

PEACE 平和文化 CULTURE



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Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons Comes into Effect

Against the backdrop of the growing global awareness of the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and the stagnation of nuclear disarmament, on July 7, 2017, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) was adopted by 122 countries, over 60% of United Nations member states. These countries demonstrated their unequivocal determination to abolish nuclear weapons. Just over three years after that day, on October 24, 2020, the number of ratifying countries reached 50, which is the number required for the treaty to come into effect. Ninety days after that, on January 22, 2021, the treaty came into effect.

1. Outline of the TPNW

(1) Referring to *hibakusha* (Preamble)

The treaty refers to the suffering and harm caused to the *hibakusha* as well as the efforts made towards nuclear abolition through furthering the principles of humanity undertaken by the *hibakusha*, among others.

(2) Prohibiting such activities as developing, testing, using or threatening to use nuclear weapons (Article 1)

The treaty prohibits under any circumstances such activities as developing, testing, manufacturing, acquiring, possessing, stockpiling, transferring, using or threatening to use nuclear weapons.

(3) Stipulating measures for nuclear-weapon states to join the treaty (Article 4)

The treaty stipulates that nuclear-weapon states can become its signatories based on the premise that they shall complete their commitment to eliminate nuclear weapons by a set deadline with verification conducted by a competent international authority.

(4) Holding meetings to discuss the treaty (Article 8)

The treaty institutes the holding of meetings of States Parties as well as review conferences to discuss its operation, to both of which non-states parties and NGOs, among others, shall be invited.

2. Future actions

Within one year of the treaty coming into effect on January 22, 2021, the first Meeting of States Parties will be convened, to discuss the implementation and progress of the treaty. The Meeting is currently planned to be held in Vienna, Austria.

3. Forthcoming challenges

In order to make this treaty highly effective, one future challenge is, first of all, the need to further expand the number of countries that ratify the treaty. It is also necessary to approach the nuclear weapon states and states under the nuclear umbrella that oppose the treaty, encourage them to participate in the Meeting of States Parties and thus participate in the discussions concerning the treaty's effective implementation, and request that they join the treaty as soon as possible.

Mayors for Peace, which has its secretariat in the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, will work to further expand its member city network, which currently has more than 8,000 cities in 165 countries and regions, and will implement initiatives to develop peace awareness through implementing a 'peace culture' rooted in civic society that encourages each individual citizen to think about and act on peace in their daily lives. By doing so, Mayors for Peace will create a major momentum for peace, to support policy shifts by policy makers, to achieve a world without nuclear weapons.

Ceremony commemorating the TPNW coming into effect

To commemorate the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons coming into effect on January 22, on the following day, January 23, Mayors for Peace and civic organizations jointly held an online commemorative event named 'The End of Nuclear Weapons has begun!'

linking the three cities of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Tokyo.

At the Tokyo venue, there were video messages shown from representatives of the United Nations and other related organizations, who had greatly contributed in bringing the treaty to this point.

At the Hiroshima venue, the commemorative event started with Hiroshima Mayor Matsui, President of Mayors for Peace, together with Hiroshima Governor Yuzaki and two representatives of atomic bomb survivors (*hibakusha*) associations stating “Let’s spread the message throughout the world that we do not need nuclear weapons, and create a peaceful society of coexistence together.” Next, five young people made presentations on their own peace activities, which they are conducting having taking on the wishes of the *hibakusha*. They commented on each other’s activities and discussed their ambitions for the future, renewing their determination saying “We of the younger generations must succeed the wishes of the *hibakusha* and take action.” This was followed by video messages from representatives of peace related organizations, after which there was a recital of atomic bombing poetry, backed by a guitar performance, by atomic bombing testimony recital volunteers. The event ended with a screening of a video performance of a chorus of peace songs by elementary school children.



Participants at the Hiroshima venue

At the Nagasaki venue, there were interviews with young people and representatives of *hibakusha* associations, followed by a dialogue between the mayor of Nagasaki and others on methods that can be used to secure the TPNW greater recognition in international society.

At the end of the commemorative event, all of the on-line participants at all the venues pledged to continue to push forward together with efforts aiming for a world free of nuclear weapons.

