

PEACE 平和文化 CULTURE



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Children who decorated G7 welcome board with flowers they had grown (Photo courtesy: Hiroshima Municipal Nakajima Elementary School)



Welcome board "G7 HIROSHIMA"

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After the G7 Hiroshima Summit

Takehiro KAGAWA
Chairperson of the Hiroshima
Peace Culture Foundation



The G7 Hiroshima Summit 2023 was held from May 19 to 21. The leaders of the G7 member states, such as U.S. President Biden and French President Macron came to the atomic bombed city of Hiroshima, and this historic meeting was also attended by the leaders of eight invited countries, including India and

South Korea, and the heads of international organizations as well as Ukraine's President Zelensky.

All the participating leaders visited Peace Memorial Museum, listened to the experiences and stories of the *hibakusha*, and offered flowers to the Cenotaph for the Victims of the Atomic Bomb, where Hiroshima Mayor Matsui explained its inscription to them. Through all those events, they were guided by Prime Minister Kishida himself. There is no doubt that they were deeply moved by the reality of the atomic bombing, in other words, G7 Summit had a great impact on the world leaders.

What the leaders of the G7 countries wrote in the Guest Book clearly indicate that they understand their heavy responsibility to make a great effort toward the realization of a world without nuclear weapons. Having felt the "Spirit of Hiroshima" seeking for peace and abolition of nuclear weapons, they have deepened their belief that nuclear weapons must never be used again.

Among this year's G7 Summit invitees, India, Brazil, Indonesia, known as the Global South, their influence on the world is now growing remarkably, though the diplomatic positions of these countries vary in a way. Therefore, it must be significant that the leaders of these countries were exposed to the reality of the atomic bombing for the first time and were touched by the "Spirit of Hiroshima".

The visit of the South Korean president to Hiroshima has never happened before. It is really noteworthy that both the Japanese and Korean leaders offered flowers together to "the Monument Dedicated to Korean Victims and Survivors" in the Peace Memorial Park, which was surely fulfilling a long-held wish of the Korean *hibakusha*.

I also feel it valuable that President Zelensky of Ukraine,

which has been invaded by Russia and now being threatened by using nuclear weapons, came to Hiroshima to touch directly the reality of the atomic bombing and to meet with the world leaders in person. We must never allow armed aggression or nuclear threats, much less the use of nuclear weapons, to threaten the peaceful daily lives of innocent citizens or human existence. The G7 and the international community should make every effort to end the war of aggression and restore Ukraine as soon as possible.

At the G7 Hiroshima Summit, an independent document entitled "G7 Leaders' Hiroshima Vision on Nuclear Disarmament" was drafted and presented for the first time in the history of the G7 Summit. There are some criticisms about the document, for instance, the lack of reference to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and putting priority on Nuclear Deterrence rather than Nuclear Disarmament. However, it is really required to take concrete actions to mobilize the voices of the people of the world and to urge all nations, including the nuclear weapon states, to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts incorporated in the document, whereby linking all these endeavors to concrete policies and actions for a world without nuclear weapons.

The G7 Hiroshima Summit has brought the world's attention to the atomic bombed city of Hiroshima. This is the greatest opportunity and a new start for the peace movement that Hiroshima has been engaged in. I hope that more and more people from around the world, especially the younger generation, will visit Hiroshima to learn about the reality of the atomic bombing and convey "Spirit of Hiroshima" back to their countries and communities.

We, the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, will strive to expand and strengthen such solidarity for peace at the citizen's level around the world, and we believe that the establishment of a culture of peace in civil society at large will lead to policy changes in one country and eventually changing destiny in the world. Let's work together.

Lastly, we would like to express our cordial appreciation for your continued support and cooperation.



G7 heads of state and government offer flowers at the Cenotaph



Mayor Matsui explains to the G7 leaders

(Photo Source)
Website of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan: "G7 HIROSHIMA 2023"
<https://www.g7hiroshima.go.jp/en/>

Messages from World Leaders



On May 19, the G7 leaders visited the Peace Memorial Museum and signed the guest book.

G7 nations

Mr. KISHIDA Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan

As Chair of the G7, I am gathering here to realize a “World Without Nuclear Weapons” with the leaders of G7 countries on this historic occasion of the G7 Summit. (Provisional translation)

Mr. Emmanuel MACRON, President of the French Republic

With emotion and compassion, it is our responsibility to contribute to the duty of remembrance for the victims of Hiroshima and to act in favor of peace, the only fight worth pursuing. (Provisional translation)

Mr. Joseph Robinette BIDEN, Jr., President of the United States of America

May the stories of this Museum remind us all of our obligations to build a future of peace. Together - let us continue to make progress toward the day when we can finally and forever rid the world of nuclear weapons. Keep the faith!

