

# PEACE 平和文化 CULTURE



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## Various events during the Month for a Culture of Peace!

The entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) on January 22, 2021 marked a new start towards the realization of a world without nuclear weapons. However, in the current international situation that emphasizes the pursuit of national interests, unfortunately we are far from freeing ourselves from the nuclear deterrence theory held by policymakers. Against this backdrop, it is becoming increasingly necessary to create a social situation in which the abolition of nuclear weapons, which symbolize the violent nature of human beings, becomes the consensus of civil society and encourages a change in policy. To achieve this, it is important to create a “culture of peace” in civil society, in other words, a situation in which each citizen thinks and acts about peace in his or her daily life, and in which there is

no justification for violence of any kind, including war, conflict, discrimination, and prejudice.

With this in mind, from 2021 the City of Hiroshima has designated November of every year as the Month for a Culture of Peace, and this Foundation, in cooperation with the City of Hiroshima, has held various events during this period to promote culture that leads to a shared desire for peace. Many people participated in the events, renewing their commitment to peace.

At each event during the period, we wore yellow-green PR ribbons, our image color, and displayed our logo to promote the “Culture of Peace” and encourage support for this initiative.



The Month for a Culture of Peace logo

### Peace Culture Lecture (November 1)

As the opening event of the Month, we welcomed actor Ms. Sahel Rosa to give a lecture on the topic of “Encounters with people gave me the strength to live.”

Ms. Sahel has been active as an actor in film, stage, and television, and also as a goodwill ambassador for the international human rights NGO A Home for Every Child. She was born in Iran, grew up in an orphanage until the age of four, met her adoptive mother and came to Japan at the age of eight, and has since experienced a difficult and challenging life.

In the midst of all this, Ms. Sahel related many heartwarming episodes that gave her the opportunity to live positively through encounters with various people, and they made the audience think deeply about their own way

of being and how they relate to others.

After overcoming her painful past, Ms. Sahel's many positive messages, spoken with a

bright and wonderful smile, greatly touched the hearts of the audience, and the venue was wrapped in a warm circle of emotion. Ms. Sahel's story, which expressed her sympathy and support for initiatives for the Month for a Culture of Peace, spoke to the spirit of Hiroshima desiring for peace and the spirit of peace culture, making it a fitting opening event for the Month.

### Citizens' Peace Culture Event: Connecting Thoughts on Peace to the Future (November 3)

The Citizens' Peace Culture Event: Connecting Thoughts on Peace to the Future was held at the International Conference Center's Large Conference Room Dahlia. Ten groups of young people and citizens who are engaged in peace activities in Hiroshima presented their daily activities and thoughts on peace through stage presentations and exhibits.

Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui opened the event by saying, “This event, where we share our thoughts on peace through the presentation of artistic and cultural activities such as music and art, is truly an event that will instill a ‘culture of peace’, and I am pleased that so many citizens



Ms. Sahel Rosa giving her lecture

are participating.”

### <Stage Presentations>

Four groups gave presentations on their initiatives, communicating a message of peace. All of the presentations were excellent, bringing the presenters and the audience together to rethink the importance of peace.

#### ◇ Suginamidai Preschool: musical play “Here comes the elephant train”

This work was based on a picture book of the true story of children from all over Japan taking a special train to the Higashiyama Zoo in Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture, where two elephants that survived World War II are kept. The children sang and danced adorably in this musical play performed by a local ocarina group.

Mr. Takashi Koide, the author of the picture book, came to



Children who performed in the musical play, together with Mayor Matsui and the author Mr. Koide.

the venue to watch the children’s performance, and at the end, he and the mayor of Hiroshima joined the children on stage to celebrate the finale together.

#### ◇ Senda Pan Flute Choir



Pan flute performance by the Senda Pan Flute Choir

This was a performance and chorus of pan flutes made from the A-bombed tree *Kaizukaibuki* (Dragon Juniper) that used to grow in Senda Elementary School in Hiroshi-

ma City. The last song, *Soreyuke Carp*, a fight song of the Hiroshima Toyo Carp baseball team, stirred the audience to clap their hands, and the choir and the audience enjoyed their time together.

#### ◇ Chugoku Shimbun newspaper junior writers

In addition to introducing their own activities, the mem-



Presentation by Chugoku Shimbun newspaper junior writers

bers spoke about their thoughts on peace and made proposals about what young people can do for peace. A quiz related to the Atomic Bomb

Dome was also given to deepen interaction with the audience.

#### ◇ Creative Play for Peace: I PRAY

As the last of the stage presentations, a creative play for peace was performed, which powerfully depicted the process of reconstruction after



Performance of Creative Play for Peace: I PRAY

the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima for the first time in human history. The performance was performed by 17 people, including children from 4 years old to elementary and junior high school students and adults, and the audience was filled with emotion as they prayed that the tragedy of the use of nuclear weapons would never be repeated.

### <Exhibits>

Six groups presented exhibits on the results of their daily activities and their thoughts on peace.

There was also a corner at the venue where children could draw pictures on paper recycled from *Orizuru* paper cranes and have them made into badges to take home as souvenirs, and a hands-on corner where visitors could write messages of peace on pigeon-shaped stickers and paste them. These were ways that visitors could express their thoughts on peace through their own creations. There was also an information corner with flyers of various events for the Month for a Culture of Peace to promote the month’s events.



