

# PEACE 平和文化 CULTURE



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## Peace Memorial Ceremony Marking 75 Years Since the Atomic Bombing

—Although it was said that “nothing will grow in Hiroshima for 75 years” because of the atomic bombing, Hiroshima today has achieved recovery and become a city that symbolizes peace and attracts many visitors from all over the world—

On August 6, 2020, the 75<sup>th</sup> year since the atomic bombing, the Peace Memorial Ceremony organized by the City of Hiroshima was held in the city’s Peace Memorial Park. Approximately eight hundred participants, including *hibakusha*, bereaved families and guests, prayed for the souls of those who lost their lives and for perpetual world peace.

To prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus, preventative measures were taken for the ceremony this year, including the placing of visitors’ seats two meters apart, no non-reserved seats, and the expansion of the area where entry is restricted for a set period of time including before and after the ceremony, to prevent crowding.

The ceremony started at 8am. First, Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui and two representatives of the bereaved families dedicated two volumes of the Register of the Names of the Fallen Atomic Bomb Victims, containing the names of the 4,943 people who passed away over the past year, to the shrine in the Memorial Cenotaph for the Atomic Bomb Victims. This brings the total number of names recorded in the Register to 324,129 people, in 119 volumes.

This was followed by an address by Mr. Haruo Yamada, Chairperson of the Hiroshima City Council, and a dedication of flowers by various representatives. At 8:15am, the time that the bomb was dropped, Mr. Toshinobu Matsuki, the representative of the bereaved families, and Minami Takemiya, the children’s representative, rang the Peace Bell, and all participants observed a minute of silent prayer.

Mayor Matsui then read out the Peace Declaration. In the Declaration, the Mayor said that humanity is now facing the new threat of the novel coronavirus, but that we should be able to overcome this threat using what we have learned from the past tragedies. The Mayor gave the examples of the 1918 flu pandemic that occurred a century ago and the two World Wars to state that civic society must not resort to self-centered nationalism but must work in solidarity to face this threat. Mayor Matsui then quoted: a *hibakusha* who was thirteen years old at the time of the bombing, who said “Fighting happens when people think only of themselves or their own countries”; the Pope’s powerful message from when he

visited the areas affected by the atomic bombs in November last year: “To remember, to journey together, to protect. These are three moral imperatives”; and Sadako Ogata, who worked passionately for refugees as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, who spoke of her own experience saying “The important thing is to save the lives of those who are suffering. No country can live in peace alone. The world is connected.” The Mayor stated that these words indicate that we should unite against threats to humanity, to ensure that we do not repeat the tragedies of the past.

Mayor Matsui also said that the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) are both critical for the elimination of nuclear weapons. He said that although they form a framework that should definitely be continued in the next generation, their future is unclear. He asked that the leaders of the world visit Hiroshima, to gain a deep understanding of the actual damage from the atomic bombing. He asked that, at the NPT Review Conference to be held next year, they devote all their efforts and fulfill their duty to negotiate in good faith for nuclear disarmament, while continuing constructive dialogue, to build a security regime that is not dependent on nuclear weapons.



Mayor Matsui reading out the Peace Declaration

The Mayor also made a strong appeal to the Japanese government. He asked that it heeds the sincere wish of the *hibakusha* that it signs and ratifies the TPNW and becomes a party to the treaty. He also asked that, as the only nation to have suffered nuclear attacks in war, the government calls for solidarity among the people of the world to share the Spirit of Hiroshima. Furthermore, he demanded enhanced support measures for the *hibakusha*, whose average age is now over 83, and the many others whose daily lives are beset by suffering from the radiation that has impacted them both physically and emotionally. He also demanded that the government make the political decision to expand the “black rain areas”.

After the Peace Declaration, the children’s representatives Shunsuke Omori and Natsumi Nagakura read out

the Commitment to Peace. They said that their normal life was taken from them by the threat of the novel coronavirus, and made them realize that they should not take their daily life for granted. They said that this experience made them think about daily life for citizens at the time, taken from them by one atomic bomb on August 6, 1945. They said “We will continue to hold in our hearts the kindness to recognize the value in others. We will build a peaceful future where we consider the feelings of others and live joyfully in peace. We, raised in the atomic bombed city of Hiroshima, will bring hope to the future; the same hope that was passed to us by those who refused to give up in the wake of the bombing.”

In the speeches that followed, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said that in the current tough security environment and with the disparity in the stance of nation-states towards nuclear disarmament, it is necessary to remove distrust through mutual engagement and dialogue, and continue with efforts to build a common foundation. He also said that in this year that marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry into force of the NPT, for the treaty to continue to play a role in supporting the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, it will be important to ensure that next year’s NPT Review Conference produces fruitful results. The Prime Minister also stated that the Japanese government will continue to make a proactive contribution, by lobbying the world’s nations to continue with united initiatives and utilizing the results of discussions on nuclear disarmament by the Group of Eminent Persons for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament.

At the ceremony this year, video messages from seventeen people were projected on a large screen. They included messages from heads of state and national representatives, heads of local governments, secretaries-general of international organizations and others.

