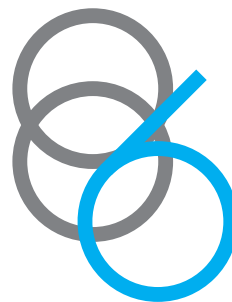


PEACE 平和文化 CULTURE



vol.1 No.88 (semiannual)

77th Peace Memorial Ceremony since the Atomic Bombing

On Saturday, August 6, 2022, the 77th year since the atomic bombing, the Peace Memorial Ceremony was held by the City of Hiroshima in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. About 3,000 people attended, including *hibakusha* and representatives of bereaved families from 28 prefectures, as well as ambassadors and representatives from 99 countries including the United States, the United Kingdom, and France, the nuclear weapon states, and the European Union. They prayed for the repose of the souls of the victims and for lasting world peace.

The ceremony began at 8:00am, when Hiroshima Mayor Matsui and two representatives of the bereaved families first dedicated two volumes of the Register of the Names of the Fallen Atomic Bomb Victims, containing the names of the 4,978 people who were confirmed to have died in the past year, to the Cenotaph for the Atomic Bomb Victims. This brings the total number of names recorded in the Register to 333,907 people, in 123 volumes.

After the ceremonial address by Mr. Sasaki, Chairperson of the Hiroshima City Council, and a flower offering by each representative, Mr. Shinji Yoneda, a representative of the bereaved families, and Ms. Himari Masumoto, the children's representative, rang the Peace Bell at 8:15, the time the atomic bomb was dropped, and all participants offered one minute of silent prayer.

After this, Mayor Matsui read the Peace Declaration. Referring to the possibility that Russia may use nuclear weapons in its invasion of Ukraine, the mayor urged the leaders of the nuclear weapon states to visit the A-bombed cities, face the consequences of the use of nuclear weapons, and be convinced that the abolition of nuclear weapons is the only sure way to protect the lives and property of the people. He expressed his strong hope that the leaders who attend the G7 Summit in Hiroshima next year will reach this conclusion.

The mayor also demanded the Japanese government



Mayor Matsui reading the Peace Declaration

serve as mediator at the ongoing 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), to definitely participate in the next Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and to become a signatory to the TPNW as soon as possible, and to wholeheartedly support the movement toward nuclear weapons abolition. He also demanded the government to enhance support measures for the many *hibakusha* who are suffering in various ways from radiation, which has adverse physical and emotional effects, and whose average age is over 84 years old.

Barbara Alex and Rin Yamasaki, the children's representatives, then delivered the Commitment to Peace, in which they pledged to "take action for the creation of a future where peace is reflected in the eyes of everyone around the world."

In his remarks that followed, Prime Minister Kishida stated that Japan would walk decisively forward on the path towards a world without nuclear weapons, no matter how narrow, steep, or difficult that path may be, and that, towards that end, while firmly upholding the Three Non-Nuclear Principles, Japan would endeavor to connect the reality of a harsh security environment with the ideal of a world without nuclear weapons. He also expressed his intention for us to demonstrate to the world at the G7 Summit in Hiroshima our pledge for humankind never to repeat the devastation of using nuclear weapons. He stated that he and the G7 leaders will unite to safeguard peace and the international order and uphold the universal values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

This ceremony was the first time that UN Secretary-General Guterres attended and delivered an address. The Secretary-General said that crises with grave nuclear undertones are spreading fast from the Middle East, to the Korean peninsula, to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Stating that it is totally unacceptable for states in possession of nuclear weapons to admit the possibility of nuclear war, he urged those states to "take the nuclear option off the table—for good. It's time to proliferate peace. Heed the message of the *hibakusha*: 'No more Hiroshimas! No more Nagasakis!'"

The full texts of the Peace Declaration and Commitment

to Peace read at the ceremony can be downloaded from the City of Hiroshima website.

(General Affairs Division)

Delegation of Mayors for Peace to the First Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW

In June 2022, Mayors for Peace dispatched a delegation including President Kazumi Matsui (Mayor of Hiroshima), Vice President Tomihisa Taue (Mayor of Nagasaki) and Secretary General Takashi Koizumi (Chairperson of this Foundation), to attend the First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and the 2022 Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons held in Vienna, Austria. The delegation expressed their grave concern about nuclear weapons, which cause inhumane consequences, and urged UN and national government officials to take action to advance discussions toward nuclear abolition. In addition, a joint side event between the Mayors for Peace and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), as well as the Mayors for Peace A-bomb Poster Exhibition, were held to build momentum for a peaceful world without nuclear weapons.

June 20 (Mon)

Observation of the Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons

Following the opening remarks by Mr. Alexander Schallenberg, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Austria, the host

country, and Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations, the third-generation Nagasaki *hibakusha* and co-chair of the voluntary organization KNOW NUKES TOKYO, Ms. Suzuka Nakamura, wearing the kimono and sash of Ms. Tomiko Fukushima, a Nagasaki *hibakusha*, took to the podium to speak on the “Testimonials of Survivors of Nuclear Weapons Use and Testing”. She stated, “It is up to us, the younger generation, to carry on the wishes of the *hibakusha* and to prevent repetition of the same mistakes in the future.” Sueichi Kido, secretary-general of the Japan Confederation of A- and H-bomb Sufferers Organizations, spoke about the damage caused by the atomic bombings and the lifelong anxiety and suffering of the *hibakusha*, and stated that the TPNW is precisely the wish of the *hibakusha*.

Meeting with the Deputy Director General of the Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand

President Matsui expressed his gratitude to Thailand for sponsoring the exhibition of A-bomb posters of the Mayors for Peace in the venue of the TPNW First Meeting of States Parties, and asked for cooperation in expanding the number of member cities of the Mayors for Peace in order to foster public opinion toward increasing the number of states parties of the TPNW. Deputy Director Ek-on Khunacharoen recognized that is one of the key issues and said that she is pleased to work with civil society, including the Mayors for Peace.