Mr. Justin TRUDEAU, Prime Minister of Canada

Canada pays solemn tribute to the many lives lost, the unspeakable grief of the *Hibakusha*, and the immense suffering of the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Your story will forever be engraved in our collective consciousness. (Provisional translation)

Mr. Olaf SCHOLZ, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

This place evokes unimaginable suffering. Today, together with our partners, we renew the commitment to defend peace and freedom with utmost determination. A nuclear war must never be waged again. (Provisional translation)

Ms. Giorgia MELONI, President of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic

Today we pause and remain in prayer. Today we remember that darkness did not prevail. Today we remember the past to build, together, a future of hope. (Provisional translation)

Mr. Rishi SUNAK MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Shakespeare tells us to “give sorrow words”. Yet language fails in the light of the bomb’s flash. No words can describe the horror and suffering of the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. But what we can say, with all our hearts, and all our souls, is no more.

Mr. Charles MICHEL, President of the European Council

An immense tragedy took place here almost 80 years ago. It reminds us what we -as G7- are defending. And why we are defending it. Peace and freedom. Because it's what all human beings want most.

Dr. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

What happened in Hiroshima is still today haunting humanity. It is a stark reminder of the terrible cost of war - and our everlasting duty to protect and preserve peace.

Ukraine

Mr. Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President of Ukraine

Deeply impressed by the visit to the (Peace Memorial) Museum. No country in the world should experience such pain and destruction. Nuclear threat has no place in today’s world. (Provisional translation)



On May 21, President Zelenskyy visited the Peace Memorial Museum and signed the guest book.

(Source)
Website of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan:
“G7 HIROSHIMA 2023”
<https://www.g7hiroshima.go.jp/en/>

“G7 HIROSHIMA 2023”

(Messages of G7 Leaders)
<https://www.g7hiroshima.go.jp/en/topics/detail014/>



(Message of Ukrainian President)
<https://www.g7japan-photo.go.jp/en/images/89>



Hiroshima G7 Summit Junior Conference

Voices sent out from Hiroshima to the World

Twenty-four high school students from G7 countries living in Japan gathered in Hiroshima from March 27 to 30.

On the 28th, they participated in a common peace program that included a tour of Peace Memorial Museum and Honkawa Elementary School Peace Museum, a visit to the Cenotaph for the Atomic Bomb Victims, offering flowers, listening to the A-bomb survivor testimony, and a tour of Peace Memorial Park. Many participants, seeing the reality of the atomic bombings for the first time, said “we must share with the world the inhumane consequences of nuclear weapons and pass them on to future generations.”

They were also divided into three thematic groups for further discussions: Peace, Sustainability, and Diversity & Inclusion. On the 29th, each group went on a fieldwork trip based on its theme. Among them, the Peace group visited the Ohkunoshima Poison Gas Museum. On the last day, the groups presented the outcome document.



Tour of Honkawa Elementary School Peace Museum (photograph provided by the Citizens Council for the Hiroshima Summit)

(The document)

<https://www.pref.hiroshima.lg.jp/uploaded/attachment/526659.pdf>



<Comments from participants: on Peace>

※Quote their words verbatim

- When comparing the horrendous images of Hiroshima after the atomic bombing to the beautiful city it has become today, it gave me hope that with united efforts, we can make anything possible. Just like the people of Hiroshima.
- In peace tour I was able to visit and learn facts and stories of I never knew of the war even though I have been living in Japan, and have gone through Japanese peace education. I strongly felt that the victim of the war was not only the Japanese people but everyone in relation to war in any shape.
- I have learned so much during this experience, I learned about the nuclear bombing, but I was also exposed to many different opinions and thoughts which have led me to have a more open mind but also to stand for the things I strongly believe in.
- The most impressive memory for me is that Hiroshima is not only a victim but also an assailant. I have never thought that Hiroshima was also an assailant before I

visited Ohkunoshima island. From this experience, I think I need to have various perspectives to look international issues.

<Comments from participants: on the overall program>

※Quote their words verbatim

- I gained so much new knowledge from the places I visited, and most importantly, through the interaction with all the people I met throughout the program.
- I'm sincerely grateful that I was able to participate in this program and I enjoyed every minute of it. Sharing thoughts and feelings, exchanging knowledge, and generating ideas with the team were really fun. And I believe my communication skill has improved through this program.
- I learned how each one of us can think in multiple ways according to our backgrounds, how our prior knowledge can intertwine with others, and how we can develop them to embrace each other.
- Because we have responsibility for our future, we, the young generation should continue to talk each other beyond the boarder.

Impressions of Youth Peace Volunteer who guided Junior Conference participants

I am Yu Marukawa, a member of the first group of Youth Peace Volunteers. I have been guiding foreign tourists visiting Peace Memorial Park in English since I was in first year of high school, and this year is my fifth year. When I first started, I was struggling just to read the script, but through my experience, I realized that the important thing is to convey the message in my own words. Now, I try to guide people by preparing my own photos and other materials that will resonate with them.

This time, four volunteer members guided high school students representing the G7 countries. The high school students listened to us very seriously. They asked questions even while we were moving around, and it was impressive to see them actively learning about the reality of the atomic bombings. This made us feel that we, as guides, need to continue to learn more about the A-bombing.