In his message, Antonio Guterres, the United Nations Secretary-General, indicated his awareness of the tough current international situation regarding the abolition of nuclear weapons, and repeatedly called for UN member states to return to the common vision and the path that will lead to the complete abolition of nuclear weapons. He stated that now is the time for nuclear weapons states to participate in dialogue, confidence-building measures, the reduction of nuclear power, and the utmost restraint. The secretary-general also said that at next year’s NPT Review Conference there will be an opportunity for signatories to return to the shared vision, and he expressed that he is looking forward to the entry into force of the TPNW, as a further pillar of the disarmament regime. He also said that young people have proved their power many times, working together with civic society for the cause of disarmament. He said that we should listen to the ideas of young people and ensure that they have a forum to make their voices heard.

Participating in the ceremony were representatives of bereaved families from 26 prefectures, as well as ambassadors and representatives from 83 states including the European Union (EU) and the nuclear weapon states of America, the United Kingdom, France and Russia.

The ceremony was live-streamed online. The full texts of the Peace Declaration and the Commitment to Peace that were read out at the ceremony are available on the City of Hiroshima homepage. The Peace Declaration is also available in 9 other languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Korean, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish).

(General Affairs Division)

## Marking 75 years since the atomic bombing—Aims of this Foundation



by **Kazumi Matsui**  
President, Hiroshima Peace  
Culture Foundation

Seventy-five years ago, a single atomic bomb instantaneously turned the city of Hiroshima into ruins, and took the precious lives of many. Today, the city has achieved a remarkable recovery, and its citizens are able to live full lives. At the same time, there are many *hibakusha* who even today are still suffering, from the aftereffects of radiation and other issues. They continue their plea that “No one else should ever suffer as we have” as they pass on their experiences and their message of peace to the younger generations. The average age of the *hibakusha* is now over 83, and the question of how to pass on their atomic bombing experience is becoming a serious issue.

### Efforts to pass on the atomic bombing experience

For this reason, this Foundation is working together with the City of Hiroshima and implementing various initiatives to pass on the message of the *hibakusha* to the next generations.

At the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, there are displays of not only possessions but also photographs of the deceased and letters written by their bereaved families, to encourage visitors to the museum to think about the suffering and sorrow of the *hibakusha* and bereaved families as individuals. The museum also shows displays of the damage caused by radiation, to demonstrate the inhumanity of nuclear weapons. Additionally, A-Bomb Legacy Successors have been trained to pass on the experience of the *hibakusha* and their wishes for peace, and to communicate these to future generations in place of the *hibakusha*. They conduct their activities not only in Japan but are also dispatched overseas. The museum is also working together with the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims to record atomic bomb testimonial videos of the *hibakusha* talking about their experiences, and to collect atomic bombing written testimonials.

We will continue to enhance virtual activities like this as we pursue our activities to ensure that the next generation of young people also understand the message of the *hibakusha*.

### Aiming for the abolition of nuclear weapons with the consensus of civic society

With the rise of nationalism throughout the world today, there is heightened tension between nations arising from actions based on exclusivism and confrontational thought. The international situation concerning nuclear weapons is thus extremely unstable and unpredictable. Currently, the world’s nuclear weapon states possess approximately 13,000 nuclear weapons. There is a risk that such weapons could be used in unintentional accidents or terrorist acts, and we can only say that the situation is far from the appeals of the *hibakusha* and other citizens.

To break with the current dependence on nuclear deterrence by states, and reset the course towards nuclear disarmament, it is necessary for national leaders to create an environment that enables courageous policy shifts, namely to form common values for civic society.

This Foundation aims to spread pacifism and promote international mutual understanding and cooperation, and to contribute to the promotion of world peace from the perspective of all of humanity. Mayors for Peace, of which I am the President and which this Foundation serves as secretariat, is based on the shared values (the true wish) of civic society to ensure a safe and secure life for their citizens. It is a bipartisan organization made up of the heads of local governments that have as their mission to fulfill that wish, and it shares its philosophy with this Foundation. Using the network of Mayors of Peace, which now has over 7,900 member cities from 164 countries and regions, we are holding activities to form a consensus among the global civic community that a world without nuclear weapons is the peaceful world that humankind should aim for in the future. We do this by communicating the reality of the atomic bombing and thus increasing the number of people who empathize with the wishes of the *hibakusha*. This consensus of civic society will become the key for creating an environment that will enable national leaders to take major steps toward the abolition of nuclear weapons.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said “The only real way to eliminate the threat of nuclear weapons is to eliminate nuclear weapons.” We will strengthen our connections with the United Nations, which shares our aspirations, and work towards further enhancing the Mayors for Peace activities.

### Building a peaceful society by promoting international exchange and developing a culture of peace

The world is now struggling with the COVID-19 pandemic, whose impact is being felt in international exchange and cooperation activities with restrictions on international travel. However, I believe that deepening our mutual understanding of each other’s religion and culture is the first step toward creating a peaceful world, and that developing a culture of peace among people becomes a solid foundation for a peaceful society. To do so, this Foundation is focused on international exchange, mutual cooperation and multicultural coexistence, and at the same time aims to work proactively on the promotion of international exchange activities and heightening citizens’ awareness of the importance of international peace by providing day-to-day living consultation and information for foreign residents.



Foreign participants enjoying ikebana flower arrangement at the Japan culture experience section during International Festa 2019

I ask for your ongoing understanding and support for this Foundation’s activities.