Impressions from Attending the First Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW



Hiroshima Mayor
Kazumi Matsui

At the First Meeting, the inhumanity of nuclear weapons was reaffirmed, and the Vienna Declaration, the final document that denounces security reliance on nuclear weapons and includes measures to achieve the content of the Treaty, such as promoting participation in the Treaty and assisting nuclear victims, was adopted, along with the Vienna Action Plan, which stipulates specific procedures and actions. In particular, it was emphasized that the TPNW is not in conflict with existing treaties such as the NPT, but is complementary to them.

In view of the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and the uncertainty of nuclear arsenal management, I felt once again that nuclear weapons are an ‘absolute evil’ that can cause enormous damage but never benefit anyone, and that the only way to prevent future damage from nuclear weapons is to abolish them.

We must promote security for both people and nations and encourage steady efforts toward the abolition of nuclear weapons by creating an environment that ensures that nuclear weapon states are committed to nuclear disarmament.

To do so, it is necessary to first increase the number of non-nuclear weapon states that ratify the TPNW. This will help to create an environment that will change the current regime that allows nuclear powers to exercise influence over other countries by using nuclear weapons. In addition, as such an environment is created, the influence of nuclear weapons will decline, despite the risks that arise from their possession, and eventually the enormous cost burden of maintaining and managing nuclear weapons will no longer be commensurate with their influence. This will provide an incentive for nuclear weapon states to engage in nuclear disarmament.

Based on this concept, in order to foster public opinion in civil society toward the dissemination and effectiveness of the TPNW, Mayors for Peace, in cooperation with the UN, NGOs and other organizations, as well as the countries promoting the Treaty, will further focus on the theme of ‘Promote a culture of peace’, as stated in the Vision for Peaceful Transformation to a Sustainable World (PX Vision) that was formulated last July in cooperation with member cities.

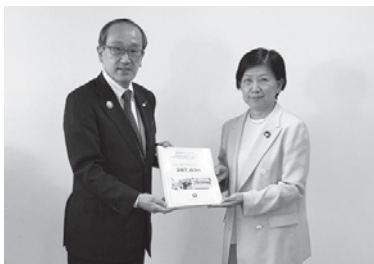
Meeting with the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO

Mr. Robert Floyd, Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), stated that 172 states have ratified the CTBT, although it has not yet entered into force, and that since the treaty was first signed in 1996, the total number of nuclear tests has fallen dramatically from over 2,000 to less than 12, providing peace and security for all countries. President Matsui stated that in order to make the TPNW effective by expanding the number of states parties, as in the case of the CTBT, he would like to work with the member cities of the Mayors for Peace to spread awareness of the inhumane consequences that result from the use of nuclear weapons.

June 21 (Tues)

Meeting with the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations and handover of signatures

Under-Secretary-General Nakamitsu noted that, despite the difficult international situation, the number of attendees, including observers, at the First Meeting of States Parties was more than double the expected number. She said that she hopes to take advantage of these various driving forces for the abolition of nuclear weapons, which is a major issue for the United Nations. President Matsui stated that by expanding the number of countries ratifying the TPNW, he hopes to spread awareness of the inhumanity of the use of nuclear weapons and the uncertainty of their management, and to motivate the nuclear weapon states to disarm their nuclear arsenals. He also handed over a catalog of approximately 290,000 signatures calling for all states to join the TPNW at the earliest date.



Ms. Nakamitsu (right) receiving the catalog of signatures

Joint side event held by Mayors for Peace and ICAN

A joint side event with ICAN titled 'Voices of Civil Society for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World' drew a packed audience of over 100 people. With Secretary-General Koizumi as MC, first there were opening remarks by President Matsui. Next, Mr. Yoshiaki Fukahori, Chairperson of Nagasaki City Council, called for Nagasaki to be the last A-bombed city as a message from the *hibakusha*, while Mr. Masashi Ieshima, Chairman of the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations, shared his own experience and spoke of the horrors of radiation damage. As representatives of the Mayors for Peace, City Councilor Edward Newman of Manchester, England, a member of the Executive Committee, gave an overview

of Mayors for Peace and local governments efforts to promote the abolition of nuclear weapons. This was followed by Ms. Maya Thompson



Presenters answering questions from participants

from ICAN Norway and Ms. Nakamura from KNOW NUKES TOKYO, who presented their thoughts and efforts toward nuclear weapons abolition as representatives of youth working for nuclear abolition.

Meeting with ICAN Executive Director

President Matsui conveyed his appreciation for the joint side event and expressed his desire to work together to promote and ensure the effectiveness of the TPNW. Ms. Beatrice Fihn, Executive Director of ICAN, spoke of the 'voices of civil society', the title of the event, as an example of how citizens' voices in Norway led their governments to participate in the First Meeting as observer, and said that she recognized that it could motivate new movements. She said that she would like to think of an initiative that can be implemented in cooperation with the Mayors for Peace, such as the ICAN Cities Appeal, in which local governments call on their own national governments to sign the TPNW.

Speech at the General Debate of the TPNW First Meeting of States Parties

President Matsui, together with Vice President Taue, speaking on behalf of Mayors for Peace, pointed out that the methods used to resolve the situation caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine must not nullify the efforts that humanity has made. In order to make the TPNW effective, he stressed the urgent need for the United Nations, national governments and civil society to work together, to increase the number of states parties, especially non-nuclear weapon states, that ratify the treaty, and to make the nuclear weapon states more aware of the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and the uncertainty of nuclear arsenal management. He also explained the efforts of Mayors for Peace and the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and expressed hope for the G7 Summit to be held in Hiroshima in 2023. He called for the fulfillment of the ambitious goals of the treaty, including the improvement and enrichment of victim assistance provision.



Speech by President Matsui

Mayors for Peace Executive Cities' Meeting for Exchange of Views and European Chapter Meeting

Eleven cities, including the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as European executive cities, gathered for a meeting and engaged in lively discussions. Mr. Thomas Hermann, Deputy Mayor of Hannover, announced that the number of member cities in Germany is increasing rapidly under the tense situation in Ukraine, and Ms. Alba Barnusell, Mayor of Granollers, Spain, expressed her determination to engage in further activities as the head of the European Chapter.