Mayors for Peace will continue to aim for the development and expansion of global opinion for the abolition of nuclear weapons, through various joint initiatives with member cities. The coming into effect of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons represents a

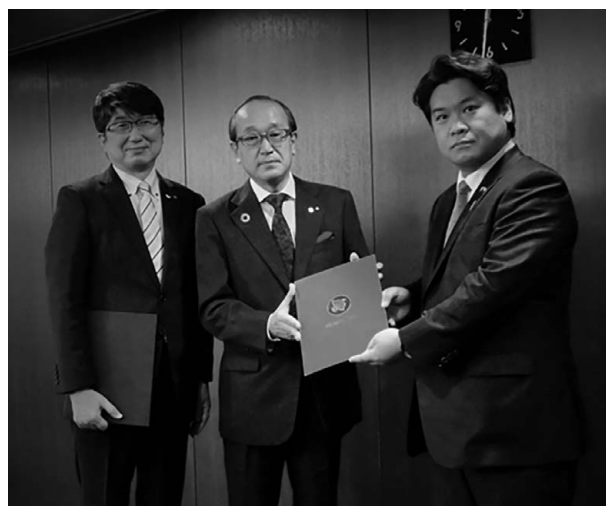
fresh start for these activities.

(Mayors for Peace and 2020 Vision Promotion Division / Mayors for Peace administration Division)

Petition regarding the promotion of initiatives for the abolition of nuclear weapons submitted to the Japanese government

On November 20 last year, Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui, who is the President of Mayors for Peace, together with the Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue, visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and submitted to Senior Vice-Minister Eiichiro Washio a petition addressed to the Prime Minister on the promotion of initiatives for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

In response, Senior Vice-Minister Washio said “We take the content of this petition seriously. It is Japan’s mission to lead initiatives among the global community to create a world without nuclear weapons, as Japan is the only nation to have been attacked by nuclear weapons during war. Japan believes that it is important to create a common foundation for nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states, and we are moving ahead with initiatives to act as a bridge between nations that hold different positions. I would like to express once again my respect for your activities in this field, and thank you for your constant support.”



From left: Nagasaki Mayor Taue, Hiroshima Mayor Matsui, Senior Vice-Minister Washio

(Peace and International Solidarity Promotion Division / Public Collaboration for Peace Division)

The end of nuclear weapons has begun —What will change with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons coming into effect?



Akira Kawasaki

International Steering Group member of International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), Executive Committee member of Peace Boat

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) came into effect on January 22 this year. ‘Coming into effect’ means that the treaty has legal force. Countries that ratified this treaty are known as states parties, and such countries are legally bound by the treaty. Nuclear weapons have finally been outlawed.

In the past as well, there were various treaties formed to regulate nuclear weapons, such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). However, the TPNW is fundamentally different from these treaties. This is because, rather than reducing or controlling nuclear weapons, this treaty stipulates the complete prohibition and abolition of nuclear weapons. It is completely prohibited for any country to manufacture, possess, use, threaten to use nuclear weapons, or to assist such acts, under any circumstances.

This is based on the rejection of nuclear weapons as inhumane. This is a bold shift from the previous approach, which aimed to strike a balance in the military force of countries. Over the past ten or so years, countries such as Austria and Mexico have pursued the international movement known as the Humanitarian Initiative, supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), Mayors for Peace and more. More

than anything, this movement was propelled forward by the *hibakusha*, the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and those affected by nuclear testing around the world.

■ The path towards banning nuclear weapons

Pushed by the civic movement known as the World Court Project in the mid-1990s, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) deliberated on the legality of the threat and use of nuclear weapons. The mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the time attended the court hearings at ICJ in the Hague, the Netherlands, and testified to the horror of the damage from nuclear weapons and the illegality of their use. As a result, in 1996, the ICJ issued an advisory opinion that the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to international humanitarian law, and that there exists an obligation to pursue and conclude negotiations and leading to nuclear disarmament. This became the origin of the concept for a nuclear weapons convention.

In 1997, a Model Nuclear Weapons Convention, based on the precedents of the Biological Weapons Convention (1972) and the Chemical Weapons Convention (1993) was proposed and discussions made progress. However, these did not immediately lead to negotiations for a treaty.

In 2010, ICRC issued a presidential statement calling to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons as inhumane weapons, and this led to the kickoff of the Humanitarian Initiative movement. Three International Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons were held from 2013-2014, in Norway, Mexico and Austria. Statements were made by *hibakusha*, medical experts who have treated *hibakusha*, people who have been affected by nuclear testing and others. A common awareness was



Civic actions to commemorate the TPNW coming into effect (January 22, 2021, Hiroshima and Nagasaki).
(Hiroshima/photography: Mr. Takeo Nakaoku, Nagasaki/provided by: Nagasaki Prefectural Citizen's Organization Promoting International Signature Campaign in Support of the Appeal of the *Hibakusha* for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons)

formed that the use of nuclear weapons can never be compatible with international humanitarian law, and that today if nuclear weapons are used, humanitarian aid would not even be possible.

Based on that understanding, in 2015, discussions entered into the phase of legally prohibiting nuclear weapons. Learning from the Landmine Ban Treaty (1997) and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (2008), creating a treaty that first prohibits nuclear weapons and requires their elimination, details of which can be stipulated in a later stage, was thought to be a realistic approach. Providing assistance to the victims of nuclear weapons was also seen as a mandatory item.