(July 2020)

### 75<sup>th</sup> year since the atomic bombing—this Foundation organizes activities in various fields

This year, the 75<sup>th</sup> year since the atomic bombing, the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation is organizing various activities based on the three main pillars of passing on the atomic bombing experience, promoting peace, and promoting international exchange and cooperation.

The first area is activities for passing on the atomic bombing experience. Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum communicates the reality of the atomic bombing using actual artifacts such as articles owned by A-bomb survivors, photos of the damage from the bombing, and pictures of the bombing drawn by citizens. This year, the museum had to be closed for around three months to prevent the spread of the COVID-19, but even during the closure, the museum implemented online communication activities including explanations of the museum displays with commentary videos by the curator, the release of videos on the website of *hibakusha* talking about their experience to school students on excursions, the holding of study sessions connecting with overseas participants using an online conference system, and more. On June 1, the museum was reopened, taking countermeasures to avoid infection through closed spaces and close contact. This year marks the 65<sup>th</sup> year since the establishment of the museum, and a special exhibition is under way that looks back over the history of the museum to date.

There is also a Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibition on display in Hawaii, United States for the first time, and in this way, we will communicate the reality of the bombing and the wishes of Hiroshima in a wide range of areas.

At the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims, the GLOBAL NETWORK website has atomic bombing testimonials in Japanese and 27 other languages, to further deepen understanding of the reality of the damage from the bombing among foreigners, by having them read the testimonials in their mother tongue.

Next is activities for the promotion of peace. Mayors for Peace, which has its secretariat in this Foundation, has implemented various activities to date with the wish of achieving the abolition of nuclear weapons while the *hibakusha* are still alive. In particular, as this year is the final year of the 2020 Vision, the general conference was planned to be held. However, with the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference has been postponed, now aiming for August of next year.

Even under such circumstances, we want to share with as many people as possible the wish of the *hibakusha* for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and for this reason, this summer, the 75<sup>th</sup> since the bombing, Mayors for Peace was organized various initiatives under the core concept of “No more Hiroshima! No more Nagasaki!”. We have posted video messages from Hiroshima and Nagasaki *hibakusha*, executive cities of Mayors for Peace, the United Nations, national governments and NGO representatives, and held an online seminar for young people in Japan and overseas. By



Mayor Matsui gives the deputy mayor of Hiroshima's sister city Hannover (Germany) paper cranes folded by high school students in Aichi Prefecture (November 11, 2019)

calling for Mayors for Peace member cities to organize initiatives under this core concept, we hope to broaden the circle of empathy so that our wish for the abolition of nuclear weapons can be shared with people throughout the world.

We are also implementing various other activities to heighten awareness of the importance of peace among younger generations, including displaying peace messages sent in by children at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park on August 6, initiatives to pass on the baton of peace to future generations, and others.

Finally, this Foundation is also working towards the further promotion of international exchange activities and heightening citizens' international awareness. In this area, our activities include the International Festa, where foreign and Japanese citizens have fun learning about each other's cultures and are given opportunities to deepen their understanding of international exchange and cooperation and multicultural coexistence; exchange activities with Hiroshima city's sister cities and friendship cities; and the operation of the International Exchange Lounge, where we provide information and a place for Japanese and non-Japanese people to interact with each other.

To promote the creation of a city of multicultural coexistence, we will implement initiatives such as the operation of a daily life consultation service for international residents, Japanese language classes to provide support for non-Japanese residents to improve their Japanese skills, and activities to promote understanding of Japanese customs and culture.

(General Affairs Division)

## Memorial Gathering for Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Victims

Every year on August 9, the date that the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, this Foundation holds the Memorial Gathering for Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Victims. This gathering has been held since 2003, with the aim of expressing condolences from Hiroshima for those who lost their lives in the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, and to renew our vow for peace.

The Memorial Gathering this year was held in a conference room on Floor B1 of the East Building of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. There were approximately fifty people in attendance, including atomic

bomb survivors (*hibakusha*) and visitors to the museum.

The Gathering began with a speech by Takashi Koizumi, Chairperson of this Foundation, followed by live television coverage of the Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremony. At 11:02am, the time that the atomic bomb exploded over Nagasaki city, all attendees observed a minute of silent prayer.

Next was a speech by Kunihiko Sakuma, chairperson of the Hiroshima Prefectural Confederation of A-Bomb Sufferers' Organizations. The Gathering ended with a picture-story show conveying the experience of Nagasaki *hibakusha* Sumiteru Taniguchi.



Performance of a picture-story show conveying the experience of a Nagasaki *hibakusha*

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division)

## On the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NPT coming into force

### Mayors for Peace issues a joint appeal

With the global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 NPT (Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons) Review Conference that was planned to be held from April to May this year at the United Nations headquarters in New York City was postponed. In light of this situation, Mayors for Peace (President: Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui) issued a joint appeal to all signatories of the NPT and relevant UN members on April 27, which would have been the first day of the originally planned conference. The addressees of the appeal were asked to effectively use the time until the conference will be held to ensure that the agreement document is ultimately finalized by the Review Conference to be held after the postponement, and to hold sincere and constructive dialogue to make progress on nuclear disarmament.