We hope that the people we have guided so far, including these high school students, will share what they have learned about the atomic bombing with those around them, even if only a little, and that the desire for peace will spread. As Youth Peace Volunteers, we will continue to communicate peace to as many people as possible.



Ms. Marukawa working as a guide



The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons Has Gained in Importance

Thomas Hajnoczi
Executive Adviser of the Hiroshima
Peace Culture Foundation

2022 brought a wake-up call for the world that the myth on which nuclear deterrence is built is not true. Russia's war against Ukraine proved that nuclear weapons do not serve as a deterrent against wars, but on the contrary make them more likely. President Putin calculated that Russia's nuclear weapons are a kind of free ticket to start wars against non-nuclear states, since they will interdict other big powers to fight on the side of Ukraine. The widely held assumption that the possession of nuclear weapons due to their inherent terrible dangers would prevent aggression wars started by nuclear powers did not stand the test of reality. It became evident that nuclear weapons do not save us from wars that even might involve the use of nuclear weapons as threatened by Russia's leaders. Clearly international security and global stability cannot rest on nuclear weapons which pose the greatest danger to human survival.

The recently augmented "Russian threat" led to an increase in defense spending and a strengthening of alliances both in Europe and East Asia. Sadly, a longing for a stronger nuclear link has been also raised by some allies. The carefully measured American response to Russia's nuclear threats in Ukraine showed the responsible attitude of the US administration aiming at not to use nuclear weapons. Most probably rational leaders would not defend attacked allies by nuclear weapons. They would not be willing to sacrifice the lives of millions of their own population for any other nation.

Table top exercises of senior US commanders have shown that there is a high likelihood that the detonation of only one nuclear weapon would trigger a full-scale nuclear exchange extinguishing our civilization. As the nuclear weapons states themselves have expressed in January 2022, "nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought". The use of nuclear weapons would trigger collective suicide. Therefore, they cannot be regarded as a credible security policy option and hence not as a realistic means for providing security to their possessors or their allies.

Last December, in spite of his previous threats, President Putin underlined that "we have not gone mad", denying any intention to use nuclear weapons in his aggression war against Ukraine. Indeed, he was right, it would be utter madness to use nuclear weapons. Yet, we have witnessed recently irrational behavior of leaders of nuclear armed states, so can we rely on that they will not commit a death bringing mistake? As long as nuclear weapons exist, they could detonate both intentionally as well as unintentionally by accident or misunderstanding. We could relive the cata-

strophic humanitarian consequences of Hiroshima and Nagasaki tomorrow at vastly bigger scale. Since 1945 nuclear weapons have become deadlier, more powerful and many times more numerous, at present about 12,700. Therefore, the only way to save mankind from the grave dangers that nuclear weapons bring about is to end nuclear weapons, before the end us.

The abolition of nuclear weapons is the objective of the united world community, but the nuclear armed states fail to take the necessary measures. Therefore, the non-nuclear states called for negotiations on a legally binding norm to prohibit nuclear weapons in 2016 in the UN General Assembly, the most representative international body. It was thus decided by an overwhelming majority. Sadly, the nuclear armed states and almost all of their allies boycotted the negotiations. Paradoxically they acknowledge that a legal ban has led to the abolition of the other classes of weapons of mass destruction, chemical and biological weapons and yet fail to explain why it would not work with nuclear weapons. When 121 states adopted the text of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in July 2017, a powerful norm has been created.

As of January 2023, 92 states have signed and 68 ratified the TPNW, as more states are preparing to do so during this year. These figures continue to go up since its entry into force in January 2021. The significance of the TPNW became visible, when its First Meeting of States Parties was successfully held in June 2022 in Vienna. The Declaration adopted by the Meeting condemned unequivocally any and all nuclear threats, whether they be explicit or implicit and irrespective of the circumstances, and established that any threat to use nuclear weapons was unacceptable. This has remained the strongest condemnation of the Russian nuclear threat to date by a global multilateral forum. A number of important decisions on the implementation of the treaty were taken, e.g. the creation of a Scientific Advisory Committee. This reflects that civil society and scientists can and do play an important role. Surprisingly, in other nuclear disarmament fora hardly any attention is paid to their knowledge. A program of intersessional work was decided corroborating the vibrancy of this treaty. Informal working groups are dealing with victim assistance, environmental remediation, international cooperation and assistance, universalization and work related to the designation of a competent international authority to oversee the destruction of nuclear weapons. In November 2023 the Second Meeting of States Parties will be held in New York.

The TPNW and the outcome of its successful First Meeting of States Parties already has made an impact on all countries, including those who oppose it and still cling on to nuclear weapons. The treaty's underlying key message that nuclear weapons are banned has changed the international discourse regarding nuclear weapons. Even the Secretary-General of NATO said last autumn that "any use of nuclear weapons is absolutely unacceptable", a thought that was mirrored in a speech by the German Chancellor Scholz. The summit of the G20 in Indonesia in which most leaders of nuclear weapon states and also the Japanese Prime Minister participated declared in November 2022 that threats

and use of nuclear weapons are “inadmissible”.