Executive City Discussion Session

After exchanging opinions on future initiatives, Vice President Taue stated that he would like to continue the discussion at the General Conference of Mayors for Peace to be held in Hiroshima this October.

June 22 (Wed)

Meeting with the Head of the Arms and Conduct of Hostilities Unit of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Unit Head Laurent Gisel stated that the policies of the ICRC and Mayor for Peace are in line regarding the abolition of nuclear weapons, and that they would like to pursue together the roles of the younger generations in the need for sustainable efforts in the face of the growing risk of nuclear weapons being used. President Matsui explained initiative: Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns", in which children in member cities are encouraged to draw pictures while thinking about peace. He asked Mr. Gisel to help in efforts to spread a culture of peace, especially among the younger generation.

Meeting with a member of the Australian Parliament (House of Representatives)

When asked by President Matsui why she decided to participate as an observer despite Australia being under the nuclear umbrella, Parliament Member Susan Templeman prefaced her remarks by saying that Australia was not considering signing or ratifying the TPNW, and that although she shared concerns about nuclear weapons with the Parties, she was not speaking at the meeting, but was participating to bring back information gained from this Meeting for the consideration of future correspondence.

June 23 (Thurs)

Meeting with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the International Organizations in Vienna

President Matsui requested that Mexico, at the national level, make use of its experience in achieving the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, the world's first nuclear-weapon-free zone treaty, and work to expand the number of states par-

ties to the TPNW, making reference to the CTBT. Ambassador Luis Campuzano recognized that the Treaty will also complement the achievement of the goals of the CTBT, and said that the involvement of civil society, including Mayors for Peace, is important in expanding the number of states parties to the TPNW. He said that he is aiming for ratification by all countries.

Meeting with the Norwegian Special Envoy for Disarmament Affairs

Special Envoy Jørn Osmundsen stated that Norway has been working on nuclear disarmament as a priority area for several decades and aims to achieve a world without nuclear weapons by fulfilling its obligation to negotiate nuclear disarmament in good faith under Article VI of the NPT. He expressed his view that it is important to ensure the principle of subsidiarity of the TPNW. He also stated that although it is difficult to sign and ratify the Treaty, it is important to participate in the Meeting of the States Parties and engage in constructive dialogue without antagonism, even if positions are different. President Matsui conveyed his view that the NPT is the entry point and the TPNW is the end point for a world without nuclear weapons. He stated that he supports the approach of Norway, which is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and under the nuclear umbrella, but is making effort to functionalize the TPNW.



Meeting with Norwegian Special Envoy (left)

June 21 (Tues) — June 23 (Thurs)

At the venue of the TPNW First Meeting of States Parties, an A-bomb poster exhibition was held by Mayors for Peace to help participants deepen their understanding of the realities of the atomic bombings.

(Mayors for Peace Administration Division)

Mayors for Peace sends delegation to the 10th NPT Review Conference

In August 2022, the Executive Committee of Mayors for Peace dispatched a delegation consisting of Vice President Tomihisa Taue, Secretary-General Takashi Koizumi (President of this Foundation) and others to the 10th NPT Review Conference held in New York City. The delegation requested government officials and others to adopt a consensus document to advance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measures and to respect the final document of the TPNW First Meeting of States Parties, and also sought understanding and cooperation for Mayors for Peace initiatives. The Mayors for Peace A-bomb poster exhibition was also held, to create momentum for the realization of a peaceful world without nuclear weapons.

Thoughts on the Results of the 10th NPT Review Conference



Hiroshima Mayor
Kazumi Matsui

At this Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) Review Conference, in the process of developing the final document, there were discussions about clearly stating the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and the facts related to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), as well as the adoption of a declaration of 'No First Use' of nuclear weapons and an international agreement on 'Negative Security Assurance'. However, the conference ended without adopting a final document, in the same way as the previous conference.

The fact that the conference ended in such a way is not only contrary to the 'steady progress in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measures' that Vice President Tomihisa Taue, Mayor of Nagasaki City, called for as a representative of Mayors for Peace, but also rejects the wish of the *hibakusha* for the abolition of nuclear weapons, which is extremely regrettable.

In order to overcome this situation, it is necessary to foster a social environment to change the current situation where the pursuit of national interests inevitably takes precedence over respect for international frameworks. To do so, efforts to spread throughout the global community the recognition expressed in the draft final document and in the joint statement issued during the session, namely, the recognition of the inhumanity of nuclear weapons, have become more important than ever.

Based on this recognition, Mayors for Peace, together with the leaders of more than 8,200 member cities, will promote a culture of peace that rejects all forms of violence in order to protect the safety and security of citizens, and create an environment in which political leaders can pursue foreign policy through dialogue rather than relying on nuclear deterrence.

August 3 (Wed)

Meeting with former UN Under-Secretary-General Chowdhury

In addition to the letter from President Matsui to former UN Under-Secretary-General Anwarul Chowdhury, who is a proponent of the Culture of Peace, and a request to him to give a commemorative speech at the General Conference of Mayors for Peace scheduled to be held in October, they exchanged views on the culture of peace.



Meeting with former UN Under-Secretary-General Chowdhury (center)

August 4 (Thurs)

Meeting with the Executive Director of the Arms Control Association

Executive Director Daryl Kimball, expressed his view that the NPT Review Conference is being held under very difficult circumstances and that the outcome of the conference will be directly related to whether or not concrete commitments are made by nuclear weapon states. He also expressed his respect and wholehearted support for the initiatives of Mayors for Peace.

They also exchanged views on the Youth Leader Fund for a world without nuclear weapons, which Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced in his General Debate Speech on August 1, for the purpose of encouraging young people to visit the A-bombed cities and promote a culture of peace involving civil society.