### Expression of agreement with the Joint Statement from Civic Society

NGOs and other organizations from around the world created a Joint Statement from Civic Society calling for all national governments to make progress on nuclear disarmament, and sent it to signatory nations on May 11 of this year, the date that marks 25 years from the day that it was decided to indefinitely extend the treaty. Mayors for Peace agreed with the aims of the joint statement, and added its name to the list of organizations in agreement.

(Mayors for Peace and 2020 Vision Promotion Division)

**Initiative to mark 75 years since the atomic bombing  
“No more Hiroshima! No more Nagasaki!”**

**Release of video message**

This year, 75 years since the atomic bombing, Mayors for Peace created a video message entitled “No more Hiroshima! No more Nagasaki!”, and released it online on July 20. Created with the support of twenty-three people, including *hibakusha* and mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and representatives of the United Nations, national governments, NGOs and Mayors for Peace executive cities, the aim of the video was to share the wish for the abolition of nuclear weapons with the people of the world.

The aim of the initiative is to expand global opinion supporting the abolition of nuclear weapons by utilizing the Mayors for Peace network of member cities and related organizations to distribute the video message to a wide audience.

To date, the video has been shown to state ambassadors and others who visited Hiroshima City to attend the Peace Memorial Ceremony on August 6, and it was also shown by a Mayors for Peace Executive Adviser at “#Stillhere: 75 Years of Shared Nuclear Legacy”, an on-line event held in the United States on August 6 and 9 to promote the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The video message may be viewed on: <https://youtu.be/DOO4Ifz7Ow>

**Peace education webinar held**

On August 4, a peace education webinar (online seminar) entitled “No more Hiroshima! No more Nagasaki! Future Leaders of Peace Activism” was held by Mayors for Peace member cities. The aim of the webinar was to pass on the desire for peace to the next generation of young people and encourage them to proactively take action.

Participants in the webinar first listened to a talk by an expert on the current international situation regarding nuclear weapons. This was followed by presentations by young people active in Hiroshima and Nagasaki as well as young people from five cities that previously participated in Mayors for Peace Youth Exchange for Peace: support program for “HIROSHIMA and PEACE”. The presentations described the wishes for peace and peace activities underway in each respective city. Each presentation was followed by a question and answer session and discussion with members of the audience, who came from seventeen cities in ten countries.

The webinar was live-streamed online and seen by many people. A video of the webinar is available on the Mayors for Peace website below, to encourage young people to actively participate in peace activities.



Peace education webinar

URL: [http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/jp/whatsnew/news/200701\\_news.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/jp/whatsnew/news/200701_news.html)

(Mayors for Peace and 2020 Vision Promotion Division)

**Change of exhibits in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum**

The exhibits in the Museum’s permanent exhibition are regularly changed, to prevent deterioration resulting from display and to preserve the items over a long period of time. From June 1, 2020, four clothes exhibits from the Black Rain, Conditions in Relief Stations, and Damage from Radiation sections were changed.

On display at the Conditions in Relief Stations section are the *monpe* jacket and dress worn by Setsuko Ogawa (21 years old at the time of the bombing) when the bomb hit. Setsuko suffered burns on her face and back, and was taken to Ninoshima Island where there was a temporary field hospital. Her mother Ritsu nursed her devotedly, but Setsuko passed away on August 11. Ritsu had been keeping these clothes carefully in a package with a note: “Please place these in Ritsu’s coffin.”

The exhibition sections mentioned above will be changed regularly once a year.

(Peace Memorial Museum Curatorial Division)



The dress that Setsuko Ogawa was wearing when the bomb hit (Donated by Ritsu Ogawa)

**New Arrivals Exhibition**

**Date** : June, 2020 – March 2021 (tentative)  
**Venue** : Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum East Building B1, Special Exhibition Room  
**Contents**: 132 atomic bombing artifacts and other articles donated in 2018

Efforts are made at the Peace Memorial Museum to collect and store atomic bombing artifacts that were held by atomic bomb survivors (*hibakusha*) and their bereaved families, as these are precious materials that communicate the reality of the damage from the bombing. At the New Arrivals Exhibition, some of the 613 items that were newly donated by 70 people in 2018 are on display.

Seventy-five years have passed since the end of the



“Calligraphy, a remembrance of an elder brother who died in the bombing at the age of 17.”  
(Donated by Ikuko Kobayashi)

war, and it is becoming more and more difficult to collect atomic bombing artifacts and detailed information about them. To promote the abolition of nuclear weapons, the museum communicates to future generations the various types of damage inflicted by the bomb. We appreciate your cooperation in donating atomic bombing artifacts to the museum.

### [Inquiries regarding donations of atomic bombing artifacts]

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### Library Exhibition: In This Corner (and Other Corners) of the World—Suzu in Hiroshima

This exhibition is being held in the East Building B1 of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, from June 1 to the end of October (planned).

The animated film *In This Corner of the World*, set in Hiroshima and Kure, was released in November 2016, and was seen by over 2.1 million people. A new version of the film, *In This Corner (and Other Corners) of the World*, with additional episodes of over 250 cuts and over 30 minutes, was released in December 2019. This exhibition is made up of 19 display panels that depict the once-lively streetscape and the tragic state after the atomic bombing, mainly showing scenes from the film featuring the main character Suzu in Hiroshima, in particular those set in Nakajima Ward (currently Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park). There are also an additional 34 copies of original drawings and 22 sketches on display, and most of the explanatory text in the exhibition was written by the film’s director, Sunao Katabuchi. The director’s special focus on particular details is evident throughout the exhibition.