In 2017, the conference negotiating a treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons was held, presided by the Costa Rica. *Hibakusha* from Hiroshima and Nagasaki gave testimonies, and the word *hibakusha* was heard a number of times in the conference room. Since 2008, I have been traveling around the world on the Peace Boat's 'Global Voyage for a Nuclear-Free World'. We have been received by Mayors for Peace member cities, and have had mayors, diplomats and even government ministers listen to the *hibakusha* testimonies. In this way, the global community has become aware of the *hibakusha* as the witness of the inhumanity of nuclear weapons.

On July 7, 2017, the TPNW was adopted with the support of 122 countries. The fact that the preamble of the treaty mentions the word *hibakusha* was reported in the news, but this was not something to be surprised of. The word was naturally incorporated in the treaty as the result of the efforts of the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as described above.

In September of the same year, the treaty was opened for signature and ratification. On October 24, 2020, the 50th ratification was submitted, and, in accordance with

On January 22, 2021, participants in the ICAN campaign all over the world held events commemorating this historic day.



New Zealand



Greece



New York

treaty provision, ninety days after that, on January 22 of this year, the treaty came into effect.

■ The power of the TPNW also changes nuclear weapon states

This treaty stigmatizes nuclear weapons and greatly changes the way the world views nuclear weapons. It is true that because nuclear weapon states have not joined the treaty, they are not legally bound by it. Even so, there is now heightened political, economic and social pressure on nuclear weapons.

Nuclear weapons have been outlawed, which means that they have become weapons that are not allowed to be used. Any country or leader that uses them would lose their political standing in the global community.

At the same time, banks all over the world are divesting from corporations that manufacture nuclear weapons. When antipersonnel mines and cluster munitions were banned, the financial industry divested from companies

manufacturing such weapons. As a result, such companies withdrew from their manufacture. The same thing is happening with nuclear weapons, and Japanese banks and life insurance companies are also joining this trend. This is linked to moves to pay consideration to the environment and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) when making investments.

For antipersonnel mines and cluster munitions as well, the main countries who possessed such weapons have not joined the treaties. Nonetheless, the production of these weapons has fallen drastically, transactions have almost stopped, and their use is rejected. These treaties also changed the behavior of the countries that did not sign them.

Nuclear weapon states now criticize the TPNW, saying that it is ineffective, and they put pressure on other coun-

tries to not sign or ratify the treaty. If they really thought it was ineffective, they would just ignore the treaty. The nuclear weapon states understand that the larger the number of countries that join the treaty, the riskier their own position becomes. In that light, the treaty is already effective. As the United States has the new administration with President Biden, attention needs to be paid to whether or not there is a change in the United States' adversarial stance toward the TPNW.

If nuclear weapon states oppose the treaty, they will be required to explain how they have fulfilled or are planning to fulfill their nuclear disarmament obligation. In August this year, the NPT Review Conference that was postponed from last year is scheduled to be held. At that conference, the five nuclear weapon states will face even more serious accountability for disarmament than they have before.

The TPNW and the NPT do not contradict one another: the enactment of the TPNW will be a major force for advancing nuclear disarmament as provided by the NPT.

■To the first Meeting of States Parties

The next focal point is the first Meeting of States Parties (MSP), which is to be held in January 2022 in Vienna, Austria. After that the MSP will be held once every two years.

At the first MSP, there should be a discussion on measures to increase the number of states parties towards universalization of the treaty. A total of 122 countries have supported the adoption of the treaty, but the number of states parties is still only 54 (currently at April 30). Another issue to be tackled would be preparing to have countries with nuclear weapons join the treaty in the future. This means developing practical measures for irreversibly dismantling nuclear weapons within a set time frame, with effective international verification.

It is also necessary to ensure that the states parties fully implement and adhere to the treaty. The treaty provides that states parties must not assist or encourage the use or possession of nuclear weapons by other countries. Thus the definition of assisting or encouraging needs to be clarified. States parties are also obligated to provide assistance to victims of nuclear testing and remediate environments that have been polluted by radiation. States parties are required to develop concrete action plans for that purpose.

States not party to the treaty and NGOs can join the MSP as observers. The Japanese government has indicated that it has no intention of signing or ratifying the treaty, but it should at least participate in the meeting as an observer. This is truly an area to which Japan could contribute. For example, in terms of assisting the vic-

tims of nuclear testing, Japan has experience of providing support to the *hibakusha* in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as decontamination work in Fukushima. It is this kind of contribution that is greatly required. In addition to the Japanese government, experts and those from organizations involved in the medical treatment and supporting the rights of the *hibakusha* have very important roles to play. Countries with and without nuclear weapons should also work together to develop an international mechanism to effectively verify nuclear disarmament. The Japanese government positions itself as a 'bridge' between these nations, and as such there are high expectations for its contribution.