Meeting with the Special Representative of the President of the United States for Nuclear Non-proliferation

Special Representative Adam Scheinman stated that nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament are important issues for the U.S. and that nuclear war must be avoided through the efforts of nuclear weapon states. He also expressed his desire to continue open and transparent dialogue by creating an environment where nuclear risk reduction can be discussed.

Secretary-General Koizumi urged the U.S. government, which will play the most important role in the conference, to express its concrete actions toward nuclear abolition and to make efforts to adopt the final document.

Meeting with the Permanent Representative and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament

Ambassador Ichiro Ogasawara said that he welcomed the fact that bringing the voices of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to the conference venue would be a tailwind for the success of the conference. However, he also expressed his view that while he recognizes the importance of the TPNW, the treaty has problems in that it does not provide specific steps to the end goal of nuclear weapons abolition, and that the involvement of nuclear weapon states is essential to abolish nuclear weapons, which is different from the approach to nuclear abolition that the Japanese government considers.

Secretary-General Koizumi asked for his understanding of the importance of promoting the TPNW and efforts to adopt a final document of this conference that will lead to nuclear disarmament in the future.

Meeting with the Director of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, Irish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Director Orlaith Fitzmaurice commended the proactive efforts of the Mayors for Peace at the municipal level to promote the abolition of nuclear weapons as a very powerful force. At this meeting, she said that effective benchmarks for nuclear disarmament must be created and restrictions on nuclear weapons must be put in place. She also stated that the Irish government strives to consider how the TPNW can contribute to the implementation of the NPT and to clear up misunderstandings if any.

Secretary-General Koizumi paid tribute to the Irish government's efforts toward nuclear disarmament to date, and expressed his hope for the expansion of member cities in Ireland and future collaboration.

Meeting with *hibakusha* Ms. Thurlow

Ms. Setsuko Thurlow expressed her concern about the lack of media coverage of nuclear weapons in North America, and stressed the importance of close collaboration between citizenry, academia, and administration in promotion of nuclear disarmament.

Mayor Taue commented that the fact that the younger generation is taking up the baton of efforts toward nuclear abolition is providing us with hope. In response, the participants discussed the importance of young people's continued efforts toward peace and the importance of visiting A-bombed cities and learning about the reality of the atomic bombings.

August 5 (Fri)

Meeting with UK Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva

Secretary-General Koizumi stressed that the only way to fulfill the wish of the *hibakusha* that 'no one else should suffer as we have' is to abolish nuclear weapons. He asked for understanding of the subsidiarity between the TPNW and the NPT, and for efforts to adopt a final document at this conference.

Ambassador Aidan Liddle expressed his view that while he takes the wishes of the *hibakusha* to heart and shares their goal of eliminating nuclear weapons, the UK will not ratify the TPNW because it differs from the UK government's approach. He also stated that in order to achieve a nuclear-free world, dialogue among nuclear weapon states must be promoted while maintaining information transparency.

Attendance at the opening ceremony of the Atomic Bomb Exhibition organized by the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations

The opening ceremony of the Atomic Bomb Exhibition, organized by the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations, was held with remarks and a ribbon

cutting by Sueichi Kido, Secretary-General of the Confederation, Gustavo Zlauvinen, President of the 10th NPT Review Conference, Mayor Taue, and Secretary-General Koizumi.



Tape-cutting

The A-bomb exhibition, which ran for about a month, featured 48 panels and displayed A-bomb-related materials from the collections of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum.

Meeting with the Permanent Representative and Ambassador of France to the Conference on Disarmament

Ambassador Yann Hwang expressed his view that, despite France's efforts toward nuclear disarmament, it will not be easy for the States Parties to come to an agreement for a final document at this conference, which will be held under the current complex security environment. He said that it is necessary to confirm the contributions of all parties, especially Russia, to the NPT, and expressed his wish to visit Hiroshima to learn about the reality of the atomic bombing.

Secretary-General Koizumi said that he hopes the ambassador visits Hiroshima and called for understanding of the subsidiarity between the TPNW and the NPT and for efforts to adopt a final document at this conference.

Meeting with the President of the 10th NPT Review Conference

In response to Mayor Taue's question on what he expects from civil society in nuclear disarmament, Ambassador Zlauvinen stated that since the nuclear disarmament negotiations take place behind a wall, civil society cannot be involved in the process. However, he hopes that civil society will surround the wall and unite to influence those behind the wall by using tools that can impact society, such as SNS. He also expressed his desire to visit the A-bombed cities.

Secretary-General Koizumi conveyed the *hibakusha*'s earnest wish for nuclear abolition, and called for an understanding of the mutual complementarity created by the fusion of the two approaches of the TPNW and the NPT, and for efforts to adopt a final document at this conference.

Speech at the NGO Session of the 10th NPT Review Conference

Mayor Taue, speaking on behalf of Mayors for Peace, pointed out that what prevented another Hiroshima and Nagasaki from happening for the past 77 years is the *hibakusha*'s long-standing call for the abolition of nuclear weapons—which has resonated throughout the world,

raising awareness of their inhumanity. He also claimed that once a nuclear-weapon state starts to act arrogantly and with brute force, these accumulated efforts will crumble in an instant. He called for the NPT and TPNW to complement each other and to serve as two wheels for the international community to advance toward the realization of a world without nuclear weapons.

Mayor Taue also requested that the participants fulfill their obligation to negotiate in good faith on nuclear disarmament as stipulated in Article VI of the NPT and provide a concrete roadmap to ensure progress on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measures.

He concluded his speech by sending the words “May Nagasaki be the last wartime atomic bombing site” to the participants and expressed the determination of Mayors for Peace, to continue striving for a world without nuclear weapons.



Speech by Mayor Taue

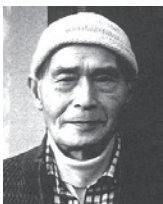
August 1 (Mon) — 26 (Fri)

Exhibition of A-bomb posters held by Mayors for Peace Conference

At the site of the 10th NPT Review Conference, an A-bomb poster exhibition was held by Mayors for Peace to help conference participants deepen their understanding of the reality of the atomic bombing.

