

原水爆禁止2021年世界大会

2021 World Conference against A and H Bombs

Hiroshima and Nagasaki/Online, August 2-9, 2021



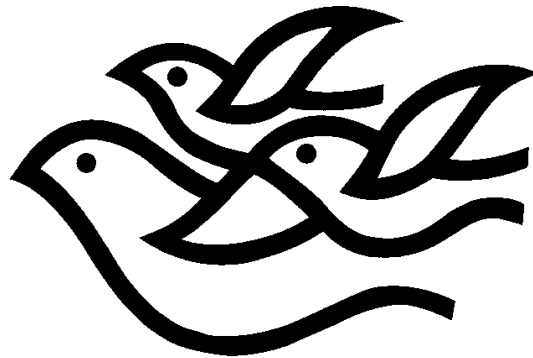
Organizing Committee
World Conference against A and H Bombs

2021 World Conference against A and H Bombs

Hiroshima and Nagasaki/ Online, August 2-9, 2021

Main Theme:

*With the Hibakusha, Let Us Achieve a Nuclear Weapon-Free,
Peaceful and Just World –
for the Future of Humankind and Our Planet*



Organizing Committee
World Conference against A and H Bombs

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The 2021 World Conference against Atomic & Hydrogen Bombs

Organizer's Statement

The 2021 World Conference against A & H Bombs, taking place shortly after the historic achievement of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), renews its pledge to move forward toward the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, at the time when people all around the world are deepening their concern for the dignity of human lives due to the coronavirus pandemic.

It will soon be 76 years since atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on Aug. 6 and 9, 1945 by the US forces. The two nuclear bombs totally destroyed the cities in an instant, and took the lives of about 210,000 people by the end of that year. Most of the victims were women, the elderly, children and other innocent citizens. Many were burnt alive and others were affected by radiation. The consequences were horrific, likened to “hell on earth”. No other weapons had ever caused such massive and indiscriminate death and destruction. Those who narrowly survived later suffered from delayed effects and heart break, having lost their loved ones. Hibakusha, whose average age is now over 83, continue to talk about their tragic experiences and warn that “humans and nuclear weapons cannot coexist”. With the Hibakusha we appeal to the world that this tragedy should never be repeated. Let us take action for the elimination of nuclear weapons to ensure the survival of the human race and our future.

Humanity is still threatened by the danger of nuclear annihilation. Even now there are about 13,000 nuclear warheads in the world. With confrontations and tensions between big powers, the danger of actual use of nuclear weapons is increasing. The US and Russia both maintain the policy of the first use of nuclear weapons, and it is reported that some 2,000 nuclear missiles are kept ready for launch on warning. China is said to be the only power among the Nuclear Five that has increased the number of its nuclear warheads; the UK recently raised the ceiling for the number of its submarine-launched nuclear warheads; and France is moving to promote EU's joint nuclear operation. Adding to these are regional nuclear hotbeds, such as ongoing tension between India and Pakistan, the unresolved Korean denuclearization issue, and Israel's increasing hostilities with the Palestinians. The solution of international conflict by peaceful means is the principle of the international politics. All parties should abide by the UN Charter and relevant international law and put an end without delay to all armed conflicts or any other actions leading to such conflicts. We further call on them to cancel the ongoing reinforcement, development and deployment of nuclear arsenals. There can be no such thing as a peace that can be safeguarded by nuclear weapons. Threatening one another with nuclear weapons only increases the danger of nuclear weapons being actually used. There can be no winner in a catastrophic nuclear war. Facing this reality, humans must get rid of the dangerous delusion of “nuclear deterrence”.

With the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on January 22 this year, nuclear weapons are now not only immoral but also illegal under international law for the first time. We extend our deep appreciation and solidarity to all national governments, Hibakusha, anti-nuclear peace movements and other people that have contributed to the coming into force of the TPNW. The more countries sign and ratify the

TPNW, the more firmly the illegality of nuclear weapons is established. Surrounded by these international waves, neither nuclear powers nor their “nuclear deterrence” clients will be able to escape from the impacts of this development on their policies. We call on the national governments to support and participate in the TPNW and will make every effort for its expansion. Building on this treaty, let us move forward to achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The nuclear powers must respond to the demand of the public opinion demonstrated by the entry into force of the TPNW. Above all, the Nuclear Five must implement without any further delay their obligation under Article 6 of the NPT to negotiate nuclear disarmament. Further, at the next NPT review conference planned for 2022, they should reaffirm their commitment to the agreements reached by past review conferences and implement them, including the “unequivocal undertaking” to achieve the “total elimination” of their “nuclear arsenals” pledged at the 2000 NPT review conference, the establishing of a “framework” to achieve a “world without nuclear weapons” in the 2010 review conference, as well as the establishment of a nuclear weapon-free zone in the Middle East. They should go even farther. They have repeatedly promised to achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons. We call on them to sincerely fulfill all these agreements and obligations.

In order to move forward toward the abolition of nuclear weapons, while preventing their use, it is essential to work both to build international opinion in support of the TPNW and to change national politics in the nuclear-armed states and dependent countries. Since the TPNW took form, we have seen new positive developments linked to the growing public support of the TPNW among NATO members. It is time now to break away from the pro-nuclear weapon politics by building overwhelming public support to joining the treaty.

Particularly, the choice to be made by Japan, the only country to have suffered a nuclear catastrophe firsthand, will have a far-reaching impact. If the Japanese government supports the TPNW in response to the nationwide demand and breaks away from the reliance on “nuclear deterrence”, it will hugely increase the momentum of the current global movement towards the abolition of nuclear weapons. Such a development will certainly bring a positive change in the increasingly tense Northeast Asian situation. We appeal to all Japanese citizens to act now to build overwhelming public support beyond differences in thought, belief and political affiliation in order to change the current policies that keep rejecting the TPNW. We hope that the forthcoming general elections will become a turning point for it. Alongside this, we reinforce our solidarity with other ongoing campaigns, such as the opposition to the construction of new US base at Henoko, Okinawa, the revision of Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, the development and deployment of new missiles designed to attack “enemy bases” and the opposition to every other move to turn Japan into a country that will wage war under the Japan-US military alliance.

In the COVID-19 pandemic, large numbers of people have lost their lives or health and are suffering from widening social gap, poverty and loss of their jobs. At the same time, the global spending on the military, including nuclear weapons, has reached 1,981 billion dollars (about 213 trillion yen), the highest expenditure since 1988, when the US-Soviet rivalry was rife. Conflicts are continuing in many regions. Military strength is useless against the coronavirus pandemic, which has claimed more than 4.2 million lives in the world. We need to concentrate our efforts on deep reduction of armament, the peaceful resolution of conflicts,

end of the pandemic and on the protection of people's lives and livings. We must establish a world where all countries cooperate with one another on an equal footing and for peace as set out in the UN Charter. The TPNW now in force presents the prospect of a world that is changing and moving away from the superpower hegemony and towards an equal participation by all. This has been made possible by the cooperation between civil societies and national governments.

Let us stand up for action to break through nuclear power despotism and to free the world from the danger of nuclear catastrophe. We propose to launch the following actions with a view to attaining a "nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world", a more hopeful world as we emerge from the coronavirus pandemic:

- Establishment of more events to hear testimonies from Hibakusha and nuclear test victims, and exhibit evidence and photo-panels of their sufferings, helping to make known throughout the country and worldwide the inhuman consequences of the use of nuclear weapons;

- Strengthening of campaigns to build up public opinion nationally and internationally, calling for support of and participation in the TPNW, especially in the countries possessing nuclear weapons or relying on the "nuclear umbrella";

- As we approach the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly, the next NPT Review Conference and the upcoming first meeting of the states parties to the TPNW, let us promote cooperation between civil society movements and non-nuclear governments to support the above goals;

- Development of cooperation with multiple campaigns for peace and opposition to wars, including those working for the reduction in military expenditures, the dissolution of military alliances, the compensation and support for the victims of Agent Orange and of wars as well as the eradication of the damage and for the promotion of peace education;

- Ensure successes for the international grassroots action "Peace Wave 2021" for the elimination of nuclear weapons, taking place from August 2 to 9, 2021;

- Broaden solidarity with our movement for the "world without nuclear weapons" by reaching out to other wide-ranging movements of people such as those concerned with welfare, livelihoods and human rights, the prevention of climate change, for gender equality, and for freedom and democracy.

We convey to you our resolve that with the Hibakusha and with younger generations, including high-school and university students, we will keep working actively at the forefront of these efforts.

August 2, 2021
Organizing Committee of the World Conference against A and H Bombs

2021 World Conference against A and H Bombs Nagasaki Day Rally

Letter from Nagasaki to All Governments in the World

On the occasion of the commemoration of the 76th Nagasaki Day of the atomic bombing, we participants in the 2021 World Conference against A and H Bombs, call on all governments around the world to take immediate action to achieve a “nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world.”