“The building of Taishoya kimono store was just 170m from the bomb’s hypocenter, and it still exists today as the Rest House in Peace Memorial Park. When



The exhibition is popular and well-received.

trying to show the building in a scene, Otsuya muslin store that is in front of it should also appear in the scene, but I could not obtain any photos of that store. The only way I could recreate it was to ask many people about it.” (Katabuchi)

Otsuya was depicted using more than ten studies, but in the new film it has been re-drawn based on materials that were found after the release of the first film. That process is shown in the exhibition.

To express gratitude to visitors to the exhibition who cooperate in measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19, the sign of Suzu at the exhibition venue also wears a mask.

(Peace Memorial Museum Curatorial Division)

### Special Exhibition Commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> Year of the Bombing:

### History of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Part 1: Building the Foundation

—Footsteps of the First Director, Shogo Nagaoka

Date: July 22, 2020—February 23, 2021

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

\* The museum is closed on December 30 and 31.

In August 2020, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum marked its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Since opening, the Museum has displayed artifacts that retain the scars of the atomic bombing and communicate the reality of the damage inflicted by the bombing. The basis of the exhibition were the articles collected by one person, when he entered the city immediately after the bombing and gathered them. The name of that person is Shogo Nagaoka, who was the first director of the museum. Mr. Nagaoka not only collected materials, but also conducted surveys and research on the bombing, and spent his life working to illuminate the truth of the damage from the bombing.

In this exhibition, we trace the footsteps of Mr. Nagaoka based on materials donated to the museum by his family over recent years. This provides an explanation of the leadup to the opening of the museum and what the museum was like when first opened.

Mr. Nagaoka built the foundations of the museum with a powerful wish: that the tragedy of the atomic bombing must never be repeated. Through this exhibition, we hope that visitors can come face-to-face with his passion and hard work, and fully appreciate the importance of continuing to communicate the reality of the atomic bombing.



Mr. Nagaoka gazing at the pea gravel at Hiroshima Gokoku Shrine (Shogo Nagaoka collection)

### 【Exhibition contents】

- Walking Over the Scorched Earth
- Displaying the Collected Materials to the Public
- Opening the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum
- Unflinching Passion

### 【Contact】

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#### Collection Exhibition section

### Our sisters died at 23 years old

- Date** : July 2020 – February 2021  
**Venue** : Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum East Building 1F, Special Exhibition Room  
**Contents** : 8 artifacts—Shizue Tsukamoto's shirt and pants, air defense hood, name tags and badges, Kikuyo Shimokubo's blouse, Asayo Tagawa's blouse, undergarment and work pants

The Collection Exhibition section displays items picked out on a certain subject from the approximately 20,000 artifacts in the museum's collection.

On August 6, 1945, a single atomic bomb turned the city of Hiroshima to rubble in an instant. Many people were exposed to large amounts of radiation, suffered



Blouse worn by Kikuyo at the time of the bombing (Donated by Tomiko Hagimoto)

burns to their body, and died in great pain.

This exhibition shows items owned by three women who died at the age of twenty-three.

### 【Contact】

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### Atomic bombing testimonials communicated using online conference system

~ Even during—or actually because of—the pandemic, we are communicating the reality of the bombing to the world ~

With the spread of COVID-19 throughout the world, there are restrictions on travel between different countries. Even under such circumstances, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum is communicating atomic bombing testimonials to people overseas using an online conference system. The aim of this initiative is to communicate what happened in Hiroshima to large numbers of people in Japan and overseas, and thus develop a global consensus for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Due to the fact that countries in Europe and America were in lockdown, meetings scheduled to be held overseas had to be cancelled, and this included some atomic bombing testimonial talks. However, from April to June, online talks were held four times for participants in the nuclear superpower America.



Ms. Ogura giving her talk, connecting with families in Oregon State, America

A woman from Oregon, who listened to the talk by the *hibakusha* Ms. Keiko Ogura together with her children, said “Thanks to the talk by Ms. Ogura, I was able to start talking about war, peace and nuclear weapons with my children.” She expressed her gratitude that she was able to connect online with Ms. Ogura, who lives in Hiroshima, during the situation where it is not allowed to go outside because of the pandemic.

This program has been underway since 2010, but there was an initiative that was tried for the first time this year. Usually, the person giving the testimonial talk comes to the museum and gives the talk using the Internet connection and equipment in the conference room. However, because there was a request to stay at home to prevent the spread of the COVID-19, the *hibakusha* who were to give talks were not able to come to the museum. Therefore, it was decided at short notice that the talk would be given by an A-bomb Legacy

Successor who was able to use the online conference system from her home. In the online course organized by the Hawaiian non-profit Pacific Historic Parks (PHP), a talk was given by Ms. Naoko Okimoto, an A-bomb Legacy Successor who has taken on the A-bomb testimonial of *hibakusha* Mr. Mutsuhiko Segoshi (deceased). There were around one hundred participants in the talk session from all over America.

The museum will continue to use the Internet and other technologies to communicate the reality of the bombing in Japan and overseas, during and after the pandemic.