The war in Ukraine is a humanitarian catastrophe and has destroyed our hopes that armed state aggression against a neighboring country would be a matter of the past. The Russian threats of using nuclear weapons brought home to the international community that nuclear weapons could be used as long as they exist and therefore pose the greatest danger to human survival.

The Doomsday clock has come the closest to midnight ever, only 90 seconds to a nuclear war. In this desperate situation we ask ourselves, do we want to constantly live under a dangling sword of nuclear weapons? If you answer this question with a no, as the clear majority of people does, then nuclear weapons abolition based on the TPNW is the course to take. The TPNW offers not only a glimmer of hope, but also the key to an alternative to a world held hostage by nuclear weapons and opens the door to international security without them. The TPNW has gained in importance by increased international support and recognition, by the ongoing implementation work. It is more needed than ever.



"Thinking about Peace" Peace Studies and a "Culture of Peace"

Ryo OSHIBA

Director of the Hiroshima Peace
Institute and Specially Appointed
Professor, Hiroshima City University
Board of Directors, Hiroshima Peace
Culture Foundation

1. Introduction

Hiroshima City established the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation in 1976 with the vision of realizing an International Peace Culture City. The foundation holds lectures and events during Peace Culture Month in November each year.

Thus, the term “culture of peace” is familiar to Hiroshima citizens. However, when asked what a culture of peace is, it is not always easy to answer. Therefore, we would like to consider the meaning of the term “culture of peace” and its implications.

2. “Culture of Peace” in the Peace Declaration

Firstly, let us look at how the term is used in the 2022 Peace Declarations of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui stated that the Mayors for Peace “will intensify cooperation among peace-minded member cities and promote a “culture of peace” that rejects all forms of violence. Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue said, “Let us make untiring efforts to ingrain in civil society a ‘culture of peace’ that spreads trust, respects others and seeks resolutions through dialogue.”

3. Violence and peace in peace research

Nextly, let us consider the “culture of peace” with refer-

ence to discussions in peace studies. Johan Galtung, one of the leading scholars in peace studies, has juxtaposed peace with violence, presenting three types of violence: direct violence, structural violence, and cultural violence.

Briefly stated, direct violence is when someone directly harms another person, or when an army kills or injures an enemy soldier in war, for example. In contrast, structural violence exists when people, especially certain groups of people, die or suffer great damage, even though it is difficult to see who is committing the violence or the act of violence itself. For example, many people lose lives that would otherwise be spared because they lack access to adequate medical care due to poverty. We also say that if one million husbands beat one million wives, that is direct violence, but if one million husbands keep one million wives ignorant and uneducated, that is structural violence. Finally, cultural violence refers to the idea that direct violence and structural violence are acceptable and justified by society’s morals, traditions, and customs.

Only when such violence is rejected and removed, and violence is absent, is there considered to be peace. A situation in which direct violence is absent is called direct peace, a world without structural violence is called structural peace, and a situation in which cultural violence is absent, and direct peace and structural peace are legitimized, is called cultural peace. Moreover, when there is a situation where cultural peace prevails in a society and this can be said to be a characteristic of that society’s culture, such a culture can be called a “culture of peace”. However, forcibly imposing a “culture of peace” is still violence.

Regarding specific events, direct violence is easier to understand, whereas for structural and cultural violence, there is not always consensus on what constitutes them.

4. Efforts to create a “culture of peace” in the A-bombed cities

What efforts have been made in the A-bombed cities to promote a “culture of peace”?

The people affected by the atomic bombings have encountered many different types of violence. The atomic bombs were a complete destruction of human dignity. They also caused suffering from anxiety about the effects of radiation and related discrimination. Arguments to justify the atomic bombings on the grounds that they were dropped to end the war quickly have caused anger and grief.

Nevertheless, in order to ensure that the deaths of those who died in the atomic bombings were not in vain and that nuclear weapons are not used repeatedly, those who were affected by the atomic bombings have conveyed their own experiences and memories of the bombings, appealed against the inhumanity of nuclear weapons, and called for their abolition. They have also addressed the issue of Japan’s responsibility for the war and have turned their attention to non-Japanese people affected by the atomic bombings. In abstract terms, they have sought to eliminate not only direct violence but also structural and cultural violence. I believe that each of these efforts will create and entrench a “culture of peace”.

However, it is also important to ask ourselves what dis-



Planting of a second-generation A-bombed Aogiri tree
(Provided by the City of Kunitachi, Tokyo)

crepancies exist between the self-image of the people of the A-bombed cities and how they are perceived by people in other parts of the country and abroad, and why such gaps exist.