The use of nuclear weapons shows a total disregard for human lives and dignity, which the Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki) have described in testimonies of their tragic experiences. It is totally unacceptable for any reason whatsoever to use nuclear weapons but over 13,000 nuclear warheads still exist in the world and humanity is exposed to the threat of nuclear annihilation. It is therefore a duty for all governments to achieve a total ban on nuclear weapons and their elimination without delay. We welcome the entry into force of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in January 2021, that rendered nuclear weapons illegal, and we call on all governments to make further efforts to advance the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Today, the world is required to join forces to address pressing global risks such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis and an increase in poverty, and to protect people’s lives and livelihoods. The nuclear powers should immediately stop threatening other countries by military might. Peace and security cannot be ensured with nuclear weapons and there can be no winner in a nuclear war. Now is the time to renounce the “nuclear deterrence” policy, which is based on the assumption of the use of nuclear weapons.

The first resolution of the UN General Assembly, calling for the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons, marked the starting point of the abolition of nuclear weapons in postwar international politics. The obligation to pursue negotiations for nuclear disarmament under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) was unanimously accepted by all States parties including the nuclear-weapon states. They have to fulfill, in good faith, the obligations of the NPT and agreements reached at its Review Conferences.

In conclusion, we call on all governments to take the following actions:

- Actively promote efforts to raise awareness about the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons; support the activities of the Hibakusha, nuclear test victims and civil society movements for this purpose.
- Support, sign and ratify the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons without delay.
- Immediately halt all activities that oppose nuclear disarmament, such as the reinforcement and modernization of nuclear arsenals, and renounce the policy of nuclear deterrence.
- Engage positively and in good faith in opportunities of international deliberations and negotiations on disarmament, including the 76th UN General Assembly, for advancing the elimination of nuclear weapons.
- Reaffirm and implement the agreements reached at previous NPT Review Conferences, including the “unequivocal undertaking” by nuclear weapon states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals; the “special efforts to establish the necessary framework to achieve a world without nuclear weapons” and the establishment of a nuclear weapon-free zone in the Middle East, as well as the obligation to pursue negotiations for nuclear disarmament under Article 6 of the NPT.
- Observe the United Nations Charter and abide by international law, and put an end to armed conflicts and all actions leading to them.

Collaboration between governments and civil society is essential for achieving a nuclear weapon-free, peaceful, just, sustainable and gender-equal world. We will work together with you to reach that goal.

August 9, 2021

Organizing Committee of the World Conference against A and H Bombs

International Meeting 2021 World Conference against A and H Bombs

Main Theme:

With the Hibakusha, Let Us Achieve a Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World – for the Future of Humankind and Our Planet



Opening Session

Address of the Organizer:

Noguchi Kunikazu
Co-Chairperson, Steering Committee of the Organizing Committee of the World Conference against A & H Bombs

Welcome to the 2021 World Conference against A and H Bombs to mark 76 years since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I would like to heartily welcome you and extend greetings of solidarity. This is the first World Conference since the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The overall theme this year is: “With the Hibakusha, let us achieve a nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world – for the future of humankind and our planet.”

I am honored and pleased to note that this World Conference is attended by government representatives from Austria, Malaysia, and Mexico, countries which are making strenuous efforts at the forefront of the movement to promote the TPNW. The representative of Austria himself will chair the first Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW in Vienna in January next year. Malaysia

has also been designated to preside over a committee that will discuss nuclear disarmament issues at the 10th Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, to be held sometime next year.

Peace movement representatives from South Korea and other countries in Asia and the Pacific region are also participating in our Conference. They are working hard to build a nuclear-free peace regime on the Korean Peninsula and in East Asia. International participants also include dedicated grassroots activists and peace movement representatives who are playing a great role in other parts of the world, including Europe and North and South America.

From Japan, we have Hibakusha, the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, those involved in the signature campaign to urge the Japanese government to sign and ratify the TPNW, and those opposing the adverse revision of Article 9 of the Constitution. We also have people who are working on different fronts: the fight to end nuclear power generation, the promotion of renewable energy, and the fight for removal of the US military bases in Japan, and the struggle for gender equality. Victims of the great earthquake and tsunami in March 2011 and the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant are also here.

In their testimonies, Hibakusha indict nuclear weapons on the grounds that they are inhumane. I

would like to express my respects to the Hibakusha for their activities over these years, knowing that their average age is almost 84. Please take good care of yourselves.

This year as last year, our World Conference is held online and live, due to the lingering COVID-19 pandemic. It's really unfortunate that we cannot meet face to face with representatives from governments and civil societies of various countries. However, the online conference has the merit of allowing broader participation of people in Japan and around the world. We are also planning to hold some local events both online and in person in Hiroshima and Nagasaki entitled "Solidarity with the Hibakusha – 2021."

In January 22 this year, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entered into force, setting an international norm to outlaw nuclear weapons. It marked the beginning of a new era in which nuclear weapons are illegal in all aspects—not only their use, but also the threat to use, as well as development, testing, production and transfer of such weapons. Humankind has made a great step forward toward a world without nuclear weapons. Embracing the Hibakusha's desire to see nuclear weapons eliminated while they are alive, we have worked with the Hibakusha to let people know in Japan and around the world about the damage and after-effects of the atomic bombings. This effort led to the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

There still exist 13,000 nuclear warheads in the world, 2,000 of them being on high alert and ready to launch within minutes to strike an enemy. Over the last 76 years since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, nuclear weapons have never been used only because fortune sided with our movement against atomic and hydrogen Bombs. In the highly computerized nuclear weapon systems, unintended nuclear explosion or nuclear war could be triggered due to computer miscalculation even in the absence of an intention to fight a war. The danger of cyber terrorism is also increasing.

The United States, Russia, and other countries possessing nuclear weapons continue to follow security policies that rely on nuclear deterrence. Despite the coronavirus pandemic, they set out to modernize their nuclear arsenals and even promote the development of smaller tactical nuclear weapons. Clinging to nuclear weapons only leads to more nuclear proliferation and causes confrontation. Scientists have for many years warned that climate change could occur if low-yield nuclear weapons are used, causing global hunger and threatening the very survival of humankind. We can no longer count on fortune to

secure the safety of humankind.

More than 4.2 million people in the world have died from COVID-19. Infections are spreading fast, particularly among the poor and other socially disadvantaged people, such as migrants, refugees, and indigenous populations. Environmental destruction, economic inequalities, cutbacks on social services, including health care, welfare and education, testify to the failure of neoliberal economic and social policies. World military expenditures in 2020 are estimated at 1 trillion 981 billion dollars or about 214 trillion yen. Military buildup is totally ineffective for the prevention of COVID-19. Military expenditure, including money for developing new nuclear weapons, is impeding the improvement of people's livelihoods, employment, and social services. If human resources used for military research and development were redirected to non-military areas, our livelihoods would be much improved.

With the TPNW in force, this year's World Conference will be a place to help develop new common action by the United Nations, government and civil society in each country to build up international opinion urging the nuclear weapons possessing countries and the countries relying on nuclear weapons to implement the agreements that have been reached so far, including the unequivocal undertaking to achieve the complete elimination of their nuclear arsenals conducive to nuclear disarmament. These are undertakings which they accepted as their nuclear disarmament obligation under the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

As demonstrated by the entry into force of the TPNW, international politics is moved by governments and grassroots civil society in many countries, not by a handful of great powers. It is important to heighten the level of people's opinion and strengthen the movements in each country. Let us greatly develop global solidarity and cooperation to contain the COVID-19 pandemic as soon as possible and realize a peaceful, just, and sustainable world. Now that the TPNW has entered into force, let us exert our power through cooperation between the United Nations, national governments and grassroots civil society. Let us increase our efforts to inform people and pass down the knowledge about the damage and after-effects of the atomic bombings. Let us make known the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons and let us urge the nuclear weapons possessing countries and the countries that rely on nuclear weapons to change their security policies.

I conclude the Organizing Committee report by expressing hope that the World Conference starting today will be an epoch-making forum to

help grow the movement toward a total ban on nuclear weapons and their abolition, to help realize a peace system without nuclear weapons in the Korean Peninsula, to rally the power of Japan's anti-nuclear peace movement, and to develop concrete plans in this direction.

Greetings on behalf of the Hibakusha:



Kido Sueichi Secretary General, Japan Confederation of Atomic and Hydrogen Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo)

I am honored to be given this opportunity to bring to you all my greetings of solidarity at the International Meeting of the 2021 World Conference against A and H Bombs.

This year marks the 65th anniversary of the founding of the Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo). I am observing this commemorative year with mixed feelings of joy and a sense of crisis.

The entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) has given me a lot of joy. At the same time, the Hibakusha, who went through an atomic bomb hell, are aging and dying, and I have a sense of crisis that the A-bomb survivors will be gone in the near future.

I was caught by the atomic bombing in Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. I was on the street in front of my home, about two kilometers from ground zero. I was five years and seven months old. My mother sustained burns to the whole of her face and chest. I also got burns on a half of my face. We rushed into a shelter. It was full of groans and cries of pain. My older brother's friend, who had burns on his whole body, died soon. Next day I passed along the right bank of the Urakami River and reached Michino. I was struck to see the town had

been turned into a dead town with no buildings, but with dead bodies scattered around and floating over one another in the river. The river was full of people groaning and seeking water and help.

Nihon Hidankyo was founded in 1956, eleven years after the atomic bombings. At its founding congress, Nihon Hidankyo published a "Message to the World" that pledged to save ourselves as well as humankind from the nuclear crisis by making known our A-bomb experiences to the world. We have since made efforts to let people know what nuclear weapons are and what the atomic bombs brought about to humans. We have tirelessly carried out activities calling for the realization of our two demands: prevention of nuclear war and elimination of nuclear weapons; and state compensation for the A-bomb damage.