(Peace Memorial Museum Outreach Division)

**Completion of A-bomb Pictures**  
 —High school students create pictures of atomic bombing experiences—

This Foundation is involved in the creation of A-bomb pictures that depict scenes at the time of the bombing from the memories of the *hibakusha* and thus communicate the situation at that time. With the cooperation of Hiroshima Municipal Motomachi Senior High School Creative Expression Course, the high school students work together with Atomic Bomb Witnesses and others from this Foundation to create the pictures. From last year, six *hibakusha* collaborated with fifteen students, and have now completed fifteen pictures. This project started in 2007, and to date over 130 students have been involved to create as many as 152 precious pictures.

In 2020, because of the spread of COVID-19, the school had to be closed for a long period of time, and for this reason, it took longer than normal to complete the pictures. The completion ceremony was held at Motomachi High School on July 20, with thorough measures in place including the wearing of masks and social distancing. In attendance were six *hibakusha*, the students who created the pictures as well as other students from the Creative Expression Course, and staffs of this Foundation and Motomachi High School.

At the completion ceremony, a speech was given by Yuri Okada (2<sup>nd</sup> year), who depicted a scene from the memory of *hibakusha* Satoru Arai. She spoke about how she struggled to paint the scene of soot and dust floating around when she was depicting the darkness immediately after the atomic bomb was dropped on the city of

Hiroshima, but said that she was able to eventually paint her own interpretation of the scene after listening to Mr. Arai speak about it numerous times. Ms. Okada said that



**“Just trying to get away”**  
 by Yusei Marukawa (Motomachi High School Creative Expression Course) and Hiroaki Kawasaki (Atomic Bomb Witness)



**“Stone steps with four people sitting and drinking sake”**  
 by Asuka Kawasaki (Motomachi High School Creative Expression Course) and Yoshinori Kuniwake (Atomic Bomb Witness)



**“Looking for water”**  
 by Moeka Shimomukai (Motomachi High School Creative Expression Course) and Sadae Kasaoka (Atomic Bomb Witness)



**“Living in the black market”**  
 by Ayano Gobara (Motomachi High School Creative Expression Course) and Hiroshi Shimizu (Atomic Bomb Witness)



**“A school yard turned into a cremation site”**  
 by Miharū Okabe (Motomachi High School Creative Expression Course) and Teruko Yahata (Atomic Bomb Witness)

because she had attended elementary and junior high school at schools outside of the Hiroshima city, she had not been involved in detailed peace studies before this. For this reason, she watched the film *Hiroshima* (1953) and investigated that period using photographic materials, so that she could learn about the historical background and to help in the creation of her A-bomb picture. She said that the most important thing was that through creating the picture, she learned in greater depth about the atomic bombing. She also said that through the emotionally tough work to create the picture, she keenly felt that we need to confront the issue of the atomic bomb. Ms. Okada closed her powerful speech by saying “I cannot speak for Mr. Arai to express what he felt at the time of the bombing, but I want to communicate to as many people as possible what I felt and what I learned through the process of creating this work.”

Due to COVID-19, in the process of creating the pic-



**“Bright-red sun in the midst of darkness”**  
 by Yuri Okada (Motomachi High School Creative Expression Course) and Satoru Arai (Hiroshima Peace Volunteer)

tures this time it was not possible for the students to speak to the *hibakusha* face-to-face. Therefore, meetings were held over the phone, and the progress of the pictures was shown to the *hibakusha* using photos. To secure time to create the pictures, the students sometimes took their canvas home with them. The A-bomb Pictures that are the result of these efforts by the students will be used in talks given by *hibakusha* to ensure that people gain a deep understanding of the atomic bombing experience, and will also be loaned out and provided as image data to the media, so that the pictures can be of use in the future to pass on the reality of the damage inflicted by the atomic bombing.

(Peace Memorial Museum Outreach Division)

**Atomic bombing testimonials released in multiple languages**

Of all visitors to the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims, the ratio of visitors from overseas is increasing every year, and now accounts for around 40% of the total. By having such visitors read the atomic bombing testimonials in their mother tongue, we hope that people from various different countries and regions will gain a deeper understanding of the reality of the damage inflicted by the bombing. For this reason, the Memorial Hall has been providing multi-language translations of the testimonials since 2009.



**Atomic bombing testimonials in the foreign language section of the library**

The search devices in each section of the Memorial Hall allow visitors to browse the testimonials in the four languages of Japanese, English, Chinese and Korean. Additionally, in the foreign language section of the library the testimonials can be viewed in 24 languages. Videos of the testimonials are also provided with dubbing or subtitles and these can also be viewed using the search devices.

On the peace information network “GLOBAL NETWORK” on the Memorial Hall’s website the testimonials and testimonial videos are also available in multiple languages (URL: <https://www.global-peace.go.jp/>).

**[Atomic bombing testimonials are available in the following 28 languages]**

English, Chinese, Korean, Arabic, Italian, Indonesian, Urdu, Dutch, Greek, Croatian, Swedish, Spanish, Slovenian, Thai, German, Norwegian, Hungarian, Hindi, Tagalog, Finnish, French, Vietnamese, Hebrew, Polish, Portuguese, Malay, Montenegrin, Russian.

(Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims)

## Hiroshima City Consultation Service for International Residents

—Vietnamese consultation section open 5 days a week—

From April of this year at the Hiroshima City Consultation Service for International Residents, consultation services in the Vietnamese language have been increased from two days a week to five days a week.