5. Conclusion

There is still a war going on in Ukraine. In addition, many people have been exposed to various forms of violence due to the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident. We can encourage these people by sharing the work we have been doing in the A-bombed cities, especially with those who were affected by the atomic bombings.

Solidarity across cities, countries, and issues will become increasingly important. Solidarity with people at home and abroad through Mayors for Peace, the United Nations, and other organizations, as well as striving for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the elimination of various forms of violence in other issues, will help to entrench a “culture of peace” without forcibly imposing it.

Profile

[Ryo OSHIBA]

Director and Specially Appointed Professor, Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University. Specializes in International Politics.

After serving as Professor and Vice President of Hitotsubashi University and Professor at Aoyama Gakuin University, he assumed his current position in 2019. He is a former President of the Japan Association for International Politics.



Memoir of the A-bombing How Important Peace Is

Tomiko WAKAYAMA

Atomic bomb survivor registered with our Foundation

“A huge bomb will fall on Hiroshima”

I was 6 years old at the time, a 1st grade student at the national elementary school. My home was in Teppo-cho (900m from the Hypocenter). There were four of us living there: my father (aged 40), my mother (aged 33), my younger sister (aged 2) and me. School classes were held, but since it was during the war, I remember that in most classes we were taught to hide under our desks or in safe places to protect ourselves from air raids.

My mother told me that at the time, flyers were falling from the sky saying that a big bomb was going to fall on Hiroshima, and my father firmly told my mother to leave the city, so we evacuated to her parents' house in Kochi Village, Futami County. My father had a job and was the caretaker of the town, so he stayed in Hiroshima.

On August 7, 1945, I heard someone say “Yesterday, the biggest bomb ever seen fell on Hiroshima.” Since we were unable to contact my father, on August 9, my aunt and mother took my sister and I and the four of us went to Hiroshima City to look for him.

To Hiroshima

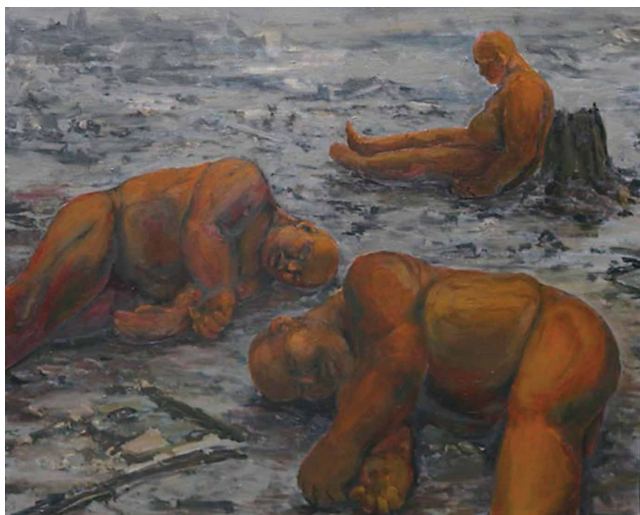
After walking about 6km from Kochi Village, we arrived at Miyoshi Station. People who had been exposed to the atomic bomb in Hiroshima were even being brought to Miyoshi Station, which is about 60km away from the Hypocenter. Their hair was burnt out and gone, their faces were swollen and reddish-black, and their eyes were smashed in; it was hard to tell if they were male or female. A dirty gray cloth was draped from the neck down and they were carried in on stretchers. We asked each other, “Do you see father among those people?” And the four of us looked into their faces, but none of them was him. I was six years old and could not help but wonder how they got such big, swollen, reddish-black faces. I still remember that scene.

We took a train from Miyoshi Station to Hiroshima Station. Stepping outside, I was surprised to see that buildings had burned down as far as the eye could see, and the city of Hiroshima seemed to have disappeared. The ground was still hot in some places. We walked around searching for my father in various places, including the air-raid shelter of our home in Hiroshima, but could not find him. That day, we spent the night sitting on the ground under the eaves of the building of the police station near Hiroshima Station, where a relative worked.

We left there early the next morning on the 10th and walked back toward Teppo-cho. I saw a person resting against a charred tree root, and I said, “Oh, that could be dad!” I ran to him and looked into his face. I walked around looking for my father, checking one by one, many people

resting on the roadside or in the square. The people sitting or lying down were all naked. Not only their faces but also their whole bodies were puffy and discolored reddish-black, and they looked to me as if they were sumo wrestler ghosts.

My father and mother had previously promised that they would go to an acquaintance's house in Ushita if something terrible happened, so we went to the house and found that my father had evacuated there. When my father was at home when the bomb was dropped, a large pillar fell on his head and he was so badly injured that his brain was visible, and a white cloth was draped over his head. I could see his eyes through the cloth and clearly recognized him as my father when he called my name, "Oh, is that Tomiko?" I still remember how relieved and happy I was that I had finally found him.



"Blood-red burnt corpses"
Created by: Taichi Kuwahara and Tomiko Wakayama

My father dies

My father had a severe head injury but did not appear to have been burned. My mother's sister, who lived in Yano-cho, Aki County, rented a big two-wheeled cart to carry my father and came to pick him up, so we went to stay at her house.