Our "Message to the World" says, "After eleven long years since the atomic bombing, we could at last meet here, for the first time from all over Japan. ... We have acquired this courage to stand up, thanks to the World Conference of last August. ... We have, at today's gathering, commemorated the dead and talked of the inexpressible sentiments piled up in these long years. But our unending talks were not for getting a consolation or relief for the time being. They had the purpose of setting ourselves up, holding hands in hands, resolutely. We would appeal to the world what we must, would demand the government what we need... Thus, we have reassured our will to save humanity from its crisis through the lessons learned from our experiences, while at the same time saving ourselves.... Humanity must never again inflict nor suffer the sacrifice and torture we have experienced."

Ever since the enactment of the Atomic Bomb Survivors Medical Care Act of 1957, the government has limited the coverage of the Hibakusha relief measures to the victims of the initial radiation of the A-bombs, which is far from the scope of the actual damage and suffering. The recent "Black Rain" lawsuit symbolically demonstrated the failings of this policy of the government. In 1980, the Council on Basic Problems of the Atomic Bombing and Measures for the Survivors, a private advisory body of the Minister of Health and Welfare, issued a recommendation, saying that under the emergency of a war started by the State, "all people ought to endure the sacrifice equally". Here we can find the root of the Japanese government policy of abandoning the Hibakusha, turning its back on the TPNW and driving the population to fight in wars. We must change this by all means possible.

Nihon Hidankyo angrily reacted to the recommendation and drew up the "Basic Demand

of the Atomic Bomb Victims.” It said: “We hibakusha have been describing the realities of the damage of the atomic bombing and appealing on our suffering, because we want that no one else should ever suffer the hell we have experienced. “Make no more Hibakusha” is our appeal, for which we give our lives. It is the aspiration also of all the people of Japan and all over the world.”

The Hibakusha movement led by Nihon Hidankyo is not a movement of the Hibakusha alone. It has been built up in cooperation with the people of Japan and the rest of the world. Especially, we have been supported by our friends participating in the World Conference. We want to pay respect to the World Conference against A and H Bombs that has developed greatly over many years, and we are grateful for that.

The world is undergoing major changes. We can hear an underground rumbling that might move mountains. Movements to save humanity and Mother Earth are growing, represented by those working on climate change, the elimination of nuclear weapons, gender equality, opposition to racial discrimination and for the LGBTQ. People are increasingly assertive in their respective areas.

The Hibakusha are wondering how many more years they can continue their movement. There is no end to worries about how the unprecedented movement of the Hibakusha can be handed down to the next generation. It is highly unlikely that the Hibakusha exposed to the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be exposed again to nuclear attacks, but there is a danger that the people of future generations could become Hibakusha.

The cause of saving humankind and Mother Earth should be led by the global citizens’ movement. I am sure that it can be done by many individual movements and a united movement. I must point out that the solidarity movement needs to grow more. I want to conclude my statement by expressing my desire that a movement which brings all people together will be built up.

Thank you for your attention.

Report and Appeal on the “Black Rain” Lawsuit:



Makino Kazumi **Co-Chair, Association to Support the A-Bomb “Black Rain” Lawsuit/ Secretary, Liaison Council of the Hiroshima Victims of the A-Bomb “Black Rain”**

On July 14, the Hiroshima High Court handed down a judgment completely in favor of the plaintiffs. This decision upholds and reinforces the Hiroshima District Court's decision in July last year on a suit which was originally filed six years ago by 64 victims of the “Black Rain”.

The point at issue in the case was whether the victims of the Black Rain fell under the category of “Persons who, at the time of or after the atomic bombing, were under circumstances which caused their bodies to be affected by the radiation of the atomic bomb” as defined in Article 1, Item 3 of the Atomic Bomb Survivors Relief Law.

The High Court's decision maintains the District Court's decision recognizing that all the plaintiffs fall under this category, and further strengthens the points explained below.

1. The decision states that Article 1(3) of the Relief Law should be interpreted as “It is sufficient if it is impossible to deny that damage to health may occur” and that “Those exposed to the Black Rain, and even those not exposed, have been internally exposed to radiation by inhaling radioactive particles in the air or by taking drinking water or vegetables into their bodies”. This reinforces the legal interpretation of the type of exposure.

2. It eliminates the condition of the onset of at least one of 11 different diseases, which had been a requirement for certification as an A-bomb survivor, and repudiates the current system of “health examination certificates” (which had been issued to those who fell short of getting official recognition as Hibakusha).

3. The High Court ruling clearly states that the 1980 report of the Ministry of Health and Welfare's

Council on Basic Problems of the Atomic Bombing and Measures for the Survivors (Kihon-Kon) "should not be referred to in interpreting Article 1, Item 3 of the Relief Law". This Kihon-Kon report was the opinion of a private advisory body of the Minister of Health and Welfare, but the policy stated in the report that "the expansion of the A-bombed area should be limited to cases where there are scientific and rational grounds" had actually been placed above the Relief Law in the Hibakusha screening. It has been misused as a hurdle to discourage the demand for the expansion of the Black Rain area, and has tormented the movement of Black Rain victims for the past 41 years. Personally, I have been moved by this clarification by the court as a reward for our many years of struggle.

Thus, the High Court's decision condemned the government's long-maintained administration in violation of the Atomic Bomb Survivors Relief Law and ordered that relief be provided for the victims of the Black Rain. This is a landmark decision, which can be described as a victory for "Hiroshima's public opinion, the movement and the wisdom of the judiciary.

Immediately after the ruling, the mayor of Hiroshima and the prefectural governor expressed their stance that they did not want to appeal to the Supreme Court, but on July 20, Health Minister Tamura said, "It is difficult to accept the ruling." On July 23, senior officials from the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare and the Ministry of Justice came to Hiroshima to request an appeal, stating to the vice governor and the vice mayor that "scientific evidence is needed to recognize a person as an A-bomb survivor, and the court decision would break the framework of the Atomic Bomb Survivors Relief Law." However, no agreement was reached there and the case was brought forward for discussion on July 26.

Learning from the experience at the time of the district court decision, this time we made a request to the mayor and the governor of Hiroshima, the Minister of Health, as well as the leaders of the opposition parties and the Parliamentary members of the ruling parties elected from Hiroshima. At the suggestion of Mr. Masuda Yoshinobu, a well-known meteorologist who studied the Black Rain precipitation area, we collected 8,440 online petitions in only one week and submitted them to Hiroshima City Hall, the prefectural government office and the Ministry of Health on the 26th of July. Pressed by this all-Hiroshima and nationwide public opinion and movement, Prime Minister Suga announced at 5 pm on that day that he would abandon the appeal. Now that the court decision

has been finalized, the plaintiffs can start receiving their A-bomb Survivor's Health Certificates today.

We will continue to work hard to urge the national, prefectural and municipal governments to revise the application forms and screening criteria so that all the aged victims of the "Black Rain", estimated to number about 13,000, will be able to receive their Atomic Bomb Sufferer's Certificates as soon as possible.

Thank you everyone for giving your warm support to our campaign to date.

Declaration to launch the "Peace Wave 2021":

Nakamura Ayumi
Vice President
Democratic Youth League of Japan

I hereby declare the start of the "Peace Wave" Action.

"Peace Wave 2021" actions are being held globally from August 2 to 9 in solidarity with the Hibakusha and commemorating the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The proposed common actions are to urge the nuclear-armed states to abolish nuclear weapons and to demand that governments of respective countries support and join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

To date, we have received action plans from over 100 places in 13 countries – New Zealand, the Philippines, India, Finland, Lithuania, Belgium, Austria, Germany, France, the U.K., Togo, Canada and the U.S.A. In Japan, Peace Wave actions are planned in more than 200 places across the country. Please refer to the list of these actions on the website of the World Conference Secretariat. (http://www.antiatom.org/english/world_conference/peacewave.html)

At 8:15 on August 6 and at 11:02 on August 9, remembering the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, hundreds of thousands of citizens and bereaved families in the two cities will offer a silent prayer for the victims. As a symbol of the Peace Wave Action, we call on you to join them by taking actions and displaying photos depicting the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

A path leading to a world without nuclear weapons will be opened by public support for a global people's movement, as well as by the voices and actions of each of us. Let us create great Waves of Peace in our local communities, workplaces and school campuses.

Messages from the Heads/Leaders of National Governments and International Organizations

Alexander Van der Bellen
President
Republic of Austria

Nuclear weapons are the most indiscriminate weapon ever invented. Their damage cannot be measured only by the immediate destruction they cause but by the unimaginable suffering that continues to last through decades and generations. Yet unlike biological and chemical weapons, these inhumane weapons remain in arsenals of nine states today. The ill-fated belief that the threat of global devastation through nuclear weapons can be the foundation of sustainable security and stability unfortunately persists.