Exhibits of participating groups

#### ◇ Hiroshima City University Peace Activity Club S2

The club members introduced their activities, as well as holding a hands-on workshop where participants folded paper cranes the same size as those folded by Sadako Sasaki. Many small origami cranes were made by visitors with their thoughts for peace.

#### ◇ Peace and Art and Music with *Daruma* Doll Project

On display were more than one hundred *daruma* dolls, a traditional craft of Fukushima, painted with various messages, as well as *daruma* dolls created by Hiroshima Mayor Matsui and famous cartoonists. Many visitors took pictures and looked intently at the displays.

### ◇ Hiroshima Municipal Hiroshima Commercial High School “Peace Department Store”

This exhibit introduced the “Peace Department Store” of Hiroshima Commercial High School, and the exchange activities with its sister school, Nagasaki Municipal Nagasaki Commercial High School, through their joint peace declaration, Hiroshima-Nagasaki “Peace Bell” project, and jointly developed products. Small children who came to the event also rang the peace bell, and the sound of the bell echoed throughout the venue from time to time.

### ◇ Hiroshima Nagisa Junior and Senior High School International Division

In addition to the “Small Prayers Shadow Play Exhibition”, the International Club members introduced their past activities and shadow plays, which drew the visitors into the fantastic world of shadow plays.

### ◇ Hiroshima Municipal Hiroshima Technical High School, Department of Mechanical Engineering

There was a demonstration and workshop on copper plate paper crane making. There was an exhibition of the production process and a hands-on corner where participants could actually make copper plate origami cranes. Many children made copper plate cranes as they received guidance from the mechanical engineering students.

### ◇ Holocaust Memorial Hall: Small Hands

This exhibit introduced the activities of the memorial hall and the children’s volunteer group “Small Hands”, which has been active for 24 years. Also on display for the first time in the city of Hiroshima were children’s inmate uniforms (actual items) used in concentration camps and Anne Frank’s roses grafted by the children of the group. Visitors stopped to listen intently to the explanation.

### <Messages from Visitors>

Many visitors left messages at the message corner.

- “May the world be free of nuclear weapons! May everyone in the world lives with a smile.”
- “I wish for a time when people all over the world can forget their tears and smile every day.”
- “I wish for a world where everyone can live with a kind heart...”

About 300 people visited the event site to watch the stage presentations and to interact and exchange infor-



Peace messages

mation at the hands-on corner. It was a day where participants and visitors could experience the “culture of peace” through artistic and cultural activities.

By participating in this event, the young generation who are working for peace were able to interact with each other, and there were warm words of support for their efforts, making it an opportunity for participants and visitors alike to renew their commitment to peace.

### Online event: A-bomb Piano Concert: An investigation of peace playing an A-bombed piano (available online from November 13)

There are many forms of peace culture, and music expressed with a wish for peace is one of them. In order to encourage people to think about peace through familiar music, the A-bomb Piano Concert, in which musicians associated with Hiroshima perform in memory of the A-bomb victims, has been available online since November 13, and has been viewed by more than 870 people so far.

The A-bombed piano used in the concert was the one that Ms. Akiko Kawamoto loved to play, which is on display on the second floor of the Rest House in Peace Memorial Park. Akiko was 19 years old when she was exposed to the atomic bomb while working as a mobilized student, and she died on Au-



Shiho Nakagawa (right) and Ayako Yoshikawa (left) performing “Sunset”



Mr. Obayashi (left), Ms. Nikaido (center), and Ms. Jiang (right) performing “One Pencil”

gust 7, the day after the atomic bombing. The piano is still pierced with fragments of glass that were scattered by the blast of the atomic bomb, and with its beautiful sound, it conveys to us the tragedy of the atomic bombing.

At the concert, “Farewell Song”, one of Akiko’s favorite Chopin pieces, was performed by *erhu* Chinese violin player Jiang Xiaoyan from Dalian, China, and pianist Masakazu Shintaku. Other performances included “Sunset” by soprano Shiho Nakagawa and pianist Ayako Yoshikawa, “Go Up Hiroshima” by Hiroshima-born New York-based jazz pianist Takeshi Obayashi, and “Memory of Life” by singer-songwriter Kazumi Nikaido, who lives in Otake City, Hiroshima. In addition, Mr. Obayashi, Ms. Nikaido, and Ms. Jiang performed “One Pencil”, express-



ing their thoughts on peace to the sounds of the A-bombed piano.

### PEACE Kids Campus (November 14)

An art workshop was held for children to think about the importance of peace.

Twenty-five children between the ages of 3 and 12 and their parents participated in the event. After watching a peace education animation, the participants made an A-bomb Dome art creation out of paper clay using recycled paper cranes. Under the guidance of Professor Shoji Morinaga of Hiroshima City University's Faculty of Art, parents and children worked together to create their own A-bomb domes by making a framework for the dome part with colorful braid and then freely attaching the walls with paper clay made from recycled paper cranes.

At the end, everyone illuminated their art creations and cheered at the glittering work.

The children who participated in the event said, "It was fun. I will come again." From the parents, we received messages such as, "I hope the peaceful time of making crafts with children will continue forever."

It was an opportunity for parents and children to think about the importance of peace together through watching peace education animations and creating art objects.