■True security will only be achieved with the abolition of nuclear weapons

The current objective of ICAN is to reach one hundred states parties within a few years. As we continue advocating in many countries, we would like to get a country that is currently under the so-called 'nuclear umbrella' to also sign and ratify the treaty.

The governments of Japan and the member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) still believe that nuclear deterrence is essential for their security. It is not easy to shift this way of thinking. Nonetheless, through repeated discussions, change is possible.

First, nuclear deterrence is a policy predicated on the use of nuclear weapons. Japan is the country that knows better than any others the horrific consequences that the use of nuclear weapons brings—is it morally acceptable, then, that Japan has such a policy?

The next question is, does nuclear deterrence really work? Reckless parties who are prepared to a suicidal attack will not be deterred. There are risks of detonation of nuclear weapons by accidents and errors. There also are new risks emerging, such as cyberattacks and misuse of artificial intelligence.

Additionally, if one country claims the right to have nuclear weapons for their security, their adversary will also do the same. This leads to a nuclear arms race. Today, the global community faces threats such as climate change and infectious diseases. Is there really any room for us to pour resources into nuclear weapons?

If, for some reason, deterrence fails and nuclear weapons are actually used, who is going to take responsibility for the consequences? 'It was unexpected' will not be an acceptable answer.

When we look back over history, in the past there was the slave system, and women did not have the right to vote. These are examples of abnormal situations that are unthinkable according to today's values, but were thought of as normal at the time. More and more peo-

ple bravely spoke out against these abnormalities, which led to the creation of new laws, which changed society. Of course, just because a law was created does not necessarily mean that society was improved straight away. Laws were enacted, people made efforts to align society to the state stipulated in the laws, and as a result the bad old system disappeared.

When new values emerge, people who have profited under the old values get angry and threaten people, saying that the new values are ‘unrealistic’. There are people who say that abolishing nuclear weapons is ‘unrealistic’, but this is a temporary phenomenon. The end of nuclear weapons is already beginning. The true end will come as the result of our individual awareness and action.

(Submitted February 2021 and updated April 2021)

Profile

[Akira Kawasaki]

Born in Tokyo in 1968.

Since 2008, has held Hiroshima/Nagasaki *hibakusha* testimonial sessions all over the world as part of the NGO Peace Boat’s ‘Global Voyage for a Nuclear-Free World: Peace Boat *Hibakusha* Project’. He lectures at Keisen University and University of the Sacred Heart, Tokyo. Publications include Iwanami Booklet ‘*Shinban Kakuheiki wo Kinshi suru*’ (New Edition: Banning Nuclear Weapons) and Iwanami Junior Shinsho ‘*Kakuheiki wa nakuseru*’ (We can abolish nuclear weapons).

Special Exhibition Commemorating the 75th Year of the Bombing: History of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Part 2:

Looking into the August 6

—Continuous Efforts to Preserve Artifacts and Convey the Reality of the Atomic Bombing

Date: February 27, 2021 — July 18, 2021

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

65 years have passed since the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum first opened. The museum collection consists of items donated by survivors, families and relatives of victims, and others. Since its opening, the museum has been committed to conveying the reality of the bombing, based on artifacts such as these. At the same time, the exhibition has been continuously improving by adding new information and introducing various methods for display.

This special exhibition represents the second part of the

“History of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum”. Following Part 1: “Building the Foundation—Footsteps of the First Director, Shogo Nagaoka”, it traces the history of the museum from the 1970s to today. This exhibition introduces how today’s collection of the museum has been gathered and organized, and the exhibitions have been developed. Tracking the path of the museum, this exhibition also presents how people involved have engaged with each artifact. By learning their thoughts and feelings, we hope visitors will better understand the importance of preserving the artifacts and thereby continuously conveying the reality of the atomic bombing to future generations.

◆ Contents:

1. First Update of the Permanent Exhibition
2. Collecting New Materials and Expanding the Range of the Exhibition
3. Integration with Hiroshima Peace Memorial Hall
4. Conveying the Stories of the Individuals Related to the Artifacts



Artifacts stored in the storage

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Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Curatorial Division
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Collection Exhibition

“Still Missing”

Date: February 27, 2021 — September, 2021

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

The “Collection Exhibition” of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum displays items picked out on a particular subject among roughly 20,000 artifacts in the museum’s collection.

On August 6, 1945, a single atomic bomb turned the city of Hiroshima to ruins in an instant. Many people died painful deaths after being burned and exposed to

huge amounts of radiation.

This exhibition presents items related to five persons who went missing due to the atomic bombing.