The Hibakusha have been tireless in their advocacy for the past 76 years to warn humanity and make sure that the world knows about those fateful days in 1945 and the consequences ever since. We owe them deep gratitude, but more importantly, we owe them progress: progress towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

As we commemorate the 76th anniversary of the first use of nuclear weapons in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, let us move away from the misconception that nuclear weapons are a suitable means of security and instead take heed from the findings of their catastrophic humanitarian consequences and inherent risks. It is urgent to end the resurgent nuclear arms race with arsenals being built-up and modernised for decades to come, as well as a renewed emphasis on nuclear weapons and their use in national security doctrines.

A large majority of countries has already demonstrated that they understand nuclear weapons as a constant threat to the very survival of humanity. They demand that their legitimate security concerns are taken into consideration rather than perpetually put at risk by the policies of nuclear deterrence. With the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, an important step – the setting of a legal norm prohibiting these weapons – was achieved. It is the first concrete step in a long time towards the elimination of nuclear weapons for which the Hibakusha and you here at the conference have been fighting.

I am very pleased that the first meeting of States Parties of the TPNW will be held in my

country, Austria, as one of the main initiators of the treaty. I hope that many of you will be able to travel to Vienna to join in marking this milestone with us. I trust that you will continue your tireless advocacy to inspire other countries also to be there; even States that have not yet signed the TPNW. We need to continue to engage all stakeholders in a dialogue on the humanitarian consequences and risks of nuclear weapons and the need for urgent progress towards a world without nuclear weapons.

Michael D. Higgins
President
Ireland

May I say how honoured I am to provide this message of support from Ireland to the World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs.

While the world continues to face the challenges of the global pandemic, we cannot forget the core purpose of the vital work of you and others to rid the world of nuclear weapons and to assist in the achievement of a safer and more peaceful future for all of humanity. As UN Secretary-General Guterres commented recently, nothing less than the very survival of humanity and civilisation is at stake.

The year 2021 opened with a significant development, with the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Ireland was proud to have enacted the Treaty on 6th August 2020, on the very date that marked the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Ireland did so on that day in recognition of the harm endured by the victims and hibakusha, and the need to ensure that nuclear weapons are never used again.

The contribution of the hibakusha and civil society was, and remains, central to the Treaty's creation, and now its implementation. I salute them for the vital role they play in disarmament education. It is important that the experiences and legacy of the hibakusha be carried forward for the next generation, so that they are aware of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and are inspired to work for their elimination.

The world is facing wholly unprecedented

challenges, with not only the Covid-19 pandemic touching all of our lives in different ways, but also the challenges of climate change, geo-political tensions, and with 41 million of our global citizens facing famine, as Secretary-General Guterres reminds us in his recent urgent appeal to Heads of States and Governments, it is imperative for our safe, peaceful and equitable co-existence that we work in cooperation to find sustainable solutions to these challenges. Nuclear disarmament is at the core of a more sustainable, more secure future. The pandemic has starkly illustrated that risks, however unlikely they may seem, can materialise with such devastating global consequences.

It is in this broader context that the elimination of nuclear weapons takes on even greater urgency. Basic morality tells us that it is impossible to justify the existence of a technology that is so indiscriminately destructive and harmful as nuclear weapons.

How regrettable it is that the human endeavour and vast resources that are involved in developing and maintaining nuclear weapons — over 13,000 of which remain stockpiled and deployed globally — that resources are not instead directed to fund health, education, food and water security, and other developmental and humanitarian purposes.

Ireland has a historic attachment to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which remains the cornerstone of the multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation regime. It is more important than ever that all states commit to make progress on nuclear disarmament, and Ireland stands ready to work with all parties to do so.

I commend your resilience in convening this vital Conference in these challenging, exceptional circumstances which add weight to the significance of your message heard around the world, and I send my best wishes for the success of the Conference this year, and reiterate the support of Ireland for your important work.

Thongloun Sisoulith
President
Lao People's Democratic Republic

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Government and people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, I would like to convey my warmest congratulations to the Organizing Committee and all participants in the 2021 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs to be held on 02-09 August 2021 in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan in the platform of online.

I am delighted to witness that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entered into force on 22 January 2021, which would be implemented in a constructive manner in order to achieve a world without nuclear weapons.

I am confident that this conference will be a corner stone for participants to pave the way to further enhance the cooperation of international community as well as strengthen activities to fight against and prevent the use of atomic and hydrogen bombs in order to build the world with lasting peace, stability and free from weapons of mass destruction in the years ahead.

On behalf of the Government and the people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, I wish the 2021 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs a great success.

Nguyen Xuan Phuc
President
The Socialist Republic of Vietnam

On behalf of the State and people of Vietnam and in my own name, I avail myself of this opportunity to extend our warmest greetings of friendship to all international and Japanese delegates participating in the World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs 2021.

Seventy six years having elapsed since the atomic bombing of the two cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, all sad memories of this disaster should never be allowed to be forgotten. We share the deepest sympathies with the Japanese people over their huge losses and truly hope that not any more nations will have to bear similar sufferings in the future.

Having undergone devastating consequences of wars, particularly Agent Orange / dioxin, a kind of chemical weapon causing death to millions of humans and lingering terrible damage to the environment, Vietnam is always consistent with its policy against nuclear weapons and stands among the first countries to have signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We are glad that the Treaty has officially been in full force since January 22nd, 2021. This results from not only the efforts of governments but also the strong commitment and support of international and Japanese peace movements. Currently, the world is still faced with unpredictable dangers of nuclear weapons as well as utterly complicated developments due to major powers' competition, extreme nationalism, great-powerism, and unilateral moves by major countries at such hot spots as the South China Sea/ East Sea and the East China Sea, as well as non-traditional security

challenges, including climate change, epidemics, etc.

Despite all this, it is my conviction that the solidarity and cooperation of all forces of peace and progress in the world, particularly of those participating in this World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs 2021, will help build a world of peace, security, stability, development and prosperity without nuclear weapons. The Communist Party, State, people and peace movement of Vietnam will continue to join hands with you for the materialization of this objective.

I would like once more, on behalf of the State and people of Vietnam, to express our sincere and profound gratitude to the State and people of Japan, as well as peace-loving people the world over, for their heartfelt sympathy and valuable support for Vietnam during our past struggles for national independence and reunification as well as our present efforts in national construction and development.

Allow me to convey my friendly and sincere greetings and best wishes to the people of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and all over Japan.

May I wish all participants in the Conference good health, security and happiness.

May the Conference record splendid success.

Peter Maurer
President
International Committee of the Red
Cross (ICRC)

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) extends its deep appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to the Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikyo) for its long-standing efforts to preserve and uphold the painful memories caused by the atomic bombings in 1945 and to provide assistance to victims and survivors.

76 years have passed from the days when nuclear weapons – among the most horrific and inhumane weapons ever created – were unleashed upon Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The ICRC and the Japanese Red Cross Society witnessed first-hand the suffering and devastation that followed as they tried, in near-impossible conditions, to assist the dying and injured. Faced with helplessness in front of this disaster of vast proportions, we called for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons – and to this call we have stood ever since.

But the story of nuclear weapons is not only

one of horror, fear and pain – it is also a story of courage and determination. The testimonies of the hibakusha tell this story, and it was they who inspired and drove the international community to achieve the unimaginable: the negotiation and adoption of an international legally-binding instrument making nuclear weapons illegal once and for all.

There are currently more than 13,000 nuclear weapons in the world, many on high alert status, ready to be launched at a moment's notice. The risk that they may be used again remains very high. To believe that this risk can be eliminated while nuclear weapons still exist is, in itself, a risk humanity cannot afford to take. To cling on to nuclear weapons as an instrument of security is an equally dangerous fallacy: for most States, nuclear weapons are today a major source of insecurity for their populations and for the future of our planet.

We remain deeply concerned at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, to which the international community would be unable to respond. We know that no adequate assistance capacities to provide humanitarian relief in such a case exist at national or international levels.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the significant shortcomings of public health-care systems when responding to large-scale health emergencies. This only pales in comparison to the insurmountable challenges that any use of nuclear weapons would present to health-care systems and humanitarian response capabilities. What we cannot prepare for, we must prevent.

On 22 January 2021, the landmark Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entered into force. The testimonies and experience of the hibakusha, the long-standing appeals of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and the tireless efforts of determined activists, led to this historic moment. The TPNW comprehensively prohibits nuclear weapons and makes clear that any use of these weapons is morally and legally unacceptable. It is extremely doubtful that any use of nuclear weapons could ever be compatible with international humanitarian law, the law regulating conduct in war.

This treaty exists because we cannot afford to forget, lest the horrors of history are repeated. Let us all strive to keep the testimonies of the hibakusha alive, as a beacon to guide humanity towards a world free of nuclear weapons. I wish you every success for this conference and for your future work.

Session I:

Global actions for achieving a total prohibition of nuclear weapons

Introductory Reports:



Jacqueline Cabasso
Executive Director, Western States Legal
Foundation
U.S.A.

76 Years After Hiroshima and Nagasaki; Where Do Things Stand? A View from the United States

Following four harrowing years culminating with a devastating pandemic, economic collapse, volatile and chaotic international relations, a racial justice uprising and a violent right-wing insurrection, U.S. President Joseph Biden entered office facing a daunting array of challenges. On the domestic front, the Biden administration is seeking to reverse the Trump administration's reckless disregard for the pandemic, its xenophobic policies attacking immigrants, people of color, Muslims, Jews, women, non-gender conforming people and the poor, and its assaults on healthcare, the environment and democracy itself. Regarding nuclear weapons and foreign policy, however, the direction of the new administration and Congress so far maintains the status quo, and Donald Trump retains control of a large majority of Republican members of Congress and state legislatures.