Participating children and Professor Morinaga holding their completed works

### Communicating Hiroshima and Nagasaki to Each Other - Hiroshima Session 2021 - (November 20)

As the A-bomb survivors are aging, the "Let's Tell Each Other About Hiroshima and Nagasaki: Hiroshima Association 2021" event was held to convey the thoughts of A-bomb survivors, mainly through recitation, with the belief that it is important for various generations to pass on the A-bomb experience in their own ways. This event was planned for the first time by volunteers from various organizations that have been conducting A-bomb testimony

reading activities in Hiroshima City, and was co-sponsored by our Foundation.

At the event, there were screenings of video clips that were produced by members of Hiro-



High school students reading out the A-bomb testimony of Hiroshima *hibakusha* Emiko Okada

shima Prefecture high school broadcasting clubs based on the stories of the *hibakusha* and bereaved family members. In addition, reading volunteers from the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims and a reading group from Nagasaki City also participated in the event. In addition, performing readings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki A-bomb testimonies and a recitation play.

Visitors left comments such as "It was good to see people of all ages, including high school students, participating in the event," and "the variety of the performances provided a valuable opportunity to think about peace." The event became an opportunity for the performers and visitors to share their thoughts of the *hibakusha* of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and renew their commitment to peace.

### Hiroshima Peace Forum: screening of film "The Vow from Hiroshima" (November 27)

As the closing event of the Month for a Culture of Peace, we screened the documentary film "The Vow from Hiroshima", which traces the life of Setsuko Thurlow, an A-bomb survivor living in Canada who worked for the entry into force of the TPNW and gave the Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech at the ICAN Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony in 2017. Yumi Kanazaki, Director of the Hiroshima Peace Media Center of the Chugoku Shimbun newspaper, also gave a lecture titled "The journey to the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the future".

Ms. Kanazaki gave a clear explanation of the TPNW and praised Germany's announcement to participate as an observer at the First Meeting of States Parties. She also talked about what she felt through her years of reporting and anecdotes with Setsuko Thurlow. Finally, she introduced an audio message from the film's producer, Michi Takeuchi, who was born in Hiroshima and lives in New York, saying, "I hope this film will inspire you to take action for a peaceful world."

Visitors commented, "I felt once again that the accumulation of small actions is important," and "I was moved by the energy in each of Ms. Thurlow's words." Through the lecture and the film, we were able to empathize with Setsuko Thurlow's thoughts and share with the audience the importance of each of us wishing for peace in our daily lives and taking action, even in small ways.



The lecture and the film poster

## Winner of the Peace Culture Award decided!

As one of the activities of the Month for a Culture of Peace, the Hiroshima City Board of Education has awarded the Peace Culture Prize to four of the entries in the annual “Messages from Our Young People” contest. The works express a strong desire for peace in daily life.

The entries were based on the theme, “I want a Hiroshima like this,” and were essays, manga comics, and illustrations that expressed the importance of the city in which they live and their ideal city. The works can be viewed on this Foundation’s website.

### Creative Writing Division, Elementary School Section

Shinjiro Nakatani, 6<sup>th</sup> grade student, Hiroshima City Waseda Elementary School  
“Helping Each Other in Hiroshima”

### Creative Writing Division, Junior High School Section

Mai Kato, 2<sup>nd</sup> year student, Hiroshima City Itsukaichi Junior High School  
“What We Can Do in Hiroshima”

### Creative Writing Division, High School/General Section

Asuka Kuwabara, 3<sup>rd</sup> year student, Hiroshima City Kabe High School  
“What We Can Pass On to Future Generations”



“Peace is nice”

### Manga Comic and Illustration Division

Kazuki Kono, 1<sup>st</sup> grade student, Hiroshima City Konan Elementary School

“Peace is nice”; I think it’s nice to have a peaceful city, so I drew a picture of people and animals laughing together.

(Public Collaboration for Peace Division)



## Atomic Bomb Memorial Reading sessions

At the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims, Atomic Bomb Memorial Reading Sessions are held to share the memories and thoughts of the *hibakusha* and pass them on to the next generation by



Three volunteer presenters run the session

reading and talking about *hibakusha*’s stories and A-bomb poems. At the sessions, an overview of the damage caused by the atom-

ic bombing is presented through a video, followed by the reading of A-bomb memoirs and poems by volunteer presenters, and finally the participants themselves are read poems.

Last November 21, two reading sessions were held, one at 11:00 and the other at 14:30, as one of the events for the Month for a Culture of Peace.

A total of 15 people participated, including residents of Hiroshima City, visitors from outside the prefecture, and people from the United States living in Japan.

## Comments from participants

A woman who is a nursery school teacher and was participating in the reading session for the third time, said that she was particularly impressed by the poem “*Genshibakudan*” (Atomic Bomb) written by Hatsumi Sakamoto, a third-grade elementary school student, which appeared in the poetry collection “From Under the Atomic Cloud” published in 1952.

### “*Genshibakudan*” by Hatsumi Sakamoto

**When the atomic bomb is dropped**

**Day becomes night**

**People become ghosts**

(Source: “From Under the Atomic Cloud” (Aoki Shoten Publishing Co.))

The woman said “This child, who has never met a ghost, compares people who have been hurt in the bombing to ghosts. I think it must have been so horrible that it can only be expressed in such words. I believe that participating in a recital session will move you. The duration is 40 minutes, so it’s easy to participate, and I hope many people will join us.”

## Comments from volunteers

We spoke with Ms. Yoko Matsuo, a volunteer who reads A-bomb testimonies.