“A piece of roof tile as a replacement of remains” Donated by Heitaro Hamada

The donor’s elder sister, Teruyo Hamada (then, 21), was exposed to the bomb at her workplace. On the 8th, her mother Kato (then, 51) found seven charred black remains at Teruyo’s burned-out workplace, but she could not identify any of them as Teruyo. She brought these fragments of roof tiles home from that place and always treasured them as a substitute for her daughter’s ashes.

The donor’s younger sister, Takako (then, 12) was also exposed to the bomb at her mobilization worksite. She died on the 7th. Kato lost both of her daughters in the A-bombing. She didn’t talk much about the atomic bomb until she died at the age of 83.

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Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims Special Exhibition

Commitment

—The Priests of Hiroshima and the Road to Recovery

Date: March 1, 2021 - February 28, 2022

Venue: Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims, Special Exhibition Area (Upper Level)

When the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, there were four foreign Jesuit priests at the Nobori-cho Catholic Church (1.2 kilometers from the hypocenter). While two suffered grave injuries, they worked together to save the people in the church and their neighbors.

At the same time, in a suburb of Hiroshima City, nearly 100 survivors of the bombing came to the Nagatsuka Jesuit Novitiate (4.5 kilometers from the hypocenter) in

search of aid, and by the afternoon of August 6, the novitiate had become a field hospital. The superior of the Nagatsuka Novitiate, Father Arrupe, had majored in medicine at university, and turned his chamber

into an operating room, believing that now was the time to put his medical knowledge to use. Together with the other priests and nuns, he worked to treat the victims day and night without rest.

This special exhibition traces the recovery of Hiroshima through the testimonies of several priests from overseas who were living in the city.

◆ Contents

(1) Documentary Video

At the time of the atomic bombing, Hiroshima was the center of Christian Jesuit activities in Japan, with a Catholic church in Nobori-cho in the center of the city and a training institute for novices in Nagatsuka of Gion-cho, the suburb of Hiroshima. The video tells of what happened and what the priests experienced in each location after the atomic bombing, and also introduces the later lives of the characters and the reconstruction of Hiroshima.

Poet Arthur Binard narrates the story as Father Cieslik.

(2) A-bomb accounts from the priests and nuns

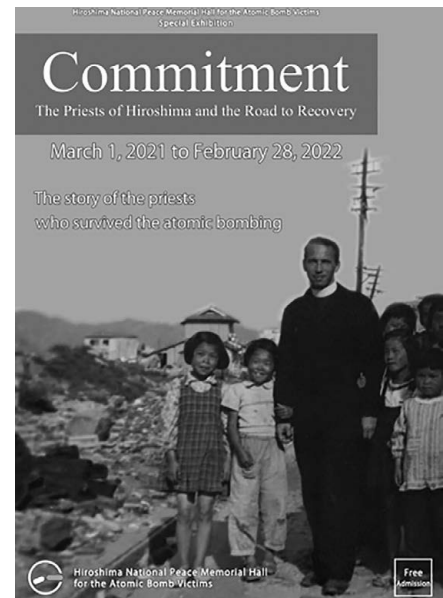
At the information screens located in the venue, visitors can read A-bomb accounts in Japanese, English, Chinese, and Korean.

(3) Approximately 10 items, including A-bombed equipment used in Catholic rituals, personal accounts of the priest's experiences (handwritten), and other personal belongings of the priests.

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Hiroshima training for UN tour guides conducted online

The City of Hiroshima, in cooperation with the City of Nagasaki, has set up permanent A-bomb exhibitions at UN facilities in New York, Geneva and Vienna. For this reason, the “Hiroshima Training Program for UN Tour Guides” was launched in 2017, inviting tour guides from each facility to Hiroshima to learn about the reality of the atomic bombings.

This year’s training was the fourth time the training has been held. On-site training was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and part of the training program was conducted online.

First, an online tour of the museum, the first of its kind for Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, was conducted after the museum closed on December 7 last year. With the help of ten volunteers from the Hiroshima Peace Volunteers who provided English-language guidance, the tour covered from the introductory exhibits in the East Building to some of the exhibits in the Main Building, with real-time commentary. On the following day, December 8, Professor Robert Jacobs of the Hiroshima Peace Institute at Hiroshima City University gave a lecture on the theme of “How Hiroshima is perceived in the United States”. On the 11th, Ms. Yoshiko Kajimoto and Ms. Keiko Ogura gave us a lecture on their A-bomb experiences.



Ms. Kajimoto (right) shares her A-bomb experience with UN staff online.

Although the training was conducted for locations with large time differences, a total of 134 UN staff, mainly tour guides at each UN facility, attended the training live. In a questionnaire survey conducted after the training, participants said, “I have developed a desire to learn more about Hiroshima,” and “I would like to visit Hiroshima and see the museum after the pandemic is over.”