(Mayors for Peace Administration Division)

Memoir of the A-bombing “My A-bomb experience and the postwar period”



Fumiaki Kajiya
Atomic bomb survivor
registered with this Foundation

A sudden flash

It was over 75 years ago.

August 6, 1945. The repeated air raid warnings from the night before had forced us to flee to an air-raid shelter many times, but early that morning, the siren of the warning alarm sounded, and we went into the shelter again. It was 7:31am.

My sister, a third-grade student at a national elementary school who had returned home from an evacuation site, and I, a first-grade student, went to school together at an offsite classroom that had been established in the town. As the air raids had become more intense, offsite classrooms were temporary classrooms that were set up

in temples and private houses in each area so that students did not have to commute to the main school, which was a long distance away. I attended the Kojin-machi National School Osuga offsite classroom, which was located in a rented private house near the west end of the current Shinkansen platform at Hiroshima Station.

My sister and I set about our morning cleaning and were wiping the front door area. The bucket of water was dirty, so my sister went into the kitchen to change the water. I may have sensed something, because I stopped and looked over the living room toward the garden.

At that moment, a huge flash of light covered the area. I saw the leaves of the shrubs in the garden turn black and melt.

The next moment, the blast hit with a booming sound. The pillars and ceiling came crashing down, and I was slammed into something, cowering in the pitch-black darkness. I do not know how long I waited, but no one came to my rescue.

The smoke had subsided a little, and light began to leak in from above. I realized that the ceiling had collapsed. I crawled up desperately. I ducked through a gap in the pillars, pushed something up, and struggled to get out, amidst the smell of rotting straw and dirt on the walls. I emerged on top of the collapsed roof.

Strange looking people were fleeing down the street in front of me in a line. When I looked around, I saw that all the houses had been destroyed. I did my best to follow behind the stream of fleeing people. Looking down from a slightly elevated place toward the railroad tracks, I could see that the stream of people was a long, long line of evacuees. In a ditch, a horse was struggling on its back.

When we reached the road along the river next to Nigitsu Shrine, we could see the Hakushima area on the other side of the river, and people were coming down the stone steps leading down to the riverbed, like an avalanche. I saw many people floating and sinking in the river.

I ran as fast as I could, trying to keep up with the flow of people. Fire was spewing from the collapsed houses along the river. I was running away from the rubble-strewn streets barefoot. I think almost everyone was barefoot. I managed to escape by following the stream of survivors to the point halfway up Mt. Futaba. The place was already full of survivors. The city of Hiroshima was blazing below us. Black smoke was billowing up, and the entire area was a sea of fire.



“East Drill Ground (currently the area north of Hiroshima Station) on the evening of August 6” by Fumiaki Kajiya

Wandering around the East Drill Ground

In the evening, the fire began to die down and the evacuees began to make their way down the mountain. I,

too, was taken down the mountain by a woman from my neighborhood whom I happened to meet. Heading to the place where my father, mother, and sister would have taken refuge if they had survived, from Tsuruhane Shrine we passed in front of Hiroshima Toshogu Shrine and emerged at the East Drill Ground, which stretches to the north of Hiroshima Station. The whole place was filled with survivors. I somehow got separated from the neighborhood woman and wandered around aimlessly amidst the moans and cries for water that could be heard all over the area.

Sukeyuki Imanishi, who later became a writer of children's literature, came to the East Drill Ground to help the survivors the day after the bombing and wrote, "We were standing in the middle of hell."

As I wandered around the area, a man from my neighborhood found me and told me, "Your father and mother are alive. But your mother is covered in blood. You have to go quickly, or it looks like she might die." I do not remember it myself, but apparently, I burst into tears at that time. I myself had blood all over my head and face.

My mother had 50 or 60 pieces of glass stuck in her body, and she was covered in blood and moaning. A piece of glass also pierced her left eyeball, which my father pulled out, but he could not heal it and she lost the sight in her left eye. With dozens of scars and fragments of glass left in her body, my mother still survived to the age of 94.

My sister was lying on the grass in front of my mother who kept moaning. She seemed to me to be smiling a little. My sister was pinned under a pillar in the offsite classroom and died instantly. I later found out that my friend in second grade who was in the same classroom was also killed instantly. However, the records of that school show "0" children killed by the atomic bomb. Since many of the schools with wooden buildings were destroyed by fire, at the time of the survey, the number of children who died in the offsite classrooms could not be confirmed.

My father, who himself was wounded, said that after pulling my mother and sister out from under the rubble, he moved around to rescue everyone.

I spent the night of August 6 with my mother, who was covered in blood, looking out over the still burning city of Hiroshima, amidst the moans of the survivors all around.

Living after the bombing

I spent several days at the East Drill Ground. The sweet taste of the relief rice balls from people in the suburbs of Hiroshima, the dried bread distributed by the soldiers, and the kompeito sugar in the bottom of the bag are still in my mind together with my gratitude.

Schools were open-air classrooms for a while after the war.

In 1947 or 1948, during the Peace Festival (the predecessor of the Peace Memorial Ceremony), I performed as a member of the local kids' club on the Peace Tower stage, which was located in what is now Peace Memorial Park,

and danced with friends who had lost their parents in the atomic bombing.

When Ms. Helen Keller visited Hiroshima in 1948, I clearly remember all the school children lined up along the roadside and waved enthusiastically.

At the time of the Korean uprising that began in 1950, the city of Hiroshima was still partially covered with burnt ruins and piles of rubble, and I used to dig them up and collect metal objects to earn some extra money.

Talking about my experience

Writer Tamiki Hara, who had fled to Hiroshima Toshogu Shrine at the time of the atomic bombing, questioned himself as a survivor and left a note in his notebook: "It must be providence that I should survive to tell the world what happened." I remember those words when I talk about my experience.