## We want to communicate the A-bomb experience

For the past 26 years, I have served as the host of the Peace Summit, a gathering of elementary school students who make the Commitment to Peace at the Peace Memorial Ceremony. I felt like I was being pushed, thinking “What am I doing when children are thinking about Hiroshima and peace as something so familiar to them?” That’s when I heard about the call for volunteers to read A-bomb memoirs, and I decided to apply to pass on the A-bomb experience through readings. Then, in 2004, I started the activity as the first-generation member.



Ms. Yoko Matsuo

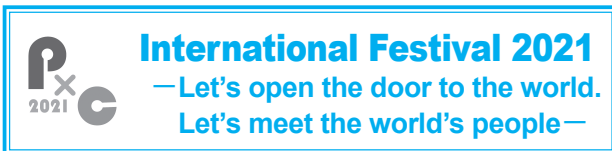
### Making the words resonate in people's hearts

I believe that the *hibakusha* had experiences and feelings that we cannot even imagine. To be close to the *hibakusha*'s feelings, we repeatedly read their A-bomb memoirs and poems and express them as words. I am carrying out this activity with the hope that it will resonate in the hearts of the participants.

"No one else should ever suffer as we have." I believe that we, as recipients of this important and kind message, must continue to pass it on.

Reading the testimonies is a profound act. Even in the spaces between the lines and the different positions of punctuation marks, the feelings of the *hibakusha* are reflected. How can we understand and communicate this? I would like to continue to learn.

(Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims)



The 22<sup>nd</sup> International Festival was held on November 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> last year.

Following on from the previous year, this time the scale of the program was drastically reduced to prevent the spread of the COVID-19, and thorough infection prevention measures were taken. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, six programs were conducted via online streaming only, and on the 21<sup>st</sup>, three programs of lectures and presentations, four programs of Japanese cultural experiences, and one program of online streaming were conducted at the International Conference Center Hiroshima, both in person and via online streaming.

We were also able to hold hands-on programs that were not possible in 2020, and could hold this event with meaningful content on the theme of international exchange and cooperation.

### Program held on November 20

As a continuation of last year's online project using the Zoom web conferencing tool, six organizations, including citizens' groups and public organizations, spoke about their organizations, presented their activities, and gave lectures.

Each organization used images and videos to make the event easy to understand and to keep the participants engaged.

The programs held and organizations are listed below.

- Historian Sanyo Rai and Japanese history (Hiroshima's Historiographers)
- Japanese and World Nature Exploration Presentation Session (New Japanese Association of Galapagos Stud-



Online program "Barbara Reynolds, the woman who walked with the *hibakusha*"

ies)

- UNICEF and the children of the world (Hiroshima Association for UNICEF)
- Youth International Exchange Activities Presentation Session (Hiroshima City Board of Education, Youth Development Department, Education Development Division)
- Hiroshima City University, Faculty of International Studies Open Lecture: "The Contemporary World and Minorities and Diversity: From the book series 'Looking to the Periphery'" (Hiroshima City University, Faculty of International Studies)
- Barbara Reynolds, the woman who walked with the *hibakusha* (World Friendship Center)

### Program held on November 21

#### "They're unfortunate animals but we love them —on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Asa Zoo—"

In the popular annual talk show held jointly by our Foundation and Japan International Cooperation Agency Chugoku Center (JICA Chugoku), Mr. Takashi Maruyama, known as the creator of books "*Encyclopedia of Unfortunate Animals*" and "*There's a reason why they became extinct*" appeared as a guest. He introduced his cross-cultural experiences in the various parts of the world where he traveled to create his animal illustrated books, as well as the slightly "unfortunate" aspects of animals.

In the first half of the talk show, Mr. Maruyama talked about his experiences of living and working on an ostrich



The lecture "They're unfortunate animals but we love them"

farm in Israel, searching for animals in the surrounding desert, and climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa. At the same time, he shared anecdotes about the animals he met along the way.

In the latter half of the session, Ms. Ayako Noda, the



head of animal care at Hiroshima City Asa Zoo, which celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021, came on stage to talk about anecdotes from the park in the form of a dialogue.

Ms. Noda told valuable stories about giant salamanders, such as the fact that Asa Zoo has the largest number of giant salamanders in Japan, and the reason why is that they take good care of the local species. She also spoke about the problem of the Japanese native species and the alien species from China.

### **Virtual Round-the-World Tour of Sister and Friendship Cities —With Hiroshima Messengers as your guides!—**

Hiroshima Messengers, who promote exchange activities with six sister and friendship cities around the world, held a project to introduce each city. A total of 11 Hiroshima Messengers wore traditional costumes and colorful sashes designed and made by themselves for the occasion. In a very festive atmosphere, they introduced the charms of their assigned cities and their exchange activities with Hiroshima in an easy-to-understand and enjoyable manner. There was also a quiz contest with prizes and a raffle, which was enjoyed not only by the participants but also by the Hiroshima Messengers themselves. One of the participants commented, “This is the first time I learned about the active exchange activities between Hiroshima and its sister and friendship cities. It was a good opportunity.”



The 2021 Hiroshima Messengers

### **“The Town that Resisted Extinction: The Historical Meaning of the Battle of Stalingrad”**

This lecture was held on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022 of the sister city affiliation between Hiroshima and Volgograd, Russia. It was an opportunity to learn about the tragedy of the Stalingrad Offensive, in which the city of Volgograd (formerly Stalingrad) suffered great war damage, and to consider the significance of the sister city affiliation between the two cities.