In Yano-cho, my mother carried my father in a small wheelbarrow used for carrying things, for regular treatment at a nearby hospital. My father's head wound had maggots coming out of it, which were removed at the hospital. My father was saying, "My chest burns, my chest is painful." Everyone was talking about how he must be having chest pains because he inhaled gas. It was not until much later that we learned that he had actually inhaled radioactive material, not gas. At that time, no one knew about radiation.

School resumed on September 1, and I was transferred from Nobori-cho National School to a school in Kochi Village, where I lived with my mother's family.

On September 14, my mother came to Kochi Village with my sister on her back and my father's remains in her arms, saying, "Your father is dead." Before he died, my father told my mother, "I don't want to die yet...take care of Tomiko and the others."

Exposure due to residual radiation

In August, when our family was staying at my aunt's house in Yano, my mother once went to our family air-raid shelter at our home in Teppo-cho and brought back a can of milk she

had stored inside. The can that had been exposed to the bomb was deformed, and when opened, the powdered milk had hardened like candy. We hit it with a hammer, broke it into pieces, and ate them saying, "Delicious, delicious."

Later, when I was living in Kochi Village, I was in the second grade and my face and hands and feet were covered with boils. I remember my mother giving me a herbal infusion to drink. She did all kinds of things to help me. In addition, my gums began to bleed, but I could not tell my mother about it as I did not want to worry her any more than I already was. Now that I think about it, I believe that I became ill because of radioactive contamination, as I walked around Hiroshima City immediately after the bombing looking for my father and eat powdered milk that had been exposed to radiation.

My family was taken care of by my mother's family for the next ten years, and thanks to them, we did not have to worry about having enough to eat. When I was in my first year of commercial studies at Miyoshi High School, my mother found a job in Hiroshima, so I transferred to Hiroshima Prefectural Commercial High School in my second year.

When I graduated from high school, I was worried because I had heard a rumor that it was difficult for children from single-parent families to find jobs, but thankfully I was able to find a job and worked there for six years. During a job interview, at the end of the interview, the interviewer asked me, "By the way, do you remember your father who passed away?" When I answered, "Yes, I only remember a little bit, but..." tears started to stream down my face. I think, in the back of my mind, I always missed my father. I unexpectedly burst into tears and went home sobbing. I felt so much loneliness without my father, and I was so sad.

Grateful for peace

I have been anemic and had low blood pressure since I was young. At age 65 I had surgery for breast cancer. I also receive regular medical treatment for a thyroid condition.

My sister had surgery for colon cancer and uterine fibroids.

My mother continued to work despite her anemia and low blood pressure, and she raised us sisters. She never said this to me directly, but I heard that to others she said "I didn't have time to cry. I was so busy trying to feed my two children that I didn't have time to cry."

I never want people today to go through the hard, sad experience that we did. What I would like to share with you is how important peace is in life. And that having parents, brothers and sisters, grandparents, and friends is a blessing. It is not a "natural" thing that we can take for granted.

Please, everyone, value your own life. Please value the lives of your friends as much as you value your own. Let's get along with each other. Let us talk and understand each other. I believe this is the starting point for world peace.

Profile

[Tomiko WAKAYAMA]

At the age of six, in the first grade of elementary school, three days after the atomic bombing, Tomiko Wakayama went with her family into Hiroshima City to look for her father.

She has been giving A-bomb experience lectures at the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation since 2016, after first sharing her own experience in 2014.

The 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace

On October 19 and 20, Mayors for Peace held its 10th General Conference in Hiroshima with the keynote theme of “Creating a Peaceful, Nuclear-Weapon-Free World: Cultivating a Culture of Peace in Civil Society.”

Opening Ceremony

The General Conference opened with a video commemorating the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Mayors for Peace and reflecting on its 40 years of progress.

In his opening remarks at the Opening Ceremony, President Matsui, Mayor of Hiroshima, stated that we must encourage policymakers to effect changes in their policies toward the realization of a peaceful world free from nuclear weapons and focus even more on cultivating the culture of peace with the momentum gained from the G7 summit to be held in Hiroshima next year (2023).



Opening remarks by President Matsui

And in a video message of support for the Conference from United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, he stated that nuclear risks are accelerating but we cannot give up.

Hibakusha Testimony

Ms. Kajimoto was exposed to the atomic bomb when she was 14 years old. She expressed her conviction to communicate the realities of the atomic bombing to as many people as possible, and stated that the total elimination of nuclear weapons can definitely be accomplished with a collective power of all who seek peace, bolstered by the spirit of the departed *hibakusha*.

I PRAY – Hiroshima’s children pray for peace through drama

Children of Hiroshima call for the importance of peace through creative drama – performing scenes of a peaceful, ordinary morning of Hiroshima before the atomic bombing, Hiroshima after the bombing, and the reconstruction of Hiroshima.