Although it was unfortunate that the field training in Hiroshima could not be conducted due to the pandemic, it provided an opportunity for many UN staff to deepen

their interest in Hiroshima.

(Peace Memorial Museum Outreach Division)

International Festa 2020 ~Also available online this time~

International Festa 2020 was held over two days on November 14 and 15 last year. It was the 21st time that the Festa has been held.

This time, in order to prevent the spread of the COVID-19, the scale of the event was drastically reduced. Five online-only events were held on the 14th and two events were held at the International Conference Center Hiroshima on the 15th.

Additionally, from November 1 to 31, the International Exchange and Cooperation Division of this Foundation posted a video on its website introducing the activities of seven organizations, including citizens’ groups, that are engaged in international exchange and cooperation activities in Hiroshima city and its suburbs.

Unfortunately, the event did not turn out to be a lively “festival” event with many groups participating as in previous years, but we were able to hold this event with meaningful content on the theme of international exchange and cooperation, while taking the utmost care to prevent infection in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

◆Events conducted online (November 14)

This time, for the first time for this Festa, five organizations, including public and civic groups, participated in the project online using the web conference tool Zoom.

Each of the participating organizations had their own ideas to keep the participants interested, such as using still and moving images to present materials in an easy-to-understand manner, and putting on skits to keep the audience engaged.

◆Events at International Conference Center Hiroshima (November 15)

In the lecture “Connecting with the World Now: What Dr. Tetsu Nakamura Left Behind”, Mr. Masaru Murakami, Chairman of the international NGO Peshawar-kai and General Director of MPS (Peace Japan Medical Services), spoke about the activities and thoughts on building peace of Dr. Tetsu Nakamura, the local representative of Peshawar-kai, who passed away in December 2019 after working for many years on medical, irrigation and agricultural support activities in Afghanistan, a war-torn country in the Middle East.

At the “Introduction of Hiroshima Sister and Friendship Cities by Hiroshima Messengers” event, 12



Lecture "Connecting with the World Now: What Dr. Tetsu Nakamura Left Behind"



Presentations on Hiroshima Sister and Friendship Cities by Hiroshima Messengers

Hiroshima 2020 Messengers, two from each of the six cities, gave presentations on their sister and friendship cities. There were also quizzes on the theme of each city and mini language experiences. Not only the participants but also the Hiroshima messengers themselves enjoyed the event.

Participants commented, "I was able to learn about the charms of each city in an easy-to-understand way and made new discoveries. It was an invaluable experience."

(International Relations & Cooperation Division)

Promoting exchange with Hiroshima City's Sister and Friendship Cities Hiroshima Messengers 2021 Appointed

In order to promote friendship and exchange and develop feelings of affinity for the cities among Hiroshima citizens, Hiroshima City has designated "Sister and Friendship City Days" for each of its six overseas sister and friendship cities, and two citizens have been appointed as "Hiroshima Messengers" for each city—for a total of twelve Hiroshima Messengers.

New Official Catalogue Issued

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum has issued its official catalogue, titled 'Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Collection Catalogue—Carrying the Legacy of Hiroshima—'.

It is 21 years since the last official catalogue was issued, in 1999. The subtitle, 'Carrying the Legacy of Hiroshima', incorporates the wish to communicate the reality of the damage from the atomic bomb across generations and national boundaries, and to link it to the creation of a peaceful world without nuclear weapons or war. The catalogue was completed after a year-long editing period with the support of many people.

■ Feature (1): Incorporation of permanent exhibits after renewal

The catalogue includes artifacts, pictures and photographs currently on display in the permanent exhibition rooms together with extensive commentary.

■ Feature (2): Various columns

In addition to the main text, there are sixteen columns in the catalogue. Readers can gain a wide range of knowledge in line with their particular areas of interest.

■ Feature (3): Easy to follow in chronological order

The main text is organized in chronological order so ensure that the flow of history is easy to understand. In the chronological table and list of references at the end of the catalogue, readers can learn about incidents related to the atomic bombing and basic literature on the incidents together.

■ Feature (4): Japanese and English versions available

Japanese and English are provided in separate versions of the catalogue, which means that there is more space in the layout and the catalogue is easier to read than the previous version.



[Cover] Student uniform removed with scissors (Donated by: Yuko Horio / Photo: Tsuneo Enari)

Catalogue price is ¥1,500 (tax included). A4 size, 134 pages, color. The catalogue is on sale in the Museum Shop.

During the term of their appointment, the Messengers will be involved in activities to deepen citizens' understanding of sister and friendship cities, such as participating in the planning of events to commemorate "Sister and Friendship City Days", making presentations to convey the appeal of the cities during events, and participating in events related to international exchange and cooperation.