Profile

[Fumiaki Kajiya]

Experienced the bombing 1.8km from the hypocenter. Has continued to live in Hiroshima City since then.

In the year he retired, he founded the Association for Teachers Passing on What Happened in Hiroshima. Has continued these activities for over twenty years. He also became an Atomic Bombing Witness of Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation in 2020 after completing a course. He is a member of the Hiroshima Pen Club and was a torchbearer for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

Communicating *Hibakusha's* Thoughts and the Spirit of Hiroshima to the United Nations and to National Representatives

—Supporting the *hibakusha*—



Mamoru Fukushima
Secretary-General,
Hiroshima Consumer's Cooperative Unions Confederation

In August 2022, I participated in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) Review Conference held at UN Headquarters in New York as a member of the delegation sent by the Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union. In the previous mission, a delegation of 100 people was dispatched from Co-op Unions across Japan, but due to the pandemic, the size of the delegation this time was reduced to six (three from the Japan Co-op Association, one from Hiroshima, and two from Nagasaki). The aim of dispatching the delegation is to support the activities of four representatives of the Japan Council of A-bomb and H-bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyō), and to appeal for nuclear abolition together.

Based on the principle of “For Peace and Better Life”, Co-op is engaged in various peace activities throughout Japan. Together with *hibakusha* from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we appealed to the people of the world for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

【Request to national delegations】

Hibakusha shared their experiences and their wish for a world without nuclear weapons so that concrete progress toward nuclear abolition could be agreed upon.

First, at the meeting with the representative of the United Kingdom, a nuclear weapon state with which we met this time, when we were told that efforts would be made to reduce nuclear weapons, Sueichi Kido, Secretary General of the Nihon Hidankyō, expressed his strong feelings by exclaiming, “It is not enough to just reduce them; we have to make them zero.”

In the next meeting with the Austrian representative, we expressed our appreciation for the major role Austria played in the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and the representative stated that he work with an understanding of the thoughts of the *hibakusha*.

We also conveyed our appreciation for the efforts and contributions by the Mexican Ambassador for Disarmament Affairs. The Ambassador expressed appreciation for the activities of the *hibakusha* and NGOs, and reassured us that Mexico would make every effort to educate the younger generation and serve as a bridge between the government and NGOs.

At the meeting with the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, Secretary-General Kido noted that Prime Minister Fumio Kishida’s speech was vague on what exactly he would do. Masako Wada, Deputy Secretary-General of the Nihon Hidankyō, said she wished he had mentioned the TPNW in his speech. Ichiro Ogasawara, Ambassador for Disarmament Affairs, gave a safe answer, saying “Prime Minister Kishida, who was elected in Hiroshima, is passionately committed to a nuclear-free world. Our goals are the same. We need to create a process for the abolition of nuclear weapons.”

During the meeting with the representatives of each country, I was impressed by the *hibakusha*’s passion for the abolition of nuclear weapons, their unwavering words and actions, and their appeal to the world.

【Requests to the United Nations】

Hibakusha Setsuko Thurlow was also present at the meeting with Izumi Nakamitsu, UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. Ms. Wada, Deputy Secretary-General, expressed her gratitude to Representative Nakamitsu for her understanding words and actions in support of the *hibakusha*. Ms. Nakamitsu expressed her appreciation for the work of the *hibakusha* and their efforts to communicate the A-bomb experience

and the horror of nuclear weapons. The meeting concluded with a discussion regarding the adoption of the final document at this conference and expectations for nuclear disarmament.

At the A-bomb exhibition held in the UN lobby, the reality of the atomic bombing and the efforts of *hibakusha* who have been active for over 70 years were introduced through panels produced with donations from co-ops nationwide. At the opening ceremony, Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue and Hiroshima Mayor’s deputy, Takashi Koizumi, Chairperson of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, made remarks. Secretary-General Kido then recalled the time of the atomic bombing and emphasized the inhumanity of nuclear weapons, saying, “We don’t even know the remains of the victims. All the people who had lived until then were erased.” Ambassador Gustavo Zlauvinen, the chairman of this Review Conference, also took to the podium and stated, “The dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were the same as bombing humanity.” Many people were eager to see the A-bomb exhibitions, and educators from the U.S. Marine Corps listened to the stories of the *hibakusha*.

Speaking at the NGO presentations of the NPT Review Conference, Deputy Secretary-General Wada also called on “the nuclear weapon states and their allies to recognize that humanity as a whole is on the brink of nuclear war because of their disloyalty and arrogance, and to fulfill their ‘clear commitments’ in good faith.”

【Activities to communicate the reality of the atomic bombing (*hibakusha* testimonies)】

Testimonies were given at the German Peace Society, NY Office of the University of Tokyo, NY Buddhist Church, and St. John’s Cathedral Chapel. A peace gathering was also held at the UN Church Center on August 6 at 8:15 a.m. Japan time, where Mayor Taue, Chairperson Koizumi, and Secretary-General Kido rang the Peace Bell and Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui’s message was delivered.

【After the NPT Review Conference】

It is very unfortunate that only one country objected, and the States Parties could not reach a unanimous agreement and the final document was not adopted. However, there were also achievements as follows.

- ① The overwhelming majority of countries urged the nuclear weapon states to take concrete actions toward the abolition of nuclear weapons, indicating a world-wide movement toward the abolition of nuclear weapons.
- ② The draft final document, to which all parties except Russia did not object, is of great significance.

What is important from now on is to recognize the results of this Conference and what has been clarified, and to organize the “roadmap” derived from these results and make it into a task that must be achieved. The major point is what Japan, the only country to have been exposed to

nuclear weapons in war, will communicate to the world. I am confident that public opinion can change the attitude of the Japanese government.

Based on the information and experiences gained from this delegation's trip, I renewed my determination to promote efforts toward nuclear abolition together with administrative agencies, the Nihon Hidankyō, the Hiroshima Prefectural Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations, and other citizens' groups.