Session I

The Conference, chaired by Mayor Matsui, deliberated over “Establishment of the Mayors for Peace Supporter System” and more, and adopted them as originally proposed.

By using social media to attract mainly the younger generation, the Mayors for Peace Supporter System is to build a consensus in civil society in favor of the realization of a peaceful, nuclear-weapon-free world, which will urge policymakers to effect policy change.

Session II

Mr. Thomas Hajnoczi, Executive Advisor of Mayors for Peace served as the Moderator, the Conference participants discussed member city roles and engagement in creating a peaceful future free of nuclear weapons through the presentations by member cities—Mayor Alba Barnusell of Granollers, Spain; Ms. Alia Hassan-Cournol, City Councillor of Montreal, Canada; Mayor Belit Onay of Hannover, Germany; Mayor Kazuo Nagami of Kunitachi, Japan.

Commemorative Lecture

Former Under-Secretary-General and an advocate of the “Culture of Peace”, Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury gave the Commemorative Lecture that themed “Advancing the Culture of Peace to Create a Better World with Communities at the Center”. He stated that real peace means the end of discrimination, prejudice, injustice, and inequality, and concluded his lecture by calling for the participants to advance the culture of peace together, with words of encouragement stating that cities have the potential to shape the future of humankind and to achieve sustainable peace and development for a better world.



Former Under-Secretary-General Chowdhury’s Commemorative Lecture

Panel Discussion

Secretary General Takashi Koizumi of Mayors for Peace (chairperson of this Foundation) served as a moderator, and with the theme of “Localizing the Culture of Peace for Greater Impact”, four Panelists—Former Under-Secretary-General of the UN Ambassador Chowdhury, President Matsui and Vice President Tomihisa Taue (Mayor of Nagasaki)—held a discussion.

President Matsui shared his opinion that when people demonstrate their ability to be compassionate to others—people in both in-groups and outgroups— they could coexist peacefully and maintain good relationships.

Vice President Taue compared ways of thinking and rules to computer operating systems, and peacebuilding by our own to applications, and stated we must rewrite the old OS to a new one to be compatible with new apps.

Former Under-Secretary-General Chowdhury mentioned the importance of promoting gender equality at the UN level, stressing that the UN must appoint a female Secretary-General.



Panel discussion

Session III

As the Remarks by guest, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. Shunsuke Takei stated that the government will further deepen the collaboration with Mayors for Peace to boost momentum for nuclear disarmament.

Then, Ms. Shiho Nabara, A-bomb Legacy Successor served as the Moderator, three presentations themed of “The Role of Young People as Successors of the Will of the Hibakusha” were given by Ms. Rico Suenaga of the Youth Peace Volunteers, Ms. Suzuka Nakamura representing KNOW NUKES TOKYO and Vice-Mayor Alexandre Varela of Evora, Portugal.



Presentations on activities

Session IV: The 10th Mayors for Peace Japanese Member Cities Meeting

President Matsui chaired the Conference and Mayor Hideyasu Kiyomoto of Himeji, host city of the next Japanese Member Cities Meeting gave the Opening Remark.

The Conference deliberated over agenda items such as “Letter of Request to the Japanese Government Calling for the Promotion of Actions to Abolish Nuclear Weapons” and adopted them as originally proposed.

Closing Ceremony

President Matsui read out the draft text of the Hiroshima Appeal commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Establishment of Mayors for Peace that declares Mayors for Peace will work even harder to promote the deep-rooted culture of peace in civil society and appeals to the UN and all national governments to take six actions to reduce the risk of the use of nuclear weapons. The Conference deliberated over the Appeal and adopted it as originally proposed.

In his closing remarks, Vice President Taue mentioned that the 11th General Conference will be held in Nagasaki in 2025. He expressed his hopes for the Mayors for Peace network to together make steady steps toward our goal of realizing a peaceful, nuclear-weapon-free world while sharing the principle of the PX Vision, and to make the next General Conference, in three years from now, a great opportunity to give good reports.



Adoption of the Hiroshima Appeal

The Hiroshima Appeal was sent to the UN Secretary-General and missions of national governments to the UN in early November 2022.

Please see the Mayors for Peace website for details.

(URL) <https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/news/2022/post-221102-2/>



(Mayors for Peace Administration Division)

Letter of Request Calling for the Promotion of Actions to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and the Hiroshima Appeal Submitted to the Japanese Government

On December 13, 2022, Hiroshima Mayor Matsui, President of Mayors for Peace, and Nagasaki Mayor Taue, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, visited the Prime Minister's Office and presented a letter of request and the Hiroshima Appeal to Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. The letter of request was adopted at the 10th Japanese Member Cities Meeting of Mayors for Peace and the Hiroshima Appeal was adopted at the 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace, and called on the Japanese government to promote efforts toward nuclear abolition.