The lecturer, Mr. Takeshi Oki, has a wealth of knowledge about the damage caused by the war in Volgograd, as shown in his book on the Stalingrad siege, “The Russo-German War: The Disaster of the Extinction War”,

which won the 2020 New Book Award in Japan. In the lecture, Mr. Oki spoke enthusiastically about the background of the battle, the actual damage, and the situation in Volgograd at that time, showing diagrams. At the end of the lecture, a question-and-answer session was held.

### **JICA Global Plaza**

This year, two online events were held. The first part of the tour was a “mystery tour” with two foreign residents of Hiroshima joining as guests. Participants were asked to guess their country of origin based on photos and anecdotes about food, clothing, housing, and culture. In the second part, a former JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteers member who had been dispatched to the Republic of Ghana in West Africa served as a lecturer and introduced the Adinkra symbols of Ghana. These are symbols that represent concepts and sayings and are used in articles such as patterns and logos. They are also arranged in various combinations and used as a means of non-verbal communication. At the end of the session, participants created their own original Adinkra symbol and explained the meaning behind the symbol.

### **Japanese traditional culture experience for foreign residents**

The Japanese traditional culture experience program was limited to foreign residents of Hiroshima and held with a set number of participants.

At the kimono dressing experience run by the instructors of Nichiwa kimono-dressing class, participants wearing gorgeous *furisode* (long-sleeved kimono) were happily taking commemorative photos inside and outside the venue.

In the Japanese-style room on the third floor of the International Conference Center Hiroshima, a tea ceremony was held by members of the Ueda School Wafudo. In order to prevent the spread of the COVID-19, a maximum number of participants per hour was set to avoid congestion, the spaces between seats were widened, and paper bowls were used to ensure that participants did not share the tea bowls and they could be disposed of. In a quiet and calm atmosphere, participants were able to experience the Ueda Sōko style of tea ceremony.



Participants in the kimono dressing experience (left)  
Tea ceremony experience (right)

At other venues, there were also calligraphy workshops by members of the Department of Calligraphy, Faculty of Letters, Yasuda Women's University, and an exhibition of *ikebana* flower arrangement by members of the Hiroshima Branch of Ikebana International. Participants experienced various aspects of Japanese traditional culture.

(City Diversity & Inclusion Division)

### **A-bomb Drawings completed** —High school students depict A-bomb experiences in pictures—

With the cooperation of the Creative Expression Course at Hiroshima Municipal Motomachi Senior High School, this Foundation is working with the high school students to create A-bomb Drawings that depict scenes from the atomic bombing that are still fresh in the minds of *hibakusha* and convey the situation at the time.

Since fiscal year 2020, 10 *hibakusha* and 18 students have been working on the project, and 19 pictures have been completed in 2021. Since the works were first commissioned in 2007, more than 140 students have worked on the project, producing 171 valuable pictures.

The completion ceremony was held at Motomachi High School on July 5, 2021. In addition to the nine *hibakusha* (one was absent) and the students of the Creative Expression Course, including the students who created the pictures, representatives of this Foundation and Motomachi Senior High School officials also attended the ceremony, taking thorough measures against the COVID-19 infection.

Mr. Shunichiro Arai, an A-bomb survivor, and Ms. Tsumugi Yamada, a second-year student, created a work titled "I saw the terrible flash and the B-29 flying away at the moment of the atomic bomb explosion." Ms. Yamada was working on the production until the day before the completion ceremony.

On the morning of the day of the atomic bombing, Mr. Arai witnessed the moment the bomb exploded from Hachihonmatsu Station in Higashi-Hiroshima City, about 22.2km from the hypocenter. He said that he decided to have it painted as a record of one of the few times he witnessed the explosion in his line of sight. At first, Mr. Arai thought it would be an impossible order for Ms. Yamada to draw a B-29 bomber, which she had never seen or heard of, but after many conversations and revisions, the work was completed, and he was very happy to finally be able to show it off. He also said he wanted to express his gratitude to Ms. Yamada and all the people involved in the production.

Ms. Yamada said that she decided to participate in the project because she thought that being involved in the cre-

ation of the A-bomb picture would be a living experience that she could use even after she became an adult. She said that it was difficult to express the light from the atomic bombing, which was the main point



"I saw the terrible flash and the B-29 flying away at the moment of the atomic bomb explosion." created by Tsumugi Yamada and Shunichiro Arai

of the picture, and that even though she and Mr. Arai had watched the video materials of the bombing many times, she could not come up with a satisfactory picture. However, after receiving advice from Mr. Arai and making revisions, she was able to make it closer to the scene he actually saw. Ms. Yamada concluded her speech at the completion ceremony with the words, "I hope that the tragedy of the atomic bombing will be conveyed to those who see this picture, even if only a little."

In this project, as in the previous year, the students were unable to listen to the *hibakusha*'s stories face to face due to the coronavirus pandemic, so they had meetings over the phone and communicated the progress of their drawings through photographs. Because of the differences in color and appearance between the photos and the real thing, they had a hard time communicating. The A-bomb pictures completed through the efforts of the *hibakusha* and students will be used in lectures by atomic bomb witnesses to promote a deeper understanding of the A-bomb experience. We will continue to lend out the pictures and provide image data to the mass media to help pass on the reality of the atomic bombing to future generations.