Nuclear weapons were worse than worthless in preventing and containing the COVID-19 pandemic. What we needed instead was unprecedented worldwide cooperation to eradicate the virus and prepare for future pandemics, and to address a cascade of converging crises including climate change, poverty, racism, and rising authoritarian nationalisms. Yet, according to a

report by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), in 2020, the nine nuclear-armed states spent \$72.6 billion on nuclear weapons, with the U.S. leading the pack at \$37.4 billion, or \$70,881 per minute!

We celebrated entry-into-force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) on January 22, 2021, but just six days later, The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists announced it is keeping the hands of its Doomsday Clock at 100 seconds to midnight, the closest we've ever been to global annihilation, stating: "By our estimation, the potential for the world to stumble into nuclear war—an ever-present danger over the last 75 years—increased in 2020."

President Biden has been involved in arms control negotiations since 1979. Shortly before leaving office in January 2017, then-Vice-President Biden said: "It is precisely because we do not trust our adversaries that treaties to constrain the human capacity for destruction are indispensable to the security of the United States of America. Arms control is integral to our national defense and—when it comes to nuclear weapons—to our self-preservation."

Biden's announcement his first day in office that the U.S. would rejoin the Paris Climate Accord and the World Health Organization, and his decision to extend new START were welcome. But his budget request for Fiscal Year 2022 increases military expenditures by \$11 billion from the Trump years. And despite campaign promises to the contrary, the Biden budget extends funding for all nuclear warhead and delivery system upgrades in the Trump budget, as well as its massive investment in the nuclear weapons infrastructure, intended to project nuclear weapons research, development, production, and deployment well into the 21st century – in clear violation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

In his January 2017 remarks, outgoing Vice-President Biden declared: "As a nation, I believe we must keep pursuing the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons," but, "A nuclear deterrent has been the bedrock of our national defense since World War II. And so long as other countries possess nuclear weapons that could be used against us, we too must maintain a safe, secure, and effective nuclear arsenal to deter attacks against ourselves and our allies. That is why, early

in the administration, we increased funding to maintain our arsenal and modernize our nuclear infrastructure—so that our arsenal remains safe and reliable—even with fewer weapons, and even without tests.” Paradoxically, this was the deal the Obama administration made with the Senate for its ratification of the new START treaty in 2010.

During the 2020 Presidential campaign, Biden said: “Our nuclear arsenal should be managed in a way that deters the use of nuclear weapons and makes nuclear use less likely. The use of even one nuclear weapon would be catastrophic, cause significant casualties, and result in enduring radiation that could affect millions of humans, as well as the environment. There would be no ‘winners’ in a nuclear exchange.... The United States does not need new nuclear weapons. Our current arsenal of weapons.... is sufficient to meet our deterrence and alliance requirements.”

Unfortunately, U.S. national security policy has been remarkably consistent since 1945. “Deterrence,” the threatened use of nuclear weapons, has been reaffirmed as the “cornerstone” of U.S. national security by every President, Republican or Democrat, since President Harry Truman, a Democrat, oversaw the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Deterrence now is an ideology which has outlived its Cold War origins and is used by nuclear-armed states to justify the perpetual possession and threatened use of nuclear weapons. It is an eternally elastic concept which serves to justify entire military-industrial complexes and the national security states and elites that they serve (not only in the U.S.).

Entry-into-force of the TPNW notwithstanding, an entrenched military-industrial-complex with nuclear weapons at its core, a reactionary large Republican minority in Congress, and the lack of a visible anti-nuclear movement in the United States make fundamental changes to U.S. nuclear weapons policy unlikely for the foreseeable future.

Opposition to the TPNW began before the Trump administration. In October 2016, President Obama’s UN Ambassador condemned the TPNW in the General Assembly, stating: “Advocates of a ban treaty say it is open to all, but how can a state that relies on nuclear weapons for its security possibly join a negotiation meant to stigmatize and eliminate them”.

Today, out of 535 members of the U.S. Congress, only 11 have signed the ICAN Parliamentary Pledge.

However, there is better news at the local level. On August 6 and 9, groups in towns and cities across the United States will hold commemorations

and protests on the 76th anniversaries of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and many will be part of Gensuikyo’s Peace Wave. 41 U.S. cities and three states have adopted the ICAN Cities Appeal in support of the TPNW. 59 cities and four states have adopted Back From the Brink resolutions calling on the United States to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by: actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals; renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first; ending the sole, unchecked authority of any U.S. President to launch a nuclear attack; taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert; and cancelling the plan to replace the entire U.S. nuclear arsenal with enhanced weapons. Back From the Brink has also been endorsed by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the national association of more than 1,400 big cities.

From my point of the view as a civil society activist, the main value of the TPNW in the U.S. is as a key “talking point” in public education and advocacy. Raising awareness about the TPNW can help us challenge the ideology of nuclear deterrence, which must be dismantled if we are ever to achieve a world without nuclear weapons.

It is increasingly clear that the multiple national and global crises we are confronting arise from the same foundational causes, and that we are unlikely to prevail on any of them as single issues. We need to come together as never before to build national and international political power, from the bottom up, through durable, diverse, multi-issue coalitions, networks, and networks of networks based on our shared commitments to nonviolence and universal, indivisible human security.

There is an emerging movement which, I believe, has the vision and potential to bring together such a coalition—at least in the U.S.; The Poor People’s Campaign; A National Call for Moral Revival.

Exactly one year before his tragic assassination in 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. declared: “[If] we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values.... we must rapidly begin the shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered.”

The Poor People’s Campaign has picked up Dr. King’s unfinished work, weaving the interlocking injustices of systemic racism, systemic poverty, environmental devastation, militarism and the war economy, and a distorted moral narrative

of religious nationalism, into one “moral fusion” campaign.

The Poor Peoples Campaign calls for cutting U.S. military spending by half (\$350 Billion), including by eliminating nuclear weapons. With growing state-based organizations in 45 states, the burgeoning Poor People’s campaign is supported by an extraordinary range of diverse constituencies including labor unions, faith organizations, racial justice, anti-poverty, environmental and peace groups.

In 1964, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. warned: “Somehow we must transform the dynamics of the world power struggle from the negative nuclear arms race which no one can win to a positive contest to harness man’s creative genius for the purpose of making peace and prosperity a reality for all of the nations of the world. In short, we must shift the arms race into a ‘peace race’.” Today, 56 years later, this is still the work ahead.



Dave Webb
Chair, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
U.K.

Hello - I am Dave Webb, Chair of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in the UK. Thank you for inviting me to speak at the 2021 World Conference against A & H bombs.

Friends, your Conference comes at a particularly important time for the world. We are still facing immediate threats to our very existence from climate change and nuclear war and the governments of the world are taking very little action to prevent either of them.

We do not know yet when we will fully emerge from the Covid situation and despite the warnings of scientists over many years about the possibility of a global pandemic, governments were tragically unprepared to deal with it.

And those countries who have been able to produce and distribute vaccines and medical care have done little to help those who cannot.

We are also experiencing the serious effects of climate change. The Earth is warming, rainfall

patterns are changing, and sea levels are rising. The risks of heatwaves, floods, droughts and fires have increased considerably but governments have not responded quickly enough to repeated warnings and urgent requests for action.

Around 4 million people world-wide have died from the Covid pandemic. Many of these lives could have been saved if governments had acted when warned.

So it is with nuclear weapons. Since those dreadful days 76 years ago, the hibakusha have been sharing their experiences of the horrifying humanitarian effects of the bombs, and peace movements around the world have echoed their message that “human beings and nuclear weapons cannot co-exist”.

For over 40 years scientists have warned that even a so-called ‘limited nuclear exchange’ would result in sudden global freezing, weather disruption and a devastating global famine, killing billions of people.

But nuclear weapons states are not taking steps to prevent a nuclear holocaust.

Instead, they are upgrading their nuclear arsenals. ICAN has estimated that last year the world spent a total of \$72.6 billion on nuclear weapons – money that is desperately needed to feed the hungry, help the needy, house the homeless and try to prevent climate catastrophe.

Governments have been convinced by warmongers and weapons manufacturers to be suspicious of others, to build barriers and increase spending on the military and on weapons of mass destruction.

And it has been shown that military production and military exercises are huge contributors to greenhouse-gas emissions and increases in military spending result in increased international tensions and make nuclear threats and confrontations more likely.

However, although governments are not taking action, people are. Young people especially can see what is happening to their planet and are responding. Climate change, peace and humanitarian campaigns are realising that their causes are connected.

We can no longer live with the threat of climate or nuclear annihilation.

We must cooperate with the common aim of survival and the creation of a world that puts people and planet first.

ICAN has shown that, working together, we were able to establish a U.N. Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. So far, the nuclear weapons states have rejected that Treaty – but we will work together on that too.

A poll commissioned by CND in January

showed that 59% of people in the UK support the government signing the Treaty and we are campaigning in the streets and within parliament to increase that support.