2021 Hiroshima Messengers

(January 1 – December 31, 2021)

Honolulu	Ms. Yasuko Asabe	Ms. Keiko Sueyoshi
Volgograd	Mr. Mitsumasa Gongen	Ms. Masumi Hashimura
Hannover	Ms. Natalia Garjaschin	Ms. Rie Yamashita
Chongqing	Ms. Rieko Fujisawa	Ms. Yoko Shiroishi
Daegu	Ms. Mieko Kanbe	Ms. Ayaka Kuwabara
Montreal	Ms. Hitomi Abiru	Mr. Tatsuro Morimoto

Memoir of the A-bombing An 8-year-old's memory of Hiroshima



**by Teruko Yahata,
Atomic Bomb Witness
for this Foundation**

Final stages of Pacific War

I was 8 years old when the atomic bomb was dropped.

I had started at Hiroshima Municipal Koi National School the previous year. When I passed through the school gate the cherry blossom trees were in full bloom, and the petals flew around, turning the school ground a pale pink color. Around that time, when we turned on the radio, we would hear a strong voice saying "Announcement from Imperial General Headquarters! We have sunk the enemy's aircraft carrier. Japan did not sustain major damage."

However, the war situation gradually worsened. After the morning assembly in the school yard, the senior students marched, singing "With our swords we will give our lives to kill one hundred, one thousand." They were determined to fight on Japanese soil, believing that Japan would definitely win the war.

August 6: Under the mushroom cloud

On that day, the sky was clear and it was a fine morning. At my home in Koi-hon-machi, 2.5km from the hypocenter, were my great-grandmother on my father's side, my grandmother, my parents, my older sister, me, and my two younger brothers—a total of eight people. After breakfast, it was just when I had gone to the back garden to go to the house next door. Suddenly, the window flashed with a pale light. I immediately dropped to the ground, and lost consciousness.

I was awoken by my mother's voice yelling "Everyone gather here!" I was surrounded by dust so thick that I could not see anything around me. Inside the house, everything had collapsed, and there were countless pieces of glass of broken corridor windows stuck into the faller *fusuma* screens. I had been thrown from the back garden to the front of the house, a distance of about five or six meters. "Let's all die together! Everyone is together," my mother desperately cried as she covered the family members who had gathered with a large comforter. She thought that if a second or third bomb was dropped, we would not survive. I remember the warmth of family at that time, as we sat shoulder to shoulder under the comforter: the family connection that I felt at that time as a child is something that I remember even today.

Outside, houses were half collapsed, and it was eerily quiet. We fled to the foot of a nearby mountain, but then large drops of rain began to fall, and we all got soaking wet. There was no way that we could have known that this was 'black rain'. Eventually, we returned to the riverside in Koi. On the way, I was frozen by the sight of the people fleeing from the city. Their hair was standing on end, they were suffering from serious full-body burns, they were covered in dirt, and the skin from their arms had peeled away and was hanging from their limp fingertips like rags. Dozens, hundreds of people dragged their burnt bodies along; they were like a procession of ghosts. The city continued to burn throughout the night.

August 9: Schoolyard turned into a cremation site

Although some of my family members were injured, we all survived. I had a wound on my forehead, so my father took me to the aid station at the school. When we went through the school gate, we heard a murmur of voices that was neither crying nor groaning.

The classrooms and the hallways were filled with seriously injured people lying there. The faces were blistered, and everyone had their eyes closed. People who had died were carried on stretchers to the sports ground, where they were thrown into many holes that had been dug there, and cremated. In the heat of mid-summer, the

rising flames from the cremations produced heat haze around the fires, and the people silently working there appeared to waver in the haze. The school was filled with the strange odor from the billowing smoke.

On a table placed near the school gate were white paper bags around the size of postcards, lined up on the table. “They’re handing out snacks!”, I thought. I was starving and I lined up, but when I got a closer look I was disappointed. The bags contained bones. Relatives who had come to look for their loved ones who had died were taking home their bones, so that at least they could commemorate them in death. Records show that around two thousand people were cremated at this school, and it seems that many of them were junior high school students who were involved in building demolition work when the bomb was dropped, as well as 1st and 2nd year female student. I cannot imagine how painful it was for them. How much they wanted to survive. They lost everything in an instant.



“A-bomb Drawings by Survivors” by Yokichi Tszuawa
(Firefighters and vigilantes cremating in the national school playground.)

Precious life

In 2013, I participated in the Peace Boat *Hibakusha* Global Voyage. We are all born on this large planet Earth, and even if our countries and languages are different we are all living in the same era. In the one hundred years of a person’s life, we experience daily life that is irreplaceable, like the sun rising and setting and the waves coming in and going back out. Who is important to you? What do you want to protect? If a nuclear bomb was used now, humankind would be wiped out. What I can do is to continue to communicate the reality of the atomic bombing, send out warning bells to the global community, and live in the present.