By expanding the consultation services, consultants who can answer questions in Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese and Vietnamese can help every day, from Monday to Friday, with the submission of documents to government bodies and other issues requiring support.

- 【Contact】** Phone: (082) 241-5010  
E-mail: soudan@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp
- 【Location】** International Exchange Lounge, International Conference Center Hiroshima 1F
- 【Hours open】** 9:00am—4:00pm, Monday to Friday
- 【Supported languages】** Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese
- 【Closed】** Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays, August 6, December 29—January 3

## Japanese Language Education Coordinator assigned from this year

Japanese language education is becoming increasingly important for foreign residents living in unfamiliar circumstances in Japan, to allow them to acquire the Japanese language skills they need for daily life, and ensure that they can lead a fulfilling life as a member of the community.

For this reason, a Japanese Language Education Coordinator has been assigned to the International Exchange and Cooperation Division since May 2020, with the purpose of promoting Japanese language education activities. The coordinator's desk has the logo "Hiroshima City Japanese Language Desk". Yuka Hashimoto, the Japanese Language Education Coordinator, is involved in planning educational programs and providing advice and support for Japanese



Yuka Hashimoto, working at her desk with the logo

language schools in regional areas, and conducting coordination and cooperation work with universities and technical colleges involved in Japanese language education.

This fall a new Japanese language course for beginners will be established. There are also plans to hold an "Easy Japanese" course for foreign residents living in regional areas, and fun events where citizens can enjoy interacting with foreign residents. Information is provided on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/hiroshima.nihongo/>).

(International Relations and Cooperation Division)

## Profile

### Yuka Hashimoto, Japanese Language Education Coordinator

Majored in Japanese language education. Has taught at universities in New Zealand and Costa Rica. Upon returning to Japan, worked as full-time lecturer at Hiroshima International Center, manager of educational affairs at the Support and Communication Center for People Returning from China, before assuming her current position this spring.

## Safety Class for Foreign Residents

With the rise in the number of foreign residents in Hiroshima City, there is increased risk that such residents will be involved in traffic accidents or become the victims of crimes. There are also those who may not have any bad intentions, but because they are not familiar with Japan's customs or rules, they unwittingly cause problems or get involved in trouble or other dangerous situations.

To avoid such dangers and ensure that foreign residents can live safely as members of the community, the Safety Class for Foreign Residents will be held to provide an opportunity to learn about rules related to daily life and traffic safety. The class will be taught by Hiroshima Prefectural police officers, from Hiroshima Central Police Station and others. They will provide clear explanations of the daily living and traffic rules that are different from those in the residents' home countries and require attention when living in Japan.

The class is not all serious—there are some fun tours too. There will be a tour of the Emergency Number 110 Communications Control Office in the police station. This office has a large monitor that displays on a map in real time the position of police officers and patrol cars that have received an initial 110 emergency call and are at the scene of an incident or on patrol. This is a room that is usually off-limits, so please take this opportunity to see it. At the end of the class, there will also be a commemorative photo with patrol cars or police motorcycles.

The class is conducted in simple Japanese, but is also available in various languages including English, Chinese, Vietnamese and Portuguese, to allow people who do not speak Japanese to participate.

Please feel free to apply to the International Relations and Cooperation Division by telephone (please be aware that applications will close when the class quota of 30 people is filled).



Commemorative photos can be taken on a police motorcycle

**Safety Class for Foreign Residents**

- ◆ **Date/time:** September 28 (Mon) from 10:00am
  - ◆ **Venue:** 1F lobby, Hiroshima Central Police Station (9-48, Motomachi, Naka Ward, Hiroshima City)
  - ◆ **Bookings and inquiries:** International Relations and Cooperation Division / Phone: (082) 242-8879
- \*Please be aware that depending on the situation of COVID-19, the class may be cancelled or postponed at short notice. Participants will be contacted directly if the class is cancelled or postponed.

**Hiroshimashi Heiwakoen Japanese Class for beginners to be opened**

This Foundation has been consigned by the City of Hiroshima to hold a Japanese language class called Hiroshimashi Heiwakoen (Peace Memorial Park) Japanese Class for beginners, starting from September 29. This year will be the first time that the City of Hiroshima has opened a Japanese language class.

Do you know any foreign residents who are not able to communicate with people in their local community or have difficulties following instructions at work because they cannot speak Japanese?

When people cannot understand Japanese, they cannot receive information when a natural disaster or any other emergency situation occurs, which means that they may face greater risks than Japanese people. At this class, students will start by learning *hiragana* and *katakana* script that they need in day-to-day life, to ensure that, in particular, people who can hardly speak any Japanese can lead their daily lives safely without any problems.

The people teaching Japanese at the class are Japanese language teachers Ms. Megumi Ikeda and Ms. Masae Sugimoto. Both of these teachers majored in Japanese language education at university and graduate school, and have over twenty years of teaching experience, including experience overseas.

Please refer to the chart for the days that classes will be held. The deadline for applications to the class is September 17, but applications may still be accepted for days whose quota (20 people) has not been filled, so please inquire by phone or email. Inquiries can be made in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Vietnamese and other languages.

