, and immediately after Ceausescu started talking there was the sound of an explosion in front of the building. The surprised people climbed over the barricades of security police and plain clothes secret police and started to move towards the city center, so we also hurriedly returned to the Japanese Embassy. Looking at the video that was shown later, the stunned look on Ceausescu's face as he realized something unexpected had happened was memorable. His entourage of officials were panicking, and on the other hand members of the public started yelling "Down with Ceausescu!" and filling the streets of the city. There were cars sounding their horns, and it was just like a liberated zone. But this was not the end and it was the beginning of a sort of civil war on the streets.

Coincidentally, on that day a member of the Embassy in a neighboring country had travelled to Bucharest, and had a room in the Intercontinental Hotel in front of University Square. That room was on an upper floor and had a good view of Bucharest University, but looking down on the road after the meeting, blinded vehicles equipped with machine guns had appeared out of nowhere, and had started to force their way into the crowd of people. That Embassy official quickly called the Japanese Embassy from his hotel room and told them what was happening, and just like a messenger game the diplomat at the Embassy communicated the same thing to Tokyo. For this reason, we had the strange situation where once again for some reason the news on the strained situation in Bucharest was being reported immediately from Tokyo.

Actually, after the meeting in the city of Bucharest, from that evening the security forces were deployed and there was a tense atmosphere. The airport was closed, and because of the strict controls on the press from the end of the Ceausescu regime, the only member of the Japanese media was the special correspondent for the Japanese Communist Party bulletin. Today it is basically the same-when anything happens, the special correspondents acceded to the Eastern Europe press club in Vienna just call up the Japanese Embassy in Romania and ask the situation. It was the same situation in other countries as well, so no-one was able to report on the news. Eventually in the evening there was a sound of gunshot in the dark, and the shooting started. First it was warning shots into the air, so actual bullets were passing right by the window of the hotel we were in. I remember that we hurried to the far end of the room, feeling the fear that if any of us were hit we would definitely die.

The sound of gunshot continued, and after a while tanks appeared. The tanks were shooting blanks, but it was enough to scare the people. The square that we were in during the day had turned into a battlefield. We were monitoring the situation, at the same time fearing for our lives on site. The university library was set on fire, there was shooting from the national art gallery that was the former Palace, and from neighboring apartment blocks, and to be honest it was very scary. Stray bullets even flew into the Japanese Embassy, which was away from the city center, and smashed the windows. Vasile Milea, the minister of defense, was found dead, who was forced to resign to take responsibility for the incident. It is not clear whether he killed himself or whether he was murdered, but in any case he was replaced by General Stanculescu, who had been in charge of the cleanup operation in Timisoara. However, Stanculescu realized the nature of the situation and rejected his orders, and as a result the military switched to the side of the people. At around midday on the 21st, Ceausescu and his wife tried to flee by helicopter from the Communist Party headquarter, but they were forced to land at Titu air base. After attempting to flee on land they were arrested on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### 4. Closing remarks

Political Power was seized by Iliescu and his supporters, who on December 22 announced the establishment of provisional government by the National Salvation Front (FSN). On December 26, Ceausescu and his wife were sentenced to death in a court-martial trial held as a formality, and soon after their execution was reported on television. While the glorious Ceausescu regime had come to a shocking end, Ceausescu loyalists in the secret police and other organizations opposed the revolution to the end, opening fire from buildings around the Communist Party headquarters and so on. Actually the only places where there were gun battles apart from the area near the headquarters were the Ministry of Defense and the area surrounding the television station. It was truly a battle on the streets to seize power. Fortunately, the Japanese Embassy at the time was safely away from those areas. Around eighty Japanese nationals escaped in the embassy to be protected. There was also a reporter from a public broadcasting agency who pretended to be taking refuge but actually came into the Embassy and interviewed people, secretly making contact with outside parties by phone-to be honest, this was extremely vexing as the lives of Japanese nationals were at stake.