(Peace Memorial Museum Outreach Division)

### **Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Exhibition during Tokyo Olympics / Paralympics**

In the summer of 2021, when the Olympic and Paralympic Games were held in Tokyo, the City of Hiroshima, in cooperation with the City of Nagasaki, held the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic bomb Exhibition. The aim of the exhibition was to introduce the reality of the atomic bombings and initiatives for peace in order to foster public opinion toward the abolition of nuclear weapons and the



Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum's Director Takigawa providing an explanation of displays. (Hanno City venue)



realization of lasting peace in the world. The exhibition was held at three locations in the Tokyo metropolitan area: Hanno City, Saitama Prefecture; Bunkyo Ward, Tokyo; and Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo.

At the venues in Hanno City and Bunkyo Ward, there were displays of articles that were owned by A-bomb victims, photo panels showing the reality of the atomic bombing and the current situation of nuclear weapons, pictures of the atomic bombing drawn by A-bomb survivors, and pictures of the atomic bombing drawn jointly by high school students and A-bomb survivors. At the venue in Chiyoda Ward, in addition to the display of photo panels, there was a reading corner with books about the atomic bombing, and a DVD screening corner.

However, due to the spread of COVID-19 infection, related events such as A-bomb survivor talks that had been planned for each venue had to be postponed. In addition, for the Chiyoda Ward exhibition, the originally planned venue could not be used due to the need to secure a venue for vaccinations, so the content of the exhibition was reduced.

Although it was necessary to make various changes to the events, they were attended by a large number of people, mainly local residents.

In a questionnaire survey of visitors, the following valuable comments were made: “It was really tragic, and I thought that such a thing should never happen again,” (teenage visitor); “I realized that the fact that we are living normally now is not a matter of course, and how lucky we are. It gave me an opportunity to think about life,” (visitor in their 20s); “From the viewpoint of infection control, I can’t go to Hiroshima and Nagasaki easily, and it was valuable to see the A-bomb materials in person. This exhibition made me want to visit the local museum again when the pandemic is over,” (visitor in their 40s).

### 【Hanno City, Saitama Prefecture】

Period: July 18 (Sun) - September 5 (Sun) (44 days, excluding museum holidays)

Venue: Hanno City Museum

Number of visitors: 7,550 people

### 【Bunkyo Ward, Tokyo】

Period: July 26 (Mon) - 30 (Fri) (5 days)

Venue: Bunkyo Civic Center, 1st floor, Gallery Civic and Art Salon

Number of visitors: 1,703 people

### 【Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo】

Period: August 3 (Tues) - 13 (Fri) (8 days, excluding venue holidays)

Venue: Chiyoda Ward City Hall, Ward Information Corner

Number of visitors: 210 people

(Peace Memorial Museum Outreach Division)

## Online event connecting overseas museums to share memories

In order to strengthen the network with overseas museums, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum visits peace-themed museums to coincide with the holding of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibition in nuclear-weapon states and other countries, and is discussing and coordinating collaborative measures to jointly develop initiatives aimed at the abolition of nuclear weapons and eternal peace in the world.

As part of these efforts, an online event titled “Online Event Connecting Overseas Museums to Share Memories” was held on September 18 last year. Ms. Masako Miki, Japanese language liaison for the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, the U.S., was invited as a speaker at the event. Approximately 190 people

## Wear Traditional Clothes to Work Day

The City Diversity & Inclusion Division has designated November 12 as “Wear Traditional Clothes to Work Day”. This was held for the first time in 2021, and staff members had fun wearing colorful clothes such as Chinese dresses, *ao dai* (Vietnamese traditional clothes), aloha shirts, and *chima chogori* (Korean traditional clothes for women).

Three of the eight foreign staff members wore kimonos. One of them, a “Japanese-inspired” American staff has as many



We make efforts to support non-Japanese residents, in the hope of making this a welcoming city where people of all nationalities, ethnicities, and cultures work to coexist.

\* Masks were removed for the photograph.

as 30 kimonos at home and can even put them on herself. The Brazilian staff member who wore the uniform of the local baseball team, the Hiroshima Toyo Carp, said, “This is the traditional costume of Hiroshima!”

Even those who usually wear only monotone suits and calm, older management staff were completely transformed into cheerful characters for the first time!

The City Diversity & Inclusion Division and the Consultation Desk for Foreign Residents of Hiroshima City and Aki-gun are located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the International Conference Center Hiroshima.

Please feel free to visit the City Diversity & Inclusion Division, where our fun staff members are waiting for you.

(City Diversity & Inclusion Division)

attended, from teenagers to people in their 90s.

The Japanese American National Museum opened in 1992 with the mission of deepening understanding of the ethnic and cultural diversity of the United States by conveying the history and experiences of Japanese Americans. In 2019, it became the first museum in Los Angeles to host the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibition, co-sponsored by the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The museum is located in California, where many residents of Hiroshima Prefecture have settled since the Meiji era (1868-1912). After the atomic bombing, people from the Hiroshima Kenjinkai (an association of people from the Hiroshima prefecture) and other groups in California, who learned of the devastation in Hiroshima, sent many relief supplies and donations, symbolizing the strong ties with Hiroshima.