Unfortunately, in March the government announced that the cap on the number of UK nuclear warheads would be increased from 180 to 260 – an increase of 44%.

This unexpected increase ends three decades of gradual reductions in UK nuclear weapons and constitutes a threat to the entire global community, risking a new nuclear arms race and the possibility of a nuclear war.

States and politicians across the world have expressed their opposition to this move – and we thank Gensuikyo for being among the many in the peace movement who sent protest messages to the British government.

The government has also reversed a previous policy of transparency about the operational warhead stockpile and the numbers of warheads per missile and per submarine. Now the only information we have is the stockpile cap.

The long-standing policy that the UK would not use nuclear weapons against a non-nuclear member of the NPT could also change in the event of a threat from “weapons of mass destruction ... or emerging technologies that could have a comparable impact.”

In response, CND commissioned a Legal Opinion authored by legal experts Professor Christine Chinkin and Dr Louise Arimatsu. Their findings show a clear breach of Article VI of the NPT which Britain ratified in 1970.

They also state that the UK would be in breach of international law were it to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons in self-defence solely on the grounds that the future threat of weapons of mass destruction or emerging technologies, could have a comparable impact to nuclear weapons.

The whole Trident replacement programme is also a material breach of the NPT requirement that states should pursue effective negotiations in good faith to end the nuclear arms race.

We also recognise that the threat or use of nuclear weapons, which cause indiscriminate death and destruction, violates fundamental rules of international humanitarian law, the law of armed conflict and the UN Charter.

We are therefore reporting the UK government to the UN for breaching its Treaty commitments.

The UK also cut its international aid budget by £5 billion per year - about the same amount it spends on nuclear weapons – and last November Boris Johnson announced an additional £16.5 billion in military spending over the next four years. A 10% annual increase - the largest in 30 years.

All this is increasing global tensions merely to reinforce his vision of a ‘global Britain’ remaining a significant force in the world.

Today in the towns and cities of Britain, CND groups are gathering to remember the destruction and suffering of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and pledging to work for nuclear disarmament.

On behalf of them all, I wish you every success for your conference – and for your future campaigns. We will continue to work with you, as we have for so many years now, and continue the struggle to remove the threat of nuclear weapons and ensure that there are no more Hiroshimas and no more Nagasakis.



Oleg Bodrov
Film director/ Public Council of the South
Coast of the Gulf of Finland
Russia

Kon'nichiwa!

Dear participants of the conference!

Today I am sending you words of greetings and support from the Russian nuclear city of Sosnovy Bor on the shores of the Baltic Sea. It is 7 thousand kilometers from Hiroshima.

I analyze the political trends of recent years and see that the tragedy of Hiroshima may repeat itself here. In my city, reactors for nuclear submarines are being tested. The world's oldest nuclear reactors of the Chernobyl type operate here. New military and civilian nuclear installations are under construction now.

At the same time the Russia – NATO military confrontation line runs only 70 km from this location, one of the largest nuclear clusters in the world. Numerous military maneuvers on land and at sea are being conducted on both sides of this confrontation line.

A German peace activist has published possible scenarios of military actions developed by NATO generals. There is a scenario of NATO use of nuclear weapons on the Russian coast of the Baltic Sea. In this scenario, one assumes that my

city with more than a dozen nuclear and radiation hazardous facilities may end up in the theater of operations in the event of a conflict between Russia and NATO.

The President of Russia has publicly stated that in the event of a NATO attack using nuclear weapons from Europe, a retaliatory nuclear strike could be delivered not only on the European territory from where the missile came from, but also in the center of the decisions being made, that is, on the United States.

If this happens, it may become not only a collapse of the traditional way of life for 100 million people in 9 countries around the Baltic, including Russia. In fact, this could be the beginning of a world nuclear war.

I, my Russian colleagues, friends of the peace movement from Finland, Sweden, Germany, and other countries of the Baltic region, are concerned about the confrontation between NATO and Russia in the Baltic.

We have asked colleagues and partners in the Baltic region to support a petition addressed to the heads of state and government of the Baltic region. It was signed by over 130 representatives of peace and environmental non-governmental organizations. We called on the leaders of the Baltic region countries, including Russia, as well as NATO member states, to organize in 2025 an international conference on creating confidence-building measures, non-confrontation, and the subject of using atomic weapons.

It is known that in 2025 there will be the 50th anniversary of the final meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). The leaders of the leading world powers signed a document that ensured the inviolability of state borders after World War II and reduced the risks of using nuclear weapons.

I appeal to you, participants of the conference in Hiroshima and Nagasaki: please support our initiative to organize such an international governmental conference! It is possible in the next 4 years to prepare such an international summit if we in Japan, Russia, the United States, and other nuclear countries motivate politicians to do it! It is advisable for you and me to lobby for the signing of the "Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons" at this conference.

Gensuikyo and the Japanese movement against A and H bombs have a wealth of international experience of solidarity in the world. Let's unite to advance the new Helsinki Meeting on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the World in 2025.

What is happening now on the shores of the Baltic is a long-term negative trend. Since the

signing of the 1975 Helsinki Declaration, the countries of Eastern Europe have become members of NATO.

The militarization of public consciousness is being cultivated in Russia. Numerous military exercises and parades take place. The citizens of Russia are being told that we are surrounded by enemies and that it is necessary to speed up military preparations.

Over the past 10 years, Russia's spending on nuclear weapons has increased 2.1 times. At the same time, the United States remains the absolute leader in spending on atomic weapons. Its costs in 2019, according to ICAN, were \$35.4 billion.

All the other 8 nuclear countries spend together about the same amount. This means that in the year the Covid-19 pandemic began, that the nuclear countries, according to the International Peace Bureau, spent about \$140,000 EVERY MINUTE to prepare for the nuclear destruction of each other! And these costs only increase every year.

Funds for the preparation of nuclear destruction occur when, according to the World Health Organization, the death toll from the coronavirus in the world is higher than official statistics and may range from 6 to 8 million people worldwide.

Instead of pooling efforts and resources to combat this global threat, the politicians of the nuclear countries continue to use the pandemic to intensify confrontation. This is contrary to the interests of our inhabitants of planet Earth from Japan, Russia, the United States, and other countries.

Dear participants of the conference, we, the inhabitants of the Baltic region, are in solidarity with you and say there must be no more Hibakushas either in Japan or in any other country on our planet.

Arigato!



Ludo de Brabander
Vrede
Belgium

NATO and Nuclear arms

Dear Ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak at this important 2021 World Conference against A and H Bombs about the nuclear sharing policy of NATO in Europe.

Four years ago, after several years of negotiations, 122 countries voted in favour of the new Ban Treaty ([Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons \(TPNW\)](#)). Unfortunately, 69 nations did not vote at all. They didn't even take part in the negotiations. Among them the nuclear weapon states and all NATO members except the Netherlands that voted against as only country.

NATO: nuclear alliance

NATO and governments of member states claim that the TPNW is incompatible with the [Non-Proliferation Treaty](#) (NPT) and even undermines it. It is important to recall that a key motivation of the states that negotiated the TPNW was to take forward the implementation of the nuclear disarmament obligations of article VI of the NPT. This intention is also clearly stated in the preamble of the TPNW. Article VI of the NPT legally obliges all states parties to pursue "negotiations" and "effective measures" "on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control". That is exactly what the TPNW does. The research services division of the German federal parliament, wrote in a detailed paper in January 2021: "The TPNW does not undermine the NPT; it is part of a common nuclear disarmament architecture."

Nevertheless, despite the obligations under article VI of the NPT, most NATO member states as well as all nuclear states, have been boycotting

the negotiations. Worse, NATO started a disinformation campaign with the false claim that the Ban Treaty undermines the nuclear disarmament regime.

The real reason is that NATO fears the treaty as a threat to the organization's political unity over its nuclear strategy. According to NATO: "Nuclear weapons are a core component of NATO's overall capabilities for deterrence and defence, alongside conventional and missile defence forces. NATO is committed to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, but as long as nuclear weapons exist, it will remain a nuclear alliance."

However, NATO defined itself only recently – at the Lisbon NATO Summit in 2010 – as a nuclear alliance. In NATO's earliest years, nuclear weapons were in fact not even mentioned in the alliance's strategic concepts. Nuclear arms were considered as a responsibility of NATO's individual nuclear states. Only the last decade, NATO accepted a strategic concept in which it considered itself a 'nuclear alliance'.

The collectivization of nuclear responsibility

From the 1960s, the US began to deploy nuclear weapons in other NATO member states, giving them a role in the planning and preparation of nuclear war. In the years that followed, all countries except France became involved in the nuclear deterrent policy, which was increasingly defined as a form of alliance solidarity. The reason? International support among the population for nuclear disarmament grew. This led to [the collectivization of political responsibility for nuclear weapons](#).

Why? First, the nuclearization of NATO as an organizational identity allowed pro-nuclear actors to justify costly nuclear modernization programs and nuclear deployments as contributions to alliance "solidarity" and "cohesion". Second, this nuclearization of NATO undercut the potential for intra-alliance resistance to nuclear arms. Calls for nuclear disarmament could thus be seen as anti-NATO.

Nuclear sharing became a core component of NATO's strategy. Of the three nuclear powers in NATO (France, the United Kingdom and the United States), only the United States has nuclear arms in other member states: Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey.