In response, Prime Minister Kishida said, "The Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is an important treaty that serves as a towards achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world, and I believe the major point is how to bring the nuclear weapon states closer to this goal. We understand that many people are calling for the Japanese government to participate as an observer in

the TPNW Conference of the Parties and to sign and ratify the TPNW. However, we would like to first build trust with the United States as we consider how to address this issue."



From left, Hiroshima Mayor Matsui, Prime Minister Kishida, Nagasaki Mayor Taue (Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

(Mayors for Peace Administration Division)

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb and Peace Exhibition in Poland —In Gdansk where World War II broke out—

Since 1995, the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have jointly held the "Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb and Peace Exhibition" overseas to convey the reality of the atomic bombings and to foster international public opinion toward the abolition of nuclear weapons. The exhibition was held for the first time in Poland in 2022.

The exhibition was held at the World War II Museum. The museum opened in March 2017 in the city of Gdansk, known as the site of the outbreak of World War II. The permanent exhibition consists of three blocks entitled "The Road to War", "The Horrors of War", and "The Long Shadow of War", which showcase Poland's war experience against a European and global backdrop.

This Exhibition was postponed approximately two months from its original schedule to October 14, 2022, due to the spread of the new coronavirus infection. At the opening ceremony, the Director of the World War II Museum, Mr. Grzegorz Berendt, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Akio Miyajima of the Embassy of Japan in Poland, and Mr. Takuo Takigawa, Director of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, delivered opening remarks. Afterwards, a video recording of a *hibakusha* Yoshiko Kajimoto, giving her testimony with slides of maps and pictures, was shown. Attendees listened to her testimony, some with tears in their eyes.

The exhibits include an armband worn by a junior high school student who was exposed to the atomic bombing while working as a mobilized student, a replica of a lunch box with its contents burned black, a paper crane folded by former U.S. President Barack Obama, and 20 other actual items, as well as 31 panels explaining the reality of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Visitors to the exhibition commented that they were able to truly feel the threat of nuclear weapons, and that it gave them a chance to think about the issue as their own amid concerns about the use of nuclear weapons by Russia.

Prior to the opening ceremony at the Gdansk WWII Museum, Director Takigawa attended the World Battlefield Museum Forum 2022, a gathering of museum professionals from around the world, held at the museum from October 11 to 13. He made a presentation on the efforts of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum to pass on the A-bomb expe-



Exhibition venue

rience and the A-bomb and peace exhibitions. After the presentation, museum representatives from various countries expressed their interest in holding an A-bomb and peace exhibition.

Although this exhibition had to be held after a change in the original schedule, visitors were able to deepen their understanding of the consequences of the use of nuclear weapons, in Poland which is a neighboring country of Ukraine where fierce warfare continues. They also reaffirmed their desire for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the preciousness of peace, through viewing A-bombed materials and listening to the A-bomb experiences of the *hibakusha*.

(Peace Memorial Museum Outreach Division)

Mayors for Peace Internship

Mayors for Peace invites young officials and others from member cities to Hiroshima for an internship program. The purpose of this internship is to deepen understanding of the activities of Mayors for Peace, to strengthen cooperation with member cities, to deepen understanding of the reality of the atomic bombing, to share Hiroshima's desire for peace, and to promote activities to achieve lasting peace in the world, in their own cities after the internship is over.

<Overseas member cities>

For two weeks this year, from January 11-25, we hosted Mr. Richard Outram from Manchester, England, a Vice President City and Leader City of Mayors for Peace.

Mr. Outram was engaged in administrative duties, such as disseminating information via SNS and collecting signatures calling for all states to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons at the earliest date.

He deepened his understanding of the reality of the atomic bombing through a visit to Peace Memorial Museum and Listening to testimonials of atomic bomb survivors. He also visited the Hiroshima Municipal Funairi High School and presented Manchester's peace initiatives.

Mr. Outram commented, "Through this internship, I was



Keiko Ogura, an A-bomb survivor (left) and Mr. Outram (right)

able to learn in depth about the activities of the Secretariat of Mayors for Peace," and "After returning home, I hope to work more closely with the Secretariat to achieve our common goal of nuclear weapons abolition."

<Domestic member cities>

From February 1 to 3, the Mayors for Peace Secretariat hosted 17 interns from member cities in Japan.



Group work

The interns deepened their understanding of the reality of the atomic bombing by visiting Peace Memorial Museum, listening to testimonials of atomic bomb survivors, and participating in a Atomic Bomb Memoir Readings. In addition, group work was conducted to share the efforts and issues of each member city and to prepare draft plans for peace promotion projects.

Interns commented, "My awareness of peace has improved and my attitude toward it has changed," and "It was good to learn not only about Hiroshima but also about the efforts of other municipalities."

We will follow up with the participating cities to encourage them to apply what they learned from this internship to peace promotion projects in each member city, and we hope to further strengthen cooperation among member cities to revitalize the activities of Mayors for Peace.

(Mayors for Peace Administration Division)

Information

Our newsletters (Japanese and English version) can be read on our website at: (URL) <https://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/hpcf/english/paper/>



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