In the online event, in her talk titled “The History of Japanese Americans Connected to the Present”, Ms. Miki spoke about the beginnings of immigration from Japan to the U.S., the history of Japanese Americans including incarceration and post-war compensation during World War II, ongoing issues such as hate crimes against Asians during the pandemic, and the response to the A-bomb exhibition at the museum.



Ms. Miki speaking about the Japanese American National Museum

There was also a virtual tour of the museum and a question & answer session with the participants at the end.

Participants commented, “I have never learned so much about the Japanese immigration to the United States, through World War II, to the present. The speaker’s passionate speech was easy to understand and moved me,”

and “I was reminded of the importance of communicating and preserving the facts.” There were also many requests for more online events connecting people overseas with people in Hiroshima in the future.

Through this event, we were able to provide an opportunity for the participants to rethink the importance of passing on history.

The museum will continue to build a network with overseas peace-themed museums to widely disseminate the message of peace.

(Peace Memorial Museum Outreach Division)

## Memoir of the A-bombing “Burned by the heat rays of the atomic bomb”



by **Hidetaka Takiguchi**  
Atomic bomb survivor  
registered with our Foundation

### Before and after the dropping of the bomb

On August 6, 1945, there were four of us living in our house in Hakushima: my mother, who was 33 years old; me, who would turn five on August 8; my younger sister, who was 10 months old; and my cousin’s fiancé. My father was away at war.

At around 8 am, my cousin’s fiancé said, “I’m going to clean your room, so go outside for a while.” So my mother, holding my sister, and I went outside.

At around eight o’clock, the sky was almost cloudless, and the direct rays of the midsummer sun were harshly beating down. I found some shade and was playing there. After a while, I could hear the heavy propeller noise of

## Youth Webinar for Peace Action

On August 26 last year, Mayors for Peace held a peace education webinar, Youth Webinar for Peace Action, to promote youth-led peace activities in member cities. The session was live-streamed on YouTube.

Thirteen youths from nine organizations working for peace around the world, including organizations in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, gave presentations in English about their own peace activities and answered questions from the audience.

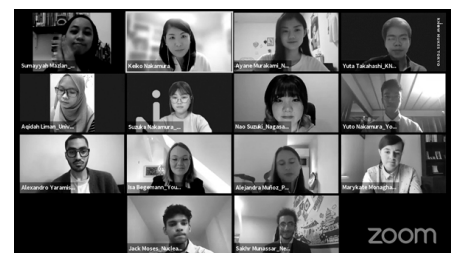
Afterwards, the participants discussed their future activities, and one of them said, “In order to involve more young people in peace activities in the future, it would be good to implement initiatives that combine their awareness of issues and their interests with nuclear disarmament and peace activities.”

They also suggested that they take advantage of the connections among the organizations that were created in this webinar and continue to hold online events together and other collaborative peace activities.

We look forward to their future activities. The webinar can be viewed at the URL below.

URL: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/news/2021/former-2021-webinar-result-en/>

(Mayors for Peace Administration Division)



Mayors for Peace Youth Webinar for Peace Action

B-29 bombers. I called out, “Mom, there’s planes, I’m going home,” and ran back to the house. As I walked in the front door and was about to close the door, there was a flash and I felt a strong pain in my left arm and a slight pain in my left cheek and heel. Immediately after that there was a powerful blast, which blew my little five-year-old body away and knocked me unconscious as I hit my head on the edge of the well in the kitchen.

My mother, who was holding my sister, felt an intense pain in her back at the same time as the flash of light. She realized that her blouse was on fire, and hurried to take it off, but her calves and heels were burned. Despite her terrible state, she noticed that her son was not there. She looked for me as she cleaned up the fallen pillars of the house, and saved me. I was still unconscious.

### Fleeing to Nakanoshima

The skin on my left arm was peeling and hanging down, and my mother’s back was burned with the skin peeling away.

We just needed to get away from there, so we climbed up the nearby riverbank with my cousin’s fiancé, who was still inside and unharmed, then went through Chojyu-en (a park that was a popular cherry blossom viewing spot until around 1950), and arrived at the bank of the Ota River. There was an island called Nakanoshima in the middle of the river. The river was shallow at the time, so we walked across the river and took refuge at Nakanoshima. When I put my foot in the river, the burn on my heel hurt so bad that I jumped. My mother was even more severely burned, so I think her pain must have been intense. So many people took refuge on Nakanoshima that there was no place to step. In the evening, we crossed the river again and went home, but the house was tilted and we could not go inside, so we spent the night in an air-raid shelter.



Nakanoshima in around 1975. This sandbar was filled with people who had fled the atomic bombing.

### Recuperating at my mother’s family home

On the third day after the bombing, my mother’s brother and my father’s sister’s husband came to help us. They cleaned up the house, put my mother, my sister and I in a handcart with pots and pans and other tools, and set off

from Hakushima for Hiroshima Station. The city that we passed through on the way had turned to burnt-out ruins, and we could see far into the distance. The distinctive smell of the fire afterwards was sickening and horrifying to remember. We arrived at Hiroshima Station, and finally boarded a train amidst crowds of fleeing people. We arrived at Matsunaga City, where my mother’s family home was. My mother’s parents lived on a farm with a large house, slightly elevated, and we began our recuperation in a large, well-ventilated living room.