Currently, the US has about 150 tactical B61 gravity bombs deployed in those countries. They have to be mounted into (not in Turkey) dual capable aircraft (DCA) in war time. This can be considered as a transfer or control by non-nuclear states of nuclear arms which is in breach with the non-proliferation treaty (NPT) of 1970. The NPT

prohibits the direct or indirect transfer or control of nuclear weapons to non-nuclear states.

These bombs will soon be replaced by new B61-12 bombs. They are equipped with an electronic tail kit that can guide the bomb to its target.

They have also lower yield options. The mixture of both, precision and lower yield options could be seen by war planners as [more useable](#) allowing some targets that previously would not have been attacked because of too much collateral damage to be attacked anyway. This is a very dangerous development. The new B61-12 will increase the danger of a war with nuclear weapons eroding the concept of 'deterrence'.

European population opposes nuclear weapons

According to [recent surveys in several European countries](#), a majority of the population in Europe is in favour of a ban on nuclear weapons. This is what 77% of those surveyed want in Belgium, 89% in Spain, 87% in Italy, 78% in the Netherlands and Denmark. The challenge for the peace movement is to translate that support from the population into political pressure and to get nuclear weapons back high on the political agenda. We must not miss that opportunity because in a few years' time the new B61-12 bombs will be deployed in Europe.

The world is at a crossroads and Europe has to make a strategic choice: remain part of the arms race or demonstrate global leadership by promoting a peaceful approach towards common global security.

Last year European peace organisations started a new "[nuke free Europe](#)" campaign against NATO's nuclear sharing policy aiming for the removal of all nuclear weapons in Europe. During the month of September, in Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy and the UK there will be actions near military bases with US nuclear weapons. Our first goal is to get the nuclear arms back on the political agenda and to raise awareness among other movements (trade unions, the climate movement, women and youth movement) about the planetary threat of nuclear weapons and the need to act.

A first condition is to end nuclear ambiguity which means that the governments of the nuclear sharing countries acknowledge that nuclear weapons are deployed on its territories, which is not the case until today. We need a free and open democratic discussion so that the presence nuclear weapons in the sharing countries can politically and legally be contested. Secondly, we need a clear political commitment and time schedule for European nuclear disarmament, starting with

negotiations between the US/NATO and Russia to dismantle US nuclear bombs followed by agreements on nuclear disarmament in France, UK and at least the European part of Russia. Once nuclear disarmament is reached Europe can legally become a nuclear weapon free zone. At the same time the door is open for European countries to fulfil their obligations under the NPT and to sign and ratify the TPNW.

To recall the iconic slogan of Greenpeace: "No time to waste!"



Yasui Masakazu Secretary General, Japan Council against A & H Bombs (Gensuikyo)

I warmly welcome you to the online International Meeting of the 2021 World Conference against A and H Bombs.

It is 76 years since Hiroshima and Nagasaki were devastated by atomic bombings. This is a memorable World Conference as it is the first one to be held since the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

The common theme of this World Conference is: "With the Hibakusha, let us achieve a nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world – for the future of humankind and our planet." It expresses our determination to realize a hopeful post-pandemic world. From today, let us work together to bring success to the World Conference as a conference to renew solidarity and cooperation.

Historic significance of the TPNW

On January 22, the TPNW entered into force, making nuclear weapons illegal and banning all nuclear weapon-related activities, including their use, as an international norm. This marks a great step forward toward the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The treaty's entry into force is an epoch-

making success. It was made possible by joint efforts of the World Conference, which has for more than 60 years called for a total ban and elimination of nuclear weapons, and of the Hibakusha from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as an overwhelming majority of the world's governments and civil society.

The adoption and entry into force of the TPNW is a testimony to the fact that the key players of international politics are the majority of the world's governments and grassroots civil society, not a handful of great powers. At last year's UN General Assembly, 130 countries voted in favor of a resolution calling for countries to join the TPNW. They represent two-thirds of the UN membership.

Each increase in the number of states ratifying the treaty heightens its authority and puts pressure to bear on the nuclear weapon possessing countries. If more than half of the UN membership (97 countries) ratify the treaty, nuclear-weapon states will be further isolated.

The United States, Russia, China, and other nuclear powers are hostile to the TPNW and have refused to join it. They are increasingly clinging to nuclear weapons and strengthening nuclear deterrence.

The nuclear-weapon states are brandishing nuclear weapons, giving priority to defending "their own security" instead of ensuring the survival of humankind. This is unacceptable to the international community. The preamble to the TPNW points out "the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would result from any use of nuclear weapons" and states that "the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons cannot be adequately addressed." It is clear that clinging to nuclear weapons goes against reason.

The TPNW has the power to defeat nuclear deterrence theory.

As we work to achieve a world without nuclear weapons, we must stop any attempt to use nuclear weapons. Let us build up overwhelming public support for the TPNW and isolate the nuclear-weapon states.

People's power to end pro-nuclear politics

Opposition to the nuclear-weapon states and the states relying on nuclear weapons is the key to preventing nuclear weapons from being used and advancing toward the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Since the TPNW was adopted in 2017 at the UN conference, public opinion urging the government to join the treaty has been growing in the United States, NATO allies, as well as in Japan. Everywhere, seventy to eighty percent of the people are in favor of their governments' accession

to the TPNW.

Next year, the first meeting of States Parties to the TPNW will be held in Vienna. It will provide an important launching pad for the further development of the global movement toward the elimination of nuclear weapons. Its success or failure depends on the effort of civil society to develop the movement and public opinion in each country. Civil society will also be invited as observers to attend the Vienna meeting.

I call on you to take actions around the world and rally around the meeting of States Parties in order to make it a turning point toward a total ban and the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The movement in Japan, the only atomic-bombed country, should take a lead

In Japan, the House of Representatives election is held in fall.

In this general election we will fight to make Japan, the only country to have suffered nuclear attack, join the TPNW and stand at the forefront of the movement to eliminate nuclear weapons.

The Japanese government has persistently opposed the TPNW, turning its back on the international community's expectations of the only atomic-bombed country and also on the desires of the Hibakusha and the people. At a Japan-US summit in April, Japanese Prime Minister Suga Yoshihide promised US President Joe Biden that Japan will bolster its own national defense capabilities in exchange for the strengthening of extended deterrence, commonly referred to as the US "nuclear umbrella."

The Suga government's dependence on "nuclear deterrents" only helps to increase the danger of nuclear weapons being used in Asia and puts the Japanese people's lives at risk.

If Japan is to defend the peace and security of the country and the people, it is imperative that it end its dependence on the "nuclear umbrella." If we establish a government that joins the TPNW, it will end Japan's security policy of depending on the "nuclear umbrella" and contribute to the abolition of nuclear weapons and to the peace and security of Japan and the rest of Asia.

An opinion survey shows that 70 percent of the Japanese people support the TPNW and call on Japan to join the treaty. The number of local legislatures that have adopted resolutions urging the central government to join the treaty has reached 593, or 33 percent of all local assemblies.

Last fall, we started a nationwide signature drive, which was launched by prominent Japanese figures from various areas to urge the government of Japan, the only atomic bombed country, to sign and ratify the TPNW. The signature drive was

initiated by Hibakusha from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, former Foreign Ministry and Defense Ministry officials, and many prominent figures from a wide range of fields—political, economic, social, cultural, religious, scientific, entertainment, and sports. Even under the constraints of the coronavirus pandemic, 640,000 signatures have been collected.

On July 7, marking the fourth anniversary of the adoption of the TPNW, we ran an opinion advertisement in The Asahi Shimbun, a major Japanese national paper, calling for signatures to urge the Japanese government to join the Treaty. A survey of the newspaper found that 4.5 million people, or 80 percent of the total readers, read the

ad, and more than three million people, or 60 percent of the readers, said they gained an awareness of the TPNW. More than 4,500 readers gave their online signatures. Joint action in the signature drive is increasing at the prefectural level.

Convinced of the growing public awareness and broadening movement, we are determined to further expand joint actions regardless of differences of thought, creed, or political orientation, to develop cooperation from the grass-roots in making Japan join the TPNW, and to mobilize overwhelming public opinion to create major changes to Japan’s politics.

Thank you for your attention.

NATIONAL PARKS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
PARKONVERSATIONS

NURTURING BRIDGES OF PEACE
 Remembering the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Bombings

with
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 Vice President, International Peace Bureau

AG SAÑO
 Artist and Peace Advocate
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ANN ANGALA
 Author and Sustainable Lifestyle Advocate
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9 August 2021 (Monday) , 6:00 PM
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Session II:

Actions in Asia for achieving a total prohibition of nuclear weapons

Introductory Reports:



Joseph Gerson
President, Campaign for Peace, Disarmament
and Common Security
U.S.A.

In a Dangerous Time: Toward Preventing a Disastrous U.S.-China War

I want to thank Gensuikyo for the opportunity to join today's World Conference plenary. It is an honor to be sharing this digital stage with Lee-san, Cuong and Achin.