Profile

[Teruko Yahata]

In 2013, consigned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Ambassador for Denuclearization. Participated in the Peace Boat *Hibakusha* Global Voyage.

Started activities as an atomic bomb witness for the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation in 2019.

Memoir of the A-bombing Surviving Hiroshima



by Chieko Kiriake,
Atomic Bomb Witness
for this Foundation

I was born in 1929. It was the year that the global Great Depression started. Share prices on the New York Stock Exchange dropped dramatically, and Japan was also impacted, falling into a serious recession. The streets were filled with unemployed people, and I also heard that there was a sharp increase in the number of suicides. I was a baby at the time, so I had no way of knowing such things, but I am a person who has lived through the atmosphere of such an era. The way that was used to get Japan out of that recession as quickly as possible was war.

When I was two years old the Manchurian Incident occurred; when I was in 2nd grade at elementary school the Sino-Japanese War broke out; and when I was in 6th grade in elementary school the Pacific War started. In this way, there was a long period of fifteen years of war. With the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and Japan’s defeat, that war ended. I was 15 years old at the time. I had grown up during fifteen years of war.

Up until it was destroyed by the atomic bomb, Hiroshima was a military city. There was a huge military division near Hiroshima Castle, and Ujina Port was used as a departure port for military troops to attack the Chinese mainland and countries in Southeast Asia. Elementary school students like myself were taken to the port by our teachers, where we held small Japanese national flags and cheered for the soldiers who were leaving, shouting “*Bansai! Bansai!*” I grew up and entered an old-education system girl’s high school, but rather than actually going to school, every day we were sent to work in factories as mobilized students. At the time in 1945, there were three large military factories in Hiroshima: a munitions depot, a military clothing factory, and a food supplies warehouse. I was just like a temporary staff

member, and went to work in all of the factories. When America was building the atomic bomb, I was wiping rust off old guns in the munitions factory, washing and repairing military uniforms in the military clothing factory.

And then on the day of August 6, I was mobilized to the tobacco factory in Minami-machi, and was working covered in the powder of the tobacco for the military. Because we were working inside the factory, only one of us died, trapped under machinery, but the rest of my classmates and I survived, although we had light injuries in our head and neck from the shards of glass that shattered with the bomb's blast.

But the situation was terrible for the students younger than us. They had been mobilized to clean up after building demolition in the area behind Hiroshima City Hall (around 1.2km from the hypocenter, in what is now known as Kokutaiji). Those students suffered full-body burns, and were so burnt that they may as well have been naked. Their skin formed blisters and peeled and hung from their fingertips and dragged from their feet, and the sight of them was nothing but tragic. Some of them came back to the school, but there were no doctors and no medicine. The only way they could be treated was using old tempura cooking oil that was left in the home economics classroom. Having fled from the tobacco factory back to the school, we treated their wounds, but they just died one after the other, squirming in pain. I cremated one of those students myself, in a corner of the school ground. Crying, I picked up her small bones, which were a pale pink color like the petals of cherry blossoms. I hope never to have the same experience again.



"My daughter fled, covered in burns." (1,750m from the hypocenter Near Minami-ohashi Bridge, August 6, 1945)
("A-bomb Drawings by Survivors" by Ms. Misako Murakami)

I am an old woman now, having turned 91 this year (2020). Even now, I cannot forget those students who died at such a young age. Every day I pray for the repose of their souls, and think my hardest about what should be done now to protect eternal peace.

Profile

[Chieko Kiriake]

Born in 1929. Experienced the atomic bombing as a 15-year-old student in the 1st year of high school, 1.9km from the hypocenter. Started activities as an atomic bomb witness in 2019.

(Report) Donations for recovery from torrential rains in Hiroshima Prefecture in July 2018

The torrential rains that occurred from July 5, 2018 caused landslides, flooding, the collapse of dams and other damage in Hiroshima Prefecture, affecting many people. There were 109 people who lost their lives and 5 people missing, with 127 people who sustained injuries.

In order to provide some relief to those affected by this disaster, this Foundation is working together with Hiroshima Prefectural Government, the Hiroshima Branch of the Japanese Red Cross Society, and other organizations, and from July 24, 2018 to June 30, 2021, has set up donation boxes at Peace Memorial Museum, International Conference Center and Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims, which are all run by this Foundation, and is accepting donations.

As a result of this effort, many visitors to these facilities have provided support. As of February 19, 2021, total donations amounted to 166,036 yen.

The donations collected have been deposited in the bank account of the Hiroshima Branch of the Japanese Red Cross Society.

(General Affairs Division)

information

Our Newsletters (Japanese version and English version) are accessible on the Internet.

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

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