**Hiroshimashi Heiwakoen Japanese Class for beginners**

- ◆ **Class dates:** September 29-December 15 (21 days in all)
  - ◆ **Date/time:** In principle, from 1:00pm - 3:00pm on Tuesdays and Fridays
  - ◆ **Location:** Training room, 3F, International Conference Center Hiroshima (in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park)
  - ◆ **Inquiries:** International Relations and Cooperation Division / Phone: (082) 242-8879, E-mail: [jsldesk@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp](mailto:jsldesk@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)
- \*Classes will be held in face-to-face style, having implemented thorough measures for the prevention of COVID-19 infection. However, should there be an unavoidable situation due to the spread of infections, we will switch to online classes (Zoom). Thank you for your understanding.

**Class calendar**

OCTOBER

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**Memoir of the A-bombing**  
I want to pass on the stories of 'The Lost Decade'



**by Hiroshi Shimizu**  
Atomic Bomb Witness for this Foundation

**August 6, 1945**

I was three when I experienced the atomic bombing together with my mother at my home in Yoshijima Town, 1.6km from the hypocenter. We were inside, so we avoided any damage from the heat wave, but we were buried under our collapsed house. My mother desperately pushed off the wood that was on top of us, got

through the roof and escaped, and pulled me out. Soon after that, the area around our home became a sea of fire, so if we had been a little later to get out I do not think we would have survived.

My father was at his workplace just south of the Hiroshima City Hall around 1km from the hypocenter when the atomic bomb hit. He was thrown and his face was covered in glass, and apparently he was covered in blood down to his chest. Chased by the flames, he fled and got into the pond in front of a public hall on the north side of City Hall and passed out there, but his colleagues carried him to the Red Cross Hospital (1.5km from the hypocenter) in Senda Town. The next morning, he woke up in the hospital. He had the glass removed from his face, and somehow crawled back to Yoshijima Town, and was reunited with my mother around midday. However, even though he'd finally been reunited with his family again, he became weaker and weaker, and passed away on October 8. When he died, for some reason his entire stomach had turned a bluish-black color. When my mother saw that, she said "That's because your father inhaled a lot of gas from the atomic bomb." Now, I guess that his stomach turned bluish-black because his internal organs were destroyed because he was exposed to strong radiation at close range.

I also suffered from radiation sickness for ten years after the atomic bombing. It started with serious diarrhea, and then there was continued stomach pain, nosebleeds, *Burabura* illness<sup>(\*)</sup> and more. I was a weak child, and during physical education class at school I just watched. However, when I reached second year of junior high school these symptoms disappeared and I got better, and I progressed through school and got a job. I had so much stamina that if someone asked me what my hobby is I would say 'Mountain climbing!'

Even so, from my late forties I gradually contracted various illnesses. Even today I have intractable disease in my kidneys and spine, and also heart disease. My older brother was exposed to radiation when he went into Hiroshima city after the atomic bombing. He was very well when he was younger, but at the age of seventy-five he contracted cancer in his inner ear, and was certified with radiation sickness. In 2019 he is 87 years old, but is now fighting lung cancer. Even decades later, the atomic bomb breaks down the body and continues to cause pain—it really is a weapon of evil. I think that nuclear weapons must be eradicated from this world as quickly as possible.

### The Lost Decade

I believe that my lifelong mission is to investigate 'The Lost Decade' of *hibakusha* and pass on our stories. The Lost Decade is what we call the approximately ten years of suffering that the *hibakusha* from Hiroshima and Nagasaki went through with no support whatsoever. This was caused by the 'Press Code for Japan' issued by the America military GHQ that occupied and controlled Japan for seven years after the war. The Press Code prohibited any reporting about Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Because of this, the tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was not reported and kept hidden, and the Japanese government followed this too. This closed off any opportunities for the *hibakusha* to receive medical or living support from other areas in Japan or overseas, and they were abandoned by the whole world. This part of history is forgotten today, but it is an historical fact that should never be repeated.

My family were victims. My mother, who lost all her



The black market in front of Hiroshima Station  
The stalls were around 1.8m x 1.8m. During the day, my mother sold crockery. At night she would put down the stall and the three of us slept there. We lived there for around one year.  
(Photograph: United States Strategic Bombing Survey)

belongings and her husband, the main breadwinner, in the atomic bombing, had to raise my older brother and I on her own. She became a street seller, sold crockery on the black market, worked as a day laborer at a canning factory, and with the money she earned that day bought food to look after us. Despite the fact that my mother also suffered from radiation sickness, she could not see a doctor, and just worked as hard as she could. Eventually, we were able to live a somewhat normal life, even though we were still poor, but that was more than five years after the war. The *hibakusha* continued to live a life that was even tougher than life during the war. And on top of that they have to suffer the after-effects of the atomic bomb decades later. This is why for the *hibakusha*, the war only ends when they die. I want to pass down my story, that this is what war is. This is why I am involved in testimonial activities.

(\*) *Burabura* illness: a condition or illness with symptoms such as lack of emotional energy, lack of motivation to do anything, tires easily. Cause unknown. One after-effect of radiation sickness.

### Profile

#### [Hiroshi Shimizu]

Born in 1942.

2011: started A-bomb testimonial activities with a *hibakusha* organization upon feeling shocked by the nuclear accident at Fukushima nuclear power plant.

2014: for two years from 2014, appointed as director at Hiroshima A-Bomb Sufferers' Organization and Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers' Organizations, learned about the *hibakusha* movement.

### 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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