

Messages from Japanese Political Parties:

Message of Solidarity for the 2020 World Conference against A and H Bombs

Shii Kazuo

Chair, Japanese Communist Party

I would like to deliver heartfelt greetings in solidarity to the attendees at the 2020 World Conference against A and H Bombs being held in the midst of the raging COVID-19 pandemic.

Through our experience gained in tackling the pandemic, we all realized that armed conflicts exacerbate the sacrifices caused by virus.

The international community through the United Nations has called for an immediate ceasefire across the world and global disarmament, including the abolition of nuclear weapons with a global focus on implementing effective measures to deal with the COVID-19 situation.

It has been three years since the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as passed in the United Nations General Assembly. As collaboration between the majority governments and global society led by Hibakusha in pursuit of a nuclear free world has advanced, the number of countries that not only signed but ratified the Treaty has increased dramatically. With only 10 more ratifications, the Treaty will enter into force. It is now just a matter of time.

It has been 75 years since the atomic bombs were dropped by the United States on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In order to have the Treaty be enforced, we must continue to strengthen anti-nuclear weapons movements worldwide.

It is shameful that the Japanese government, representing the only A-bombed country worldwide, citizens and opposition parties, our party is resolved to take up the challenge to put together in a coalition of parties for a new government which supports the Treaty.

Everyone, we shall overcome the current crisis of COVID-19 and we will work to create a fair and peaceful world without nuclear weapons.

Thank you.

Message:
Yamamoto Taro, Representative of Reiwa Shinsengumi

Due to the global pandemic of the coronavirus, the 2020 World Conference against A and H Bombs has been moved online.

Unlike the time of the Spanish flu 100 years ago, now, thanks to the technological progress of humankind, even in times of crisis people around the world can connect with each other at once. However, despite the progress in communication technology, humans are still under the spell of A and H Bombs, namely nuclear weapons.

While not possessing nuclear weapons, Japan continues to stockpile nearly 50 tons of plutonium, which can potentially be converted to produce nuclear weapons.

Under the pretext of “creating clean energy”, Japan still promotes nuclear energy and cannot make a clear decision to end the giant project called the “nuclear fuel cycle”, which produces dangerous and unusable radioactive material.

Currying favor with the U.S., Japan also cannot decide to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

As a national political party, we Reiwa Shinsengumi will continue to work to achieve “Zero nuclear power” and “abolition of nuclear weapons”, which are two sides of the same coin.