At the same time as this situation was occurring locally, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs cabled instructions to the Japanese Embassy in the United States, saying that agreement had been reached that when the United States were evacuating US citizens over land, Japanese nationals would be evacuated with them. Preparations for departure began the next morning. When we left the Embassy and were waiting in a line of cars on the road next to the US Embassy, gunfire broke out from a nearby building of the secret police, and the marines who were guarding the US Embassy returned fire. There were children crying, and we were also terrified. Eventually the gun battle stopped, and our group left, heading for neighboring Bulgaria. A few weeks later, when the situation became safe, they returned to Romania. In Romania, after a while the rebel loyalists surrendered and gun battles in the city finally ended, but in the areas where there had been fierce battles the charred remains of buildings remained for a long time.

Afterwards there were daily demonstrations in front of the Romanian office of the Prime Minister (previously the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), and at University Square as well there were continuous demonstrations to commemorate the deaths of the young people who had

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lost their lives in clashes between the demonstrators and the security forces. In June 1990, President Iliescu, who was now in power, was said to have called miners to Bucharest, who then violently attacked the members of the general public participating in a demonstration; the demonstration collapsed. It seemed that even though the regime of a state had changed, it would take some time to establish a true democracy. In fact, it was in 2004, when I had assumed my second post as the chief of political section, Romania joined NATO, and it was 2007, after I had left, that Romania joined the EU. After this there was an increase in the number of Romanians who went looking for work outside of the country, and in 2018 there were demonstrations by Romanians living abroad. Currently Romania is slowing walking along the path to democratization. The chains of events described above are extremely instructive to me when I consider the fundamental concepts of peace, civilian and the state.

The Salomon Dictionary of International Law defines peace as 'a situation without war', and there are similar passages in books published by colleagues at the Hiroshima Peace Institute. So, should the Romanian Revolution be called war? According to this definition, cases where war breaks out because two states declare war on each other is classified as war, but a non-international armed conflict does not come under this definition, as may be seen from the fact that people see this as a power struggle within the Communist Party and call it 'the Palace Revolution'. On the other hand, however, a battle, which could also be called armed conflict, did break out and people lost their lives. The definition of 'the civilian' is difficult as well, because the secret police who suppressed the demonstration were not wearing uniforms, and looked no different from civilians. Regarding the state, similarly although the regime changed through political upheaval, it is hard to come up with a persuasive argument for how the state was transformed under those circumstances. The events of that time show to us the need for an elucidation of the historical facts, and the difficulty of explaining the nature of war and peace, which cannot be seen simplistically, and the relationship between civilians and the state.

(Submitted February, 2020)

#### **Profile**

#### [Yasuhito Fukui]

Born 1964, in Hyogo Prefecture. Obtained doctoral degree (law) from University Paris I Pantheon-Sorbonne. Specializes in international law (international disarmament law, international human rights and humanitarian law, etc). Resigned from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in March 2015. Assumed position at Hiroshima City University Hiroshima Peace Institute.

Main works include *Gunshuku Kokusaiho no Kyoka* (Strengthening Disarmament Law (February, 2015; Shinzansha Publisher Co., Ltd.) and *Tsujo Heiki Gunshukuron* (Theory of Conventional Arms Disarmament) (March, 2020; Toshindo Co., Ltd.)

# Multilingual everyday living information site For International Residents translated and released in eight languages

In April 2019, the Japanese government established a new residency status, and as a result it is forecast that there will be a further increase in the number of foreign residents in Hiroshima City as well. For this reason, a web site has been created to provide comprehensible living information for foreign residents of Hiroshima City. The site is called For International Residents (in eight languages), and was released at the same time as the renewal of this Foundation's International Relations and Cooperation Division's homepage (https://h-ircd.jp/).



# [Updated content] 1 Top page

To ensure that it is easy to access everyday living information, the information is organized in categories, with a simple design using pictograms.

#### 2 Number of languages

Eight languages: Japanese, English, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese, Korean, Vietnamese, Tagalog

#### **3 Emergency information and notifications**

A list of notifications and emergency information is provided on the top page.

#### 4 Addition of a question form

A question form has been added in the Hiroshima City Consultation Service for International Residents in each language, to ensure that it is easy to ask questions or ask for advice using email.

#### 5 New FAQ section

Questions that are frequently sent in to Hiroshima City Consultation Service for International Residents are listed in this section.

(International Relations and 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.



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