Profile

[Mamoru Fukushima]

Born 1959 in Kure City, Hiroshima Prefecture. Graduated from Kanagawa University, Faculty of Law. In 1983, he joined Hiroshima Kenmin Seikatsu Kyodo Kumiai. Held management positions in the Human Resources Department, Store Department, and Home Delivery Business Department. In 2013, became Secretary-General of Hiroshima Consumers' Co-operative Union, where he remains to this day.

Between ideals and reality regarding nuclear weapons

—Thinking Again about the Role of Hiroshima—



Noriyuki Kawano
Professor and Director,
The Center for Peace, Hiroshima University

On February 24, 2022, Russia began its military invasion of Ukraine. This military invasion seems to put us at three crossroads, reminding us of the gap between ideals and reality. At the same time, it seems to pose a serious challenge to Hiroshima, which advocates a world without nuclear weapons. Will Hiroshima continue to be “Hiroshima” that plays this special role? How do the people of Hiroshima respond to this important and weighty proposition? Will Hiroshima and Nagasaki continue to pursue and appeal for the ideal of a world without nuclear weapons even if many ordinary citizens choose the reality that Hiroshima does not necessarily want and, in a sense, are isolated? Now, perhaps, the resolve for that isolation is also being questioned.

First, I would like to consider three divergent points. The first is the attitude toward nuclear weapons. This is a watershed moment in terms of whether to rely on nuclear deterrence in response to the threat of nuclear weapons or to pursue international norms such as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons that aims to realize a world without nuclear weapons.

The second is a divergence on the pros and cons of nuclear power. How should we consider the idea that a country needs to provide its own energy, even with nuclear power, and in that case, how should we consider the threat

of being overrun and endangered, as is now the case with the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant?

The third is the attitude toward the principle of international cooperation. This is a turning point for the international community, which has continued to seek international cooperation through diplomacy since the end of World War II, and whether or not it will return to a society based on force.

These turning points lie between the ideal and the reality. I cannot help but feel that we are always floating between ideals and reality, coexisting with them, and standing on a delicate balance between the two. Many accept this as natural, while others may find that it is a dilemma. In considering these issues regarding nuclear weapons, on the one hand a world without nuclear weapons, and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which is an international treaty to realize such a world, can be seen as the ideal. On the other hand, the Japan-U.S. security arrangement, the nuclear umbrella, and nuclear deterrence can be seen as reality.

Since 2020, we have been conducting a joint research study on students' views on peace with the Yomiuri Shimbun and Associate Professor van der Does of the Hiroshima University Center for Peace. There, too, the gap between ideal and reality was highlighted. To cite just a few examples, in a 2021 survey of about 1,000 students at eight universities in Japan, including Hiroshima and Nagasaki Universities, just under 90% said that Japan should join (sign or ratify) the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, while more than half said that the possibility of nuclear abolition is low. About 40% expressed understanding of Japan's dependence on the U.S. nuclear umbrella (Noriyuki Kawano and Luli van der Does, “Preliminary Results of the 76th Anniversary Online Survey on the Students' Perceptions of Peace”, Hiroshima Peace Science 43, 129-143, 2021). Furthermore, in a 2022 survey conducted after Russia's military invasion, about 80% of respondents said that nuclear weapons themselves need to be eliminated or reduced, while about 75% of all respondents said that the future use of nuclear weapons is highly likely. This is up 13 points from the same survey the previous year. Also, more than 80% of respondents said that Japan's dependence on the U.S. nuclear umbrella is “understandable” or “inevitable” (Yomiuri Shimbun, July 31 and August 1, 2022). In this way, Russia's military aggression is making the gap between our ideals and reality greater and the conflict between the two more serious. This may imply that there is no small possibility that the country will turn to reality, that is, reliance on nuclear deterrence and increased military spending in the future.

The coexistence of ideals and reality may be a natural feeling for many Japanese people. On the other hand, this is a dilemma for the *hibakusha* who continue to lead the idea of a world without nuclear weapons. According to an Asahi Shimbun survey conducted in 2015, more than

90% of *hibakusha* expressed a desire for a world without nuclear weapons, while at the same time, more than 40% said the Japanese government's position under the nuclear umbrella was "unavoidable" (Asahi Shimbun, August 2, 2015). It is easy to imagine that this emotional conflict has become more serious with the recent military invasion.

Is there a future for a society without ideals? Many would argue that talking about a utopian society is an attempt to escape reality. But if this is the case, why was the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which can be said to be the culmination of the wisdom of civil society, adopted by the United Nations with the support of more than 120 countries and brought into force? It is easy to dismiss ideals as impractical. However, is it acceptable to leave to the next generation a society with no ideals and no discussion of ideals? In light of the civil society movement that led to the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, it clearly shows how important the various activities of such civil society, and even its maturation, are. Individual thoughts will be fostered and matured within civil society to become a large mass, contributing to the realization of international peace. Peace is no longer solely the responsibility of the state, but also of citizens and civil society. This is why we have high expectations for Mayors for Peace, which has more than 8,000 member cities.

Japan is a country that should know well the pain of war, having lost more than 3 million people in World War II and suffered tremendous damage from the atomic bomb. Furthermore, the Constitution of Japan states that "the right of belligerency of the State shall not be recognized". Japan, the only country to have suffered a nuclear attack in war, and the A-bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, have a responsibility to continue to show to the world the pain caused by the war and the atomic bombings. Japan, which has tended to view many wars and conflicts as "somebody else's problem", has begun to discuss increasing defense spending in addition to providing Ukraine with bulletproof vests and other defense equipment. Where will the peace of this country, based on that lost war, go from here?

We have experienced a pandemic caused by the new coronavirus and we are witnessing day after day the Russian military invasion of Ukraine. The highly anticipated NPT Review Conference in August 2022 failed to adopt a draft final document. The world is in the midst of upheaval and chaos. It is precisely in these times that we must once again calmly reexamine what peace means, talk about ideals, and work to build a society that strives toward these ideals.