The burn on my mother’s back smelled so bad that my grandparents and uncles, who were taking care of her, kept saying how bad it smelled. A fly may have laid eggs in my mother’s back, and the eggs grew into maggots and crawled around on her back, making it itchy. My mother could not get them off by herself, so she had to get others to take them out with a pair of disposable chopsticks. My mother had a persistent high fever of 41 degrees. One day, she lost consciousness: apparently it felt as if she was falling into the bottom of a deep, deep well. She eventually regained consciousness this time, but apparently she thought, “So this is what it means to die.”

### The burn on my left arm

The skin on my left arm had been burned by the heat rays, and was burned all the way down to my fingertips so that I could not even bend my fingers. To allow my fingers to move freely, they used to insert a cloth soaked in cooking oil between my fingers, but it was extremely painful when they removed the cloth, and I always cried during the treatment. It was worth it, and now I can move my fingers freely. I am grateful for the treatment I received. However, the burned area on my left arm developed into keloid scars and the flesh on the back of my hand in particular became raised, making it difficult to move my wrist. It was especially hard during the cold winter months, when the skin would crack and moving my fingers would cause extreme pain. The cracks became infected and my shirt cuffs were always dirty with pus. My mother, who was worried about my inability to freely move my wrists, found out about the enactment of the Atomic Bomb Survivors Relief Law in 1994. She called the hospital, and I had a skin graft. As a result, I now know the pleasure of being able to move freely without feeling any pain.

### Death of my younger sister Hiroko

My sister, who was being held by my mother at the time, was exposed to heat rays on part of her head. She was examined by a doctor two days after the bombing, who said, “She’s lucky to have only received a burn like this.” She did look healthy at that time. However, my mother stopped producing breastmilk, and at that time, there was



not enough powdered milk available. In these poor conditions, and due to the long journey from Hiroshima to Matsunaga, Hiroko was very weak and passed away in my mother's sister's arms on August 22. When my mother, who was recuperating, heard of her daughter's death, she cried out loud and could not stop crying, at the thought that she was unable to take care of Hiroko herself because of her burns.

### Wishing for peace

For 77 years, from the Meiji Restoration (1868) until the atomic bomb was dropped in August 1945, Japan was at war with other countries. In the Pacific War, 3.1 million people died, including soldiers and civilians. However, in the 76 years from August 1945 to August 2021, Japan has not been at war. I sincerely hope that Japan will continue to be a country that never engages in war.

Atomic and hydrogen bombs and nuclear weapons are horrific weapons that can raze and completely destroy a vast area in an instant with heat rays and blasts, and then continue to invade the human body with invisible radiation for decades. I think many people do not know how horrific atomic and hydrogen bombs and nuclear weapons are. In order to make more people around the world aware of the dangers of nuclear weapons, I will continue to appeal from Hiroshima. I truly hope that nuclear weapons will be eliminated from the world and we will have a peaceful world without war. Even if a drop of water is small, when many water drops gather together they become a large river, creating great power and flow. It is important that we make this movement bigger and bigger.

We the *hibakusha* want to ensure that what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the destruction of our cities, the physical and mental scars, and the tragic loss of life, will never happen again.

### Profile

#### [Hidetaka Takiguchi]

I was born in 1940 in Ujina-machi, Hiroshima City, and had moved to Hakushima-cho when the atomic bomb was dropped. As post-war reconstruction progressed, I learned from news reports that A-bombed buildings were disappearing to make way for city building work, and around 1982 I began photographing A-bombed trees and buildings on my days off.

The people of Hiroshima were given courage and energy by the A-bombed trees, which were among the first to grow shoots, despite being told that no plants or trees would grow for 75 years after the bombing.

### Information

Our newsletters (Japanese version and English version) are accessible on the internet.

[URL] [www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/hpcf/paper/](http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/hpcf/paper/)

[Request] Please contact us if you change your mailing address.

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## In Memory of Sunao Tsuboi



Sunao Tsuboi, an A-bomb survivor and a councillor of this Foundation, passed away on October 24, 2021. He was 96 years old.

Mr. Tsuboi was a student at the Hiroshima Technical College (currently the Faculty of Engineering at Hiroshima University) when he was exposed to the atomic bomb at the age of 20 on a street near Hiroshima City Hall, about 1 km from the hypocenter.

Originally a teacher, after retiring from his position as principal of Jonan Junior High School in Hiroshima in 1986, he joined the *hibakusha* movement, and while suffering from chronic aplastic anemia, cancer, and other disorders related to the atomic bombing, he has called for the abolition of nuclear weapons and world peace through lectures on the A-bomb experience in Japan and abroad.

He has served as a Co-Chairperson of the NIHON HIDANKYO (Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations) and as the Chairperson of the Board of the Hiroshima Prefecture Confederation of Atomic Bomb Sufferers' Associations. In 2011, he was awarded the Kiyoshi Tanimoto Peace Prize, which is given to individuals who have contributed to peace through their peace activities such as testimonies of the A-bomb experience.

He was also a member of the former Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Exhibition Review Committee from 2010 to 2019, and was instrumental in the renewal of the exhibition.

"After the bombing, life has not been easy. All I could think about was whether to live or die. The *hibakusha* have endured countless suffering. I hope the exhibition will touch on that."

Mr. Tsuboi's words, based on his own experiences, have been a great encouragement and guide for staffs in planning the content of the exhibition. His strong desire to "continue to convey the message and never let it be lost" lives on in the museum's exhibits.

In memory of Mr. Tsuboi's achievements during his life, we pray for his soul.