Hiroshima, which advocates a world without nuclear weapons and lasting world peace and aims to become an International City of Peace and Culture, should play a central role in building such a society. And I cannot help but think that this is necessary if Hiroshima is to remain

the "Hiroshima" that plays a special role.

This article is based on the Director's greeting in the "Center for Peace Hiroshima University CPHU NEWSLETTER 2022," the "Rashikku Column" in the "Rashikku" Vol. 63, Blue Rain Issue 2022.7 (Hiroshima City Culture Foundation), and a special feature article in the "Daigaku Jiho" No. 407 (The Japan Association of Private Universities and Colleges), with corrections and additions.

Profile

[Noriyuki Kawano]

Graduated from Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Hiroshima University. PhD (Medicine).

After serving as an assistant and assistant professor at the Hiroshima University Research Institute for Radiation Biology and Medicine, and as an associate professor at the Center for Peace University of Hiroshima, he has been a professor at the same institute since June 2013. He assumed the position of Director of the Center in April 2017. Prof. Kawano specializes in atomic bomb and radiation exposure research and peace studies.

Refugees and Japan

—From the perspective of a support organization—



Eri Ishikawa

Chair of the Board, Japan Association for Refugees

There are refugees who flee to Japan and seek protection for various reasons, such as "I was living in Syria, but my home and workplace were bombed," "I was a student supporting the democracy movement against the military regime, but I was almost arrested myself," "I was a member of a minority and was put into forced labor because my religion is different from the majority and the government denied my citizenship". In 2021, about 2,000 people applied for refugee status in Japan. 74 were recognized as refugees. While 40,000 are recognized in Germany and 20,000 in the U.S., we believe this number is far too low. One possible reason is that the Immigration Services Agency (hereinafter referred to as 'Immigration Agency') is in charge of the implementation of refugee status recognition, and the Agency has a strong perspective of managing (policing) refugees rather than protecting (helping) them. Moreover, this is probably due to the absence of political will and the weakness of public opinion to support it.

Established in 1999, the Japan Association for Refugees, a certified NPO, has had an office in Tokyo for 20 years and has been engaged in comprehensive activities such as support for refugees who have fled to Japan, awareness-raising, and policy advocacy, to create a society where people can live together with refugees. The number of refugees we have been involved with is now 7,000

people from 70 countries. Although we have been dealing with each refugee individually and providing support to the best of our ability, we are not able to provide sufficient support to all of them, and this is something that we struggle with as we continue our activities.

Refugees apply for refugee status at the Immigration Agency, and the screening process takes, on average in 2021, 4 years and 5 months. In the meantime, many of the asylum seekers are living in Tokyo or nearby prefectures. Only about 350 are receiving government assistance, and most other asylum seekers are waiting for the results of the screening process while working independently. However, many refugees are not recognized in Japan and are unable to return to their home countries due to the threat of persecution. But if they reapply, their status of residence is not renewed, and they become illegal overstayers. Since they are on provisional release, they are without work permits and receive very limited public assistance, making their situation more difficult.

Such a vulnerable situation has been further impacted by the pandemic. In this section, I would like to discuss cases of provisional release and other cases of ineligibility for residency. As mentioned above, many of them are unable to work, join the national health insurance system, and have little or no access to public livelihood support. Many of them have managed to survive so far by borrowing money from friends around them for a few thousand yen each or by receiving remittances from friends overseas. The livelihood of those who supported them have also been made more difficult due to the pandemic, including reduced work hours and unemployment, while those on provisional release have seen their income completely cut off. We have received some desperate requests: “I have run out of food and have only a little rice,” “I haven’t eaten anything since yesterday,” and “I have lost my job and my home.” Unable to return home country for fear of persecution, adult asylum seekers on provisional release who are not registered as residents in Japan are excluded from the government’s special fixed-amount benefit payments, further impoverishing them.

Under these circumstances, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced the acceptance of Ukrainian refugees into Japan following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. I believe that it was both swift and unusual for the announcement to be made by the head of government, Prime Minister Kishida. It was necessary to make a strong statement of intent and show solidarity against the act of invading another country by force. The Prime Minister’s prompt announcement of acceptance of refugees elicited a positive response from local governments and the private sector, and many parties involved were positive about receiving refugees. As of September 25, 2022, the number of Ukrainian refugees who have fled to Japan has already exceeded 1,900.

From the standpoint of having provided support for refugees, I believe that refugees need individualized support

(casework) that is tailored to their situation, starting immediately after their arrival in Japan. For example, one must understand the premise of the Ukrainian refugees: they did not even imagine that they would flee their country and come to Japan. During their escape, they might have had various harsh experiences, including separation from their families, and when they arrive in Japan, there is no option of immediately returning home. It is important to provide support immediately after they enter the country. Additionally, according to news reports, many people have unique needs, such as those with children and the elderly. Particularly important are the perspectives on how to support them so that they are not isolated, and whether they are able to cope with the mental impact of the situation in their country of origin and their experiences of displacement.

In addition, in order to start up a life from scratch in a country with a different language and customs, it is essential to address the difficulties in daily life and to support the person in solving problems that are particular to the position he or she is in. Even if the civil war in Ukraine were to end soon, it would take even longer to feel safe enough to return. Therefore, I believe that at the very least, the receiving side needs to prepare for acceptance from a long-term perspective.

We must also view the growing acceptance of Ukrainian refugees in our society as an opportunity to lay the groundwork for refugee acceptance in Japan, leading to improvements in the asylum determination process and the establishment of a comprehensive support system for all those who seek asylum. We would like to make this an opportunity to consider a comprehensive and fair refugee protection system, rather than dividing people who have been forced to flee their homes based on their country of origin or the situation they are in.

Profile

[Eri Ishikawa]

Graduated from Sophia University. Became interested in refugee issues after the civil war in Rwanda in 1994 and participated in the launch of the Japan Association for Refugees (JAR). Has been the Executive Director since January 2008 and the Chair of the Board since December 2014. Part-time lecturer at Sophia University and Hitotsubashi University School of International and Public Policy.

Information

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

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