U.S.-Chinese relations are worse than at any time since the renewal of relations began in the early 1970s. As in the late 1940s, we are witnessing, and suffering, the restructuring of the global disorder into a new, extremely dangerous, and totally unnecessary confrontation analogous, but not identical, to the Cold War. As Zhu Zhiquan, my colleague at the Committee for a SANE U.S.-China Policy has written, "the Biden Administration has convinced itself that China is an existential threat to US national interests and...must be pushed back at all costs." Trump, and now Biden, Blinken and others, blinded by their self-righteousness, have forged a new Washington and national consensus: China poses an existential threat to freedom and democracy around the world; therefore the U.S. must aggressively defend freedom and democracy – militarily, diplomatically, technologically, and otherwise.

That the U.S. has enforced an Asia-Pacific empire since 1898, that human rights do not exist in

Guantanamo, that racist Republicans – like Modi, Washington's new partner in India – are disenfranchising minority voters, and that the U.S. is deeply allied with repressive governments around the world are inconvenient truths consigned to an Orwellian memory hole.

At root are the inevitable tensions between rising and declining powers, the Thucydides Trap, that many times in history has climaxed in catastrophic wars. Compounding the Cold War analogy, there are disturbing parallels to the years before WWI: tensions between rising and declining powers, complex alliance structures – now including the QUAD, intense nationalism with attendant hatreds, territorial disputes, arms races with new technologies, international economic integration and competition, autocracies, and wild-card actors.

Like the 1914 Sarajevo gunshots, an incident, accident, or miscalculation – a collision of warships in the South or East China Seas or near Taiwan – could escalate to a major, potentially nuclear, war.

China's economic transformation is the foundation for its aggressive diplomacy and increasingly advanced military. The deepening integration of Asian and Pacific economies with China's, Beijing's aggressive actions in the South China/West Philippine Sea, and its area denial air and cyber capabilities increasingly call into question Washington's long-term ability to continue its Indo-Pacific dominance.

Like Obama, and Trump before them, the Biden Administration, Congress and much of the country remain rooted in the self-defeating ideologies of U.S. exceptionalism, manifest destiny, which in turn feeds anti-Asian racism. Meanwhile, China's leaders, marked by the nation's century and a half of humiliations, are in no mood to back down as they seek to fulfill General Secretary Xi's China Dream, restoring China to its leading historic role.

Trump doubled down on the Obama pivot to the Asia-Pacific with his administration's 2018 National Defense Strategy. The Strategy which shapes all U.S. military planning, and now NATO's, reduced military commitments to the Middle East and prioritized planning and preparations for possible great power war.

The Biden Administration has since issued its Interim Strategic Guidelines, which are consistent

with the Trump Strategy. China remains a “strategic competitor. Preparations for possible great power war against China or Russia remain the Pentagon’s and the ‘all government’ priority. This and the commitments to contain and manage China’s rise should come as no surprise with Kurt Campbell, lead author of the Obama era Pivot to Asia and the Pacific doctrine the lead figure making U.S. Indo-Pacific policies in the National Security Council. The Administration’s “get tough” approach to China was previewed in the confrontational run up to the Anchorage mini summit. June’s NATO summit formalized adoption of the NATO 2030 doctrine, which makes containment of China one of the alliances two priorities. Beginning with the dispatch of an aircraft carrier fleet to the South China/West Philippine Sea within days of Biden’s inauguration, the administration has engaged in provocative military operations, and Biden’s record high military budget spells danger as well as jobs and profits.

One change from the Trump era is the priority Biden gives to reinforcing U.S. military power with alliances. Prime Minister Suga and President Moon were the first foreign heads of state invited by Biden to Washington. Secretaries Blinken and Austin met with their QUAD alliance partners before confronting their Chinese counterparts in Anchorage, and a QUAD summit is scheduled for September. Biden has reaffirmed the U.S. “ironclad” commitment to its alliance with South Korea, its military backing to Japan’s Senkaku/Diaoyu Island claims, and to the military defense of the Philippine interests in the South China/West Philippine Sea.

Taiwan is the Indo Pacific’s most dangerous flashpoint. Neither side wants war, but accidents and miscalculations happen. While U.S. support for the island’s liberal democracy is a major source of tension with authoritarian China, two geostrategic realities lie at the heart of great power tensions over the island. Like Cuba, just 90 miles from Florida where the 1962 introduction of Soviet missiles sparked the Cuban Missile Crisis, Taiwan is 100 miles from the Chinese mainland. It is thus seen as a source of Chinese military vulnerability. Taiwan is also the world’s leading source of advanced semiconductors on which the U.S., Chinese and Japanese economies depend. These make the island a coveted strategic prize.

China has long been clear about its red line in Taiwan. Despite Beijing’s repeated preference for peaceful reunification with what it calls its ‘renegade province’, it has long been clear that if Taipei takes irreversible steps toward de jure independence, it will respond militarily.

Biden and Blinken have thus been playing with fire. For the first time since the renewal of U.S.-Chinese relations in 1979, Taiwan’s functional

ambassador to the U.S. was invited to January’s presidential inauguration. Contrary to Washington’s five-decades old commitment to a one-China policy and to “strategic ambiguity” regarding U.S. commitments to defend Taiwan, Blinken has trumpeted Washington’s “rock solid” commitment to Taiwan’s defense. This, when polls indicate that increasing the U.S. commitments to defend Taiwan fuels Taiwanese support for independence. This, in turn, pushes the limits toward China’s red line.

Biden has repeatedly dispatched warships to the Taiwan Strait, and dispatched a so-called “unofficial” delegation of former top officials to meet with senior Taiwanese leaders. Guidelines that long restricted U.S. diplomats from meeting their Taiwanese counterparts are being revised to encourage such meetings. And discussions are proceeding for the likely deployment of a permanent U.S. naval presence near Taiwan.

We need to bear in mind that China is no innocent. In addition to Beijing’s repression of human rights in Hong Kong, Xinjiang and elsewhere, its People’s Liberation Army welcomed the Biden Administration by repeatedly sending warplanes into Taiwan’s air space and warships into Taiwanese waters. It interfered with Taiwan’s efforts to obtain Covid vaccines, and General Secretary Xi marked the Chinese Communist Party’s 100th anniversary by stressing the importance of “peaceful reunification” with Taiwan as a principle for China’s “national rejuvenation.”

The situation is no better in the South China/West Philippine Sea, where even the Pentagon recognizes that China’s defining military doctrine is “strategic defense.” Encircled by hundreds of U.S. military bases and installations and by the U.S. Navy’s 7th Fleet, in total disregard of other nations with legitimate claims and of international law, China has expanded its South China Sea defense perimeter with its neo-imperial nine-dash line and construction of military bases on disputed rocks and islets. In the imperial tradition of great powers, China is mimicking the U.S. Monroe Doctrine that has been the foundation of U.S. Western Hemisphere hegemony.

The Sea’s 17.7 billion tons of crude oil makes it the world’s fourth largest oil reserve. Add to that its massive amounts of natural gas, and other minerals. Of greater strategic importance is the fact that the Sea lies astride sea lanes over which 40% of the world’s trade transits, including the fossil fuels that power the Chinese, Japanese and South Korean economies. Much like the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf throughout the 20th century, the Sea functions as the jugular vein of the world’s most dynamic capitalist economies. Were the Malacca Strait or its other sea lanes to be blockaded, the region’s economies would face disaster. The Sea is thus this century’s

geostrategic center of the struggle for world power.

Add to all of this the Sea's waves lap against China's most vulnerable frontier – its coastal economic powerhouse.

To reinforce U.S. regional hegemony, Presidents Obama, Trump and now Biden have encouraged resistance to China's South China Sea territorial claims and have conducted frequent and provocative "freedom of navigation," (FONOP) naval and air forays near the disputed islands occupied by China. As a Chinese Maritime think tank reported, in 2020, the U.S. military exerted "maximum pressure" in the South China Sea" with "unprecedented" Navy and Air Force deployments to the area. U.S. aircraft carriers, destroyers and their supporting fleets conducted more FONOP forays near China's militarized islets than ever before.

Consistent with its alliance strategy, the 7th fleet is now being joined by British, French, German, Dutch, and Japanese warships. China, too, has been conducting its naval drills, the most offensive being its deployment of more than 200 ships, ostensibly fishing trawlers, that have blocked access to Whitsun Reef, within the Philippine's Exclusive Economic Zone.

U.S. and Chinese warships operating aggressively in close and sometimes dangerous proximity to one another are invitations to potentially deadly accidents and miscalculations. Given the stakes of the competition and power of nationalist forces each country, we should not underestimate the danger of an incident unleashing forces that cannot be politically contained.

A new and global Cold War with China or, worse, a hot and potentially nuclear war with China, are the last things that humanity needs. Instead of the U.S., Japanese, NATO, and Chinese military ratcheting up potentially deadly tensions, human survival demands overcoming vested interests and the pursuit of diplomatic solutions to stubborn and impacted disputes.

We cannot establish a nuclear weapons-free world if no one is left to create it . That means organizing to prevent great power nuclear war and the nuclear winter. As we learned from the Palme Commission's 1982 Common Security report, which provided the paradigm that led to the INF Treaty and ended the U.S.-Soviet Cold War before the collapse of the Berlin Wall, security cannot be achieved via spiraling arms races with a nation's rival. It can only be achieved by creating mutual trust and pursuing mutually beneficial diplomacy. Common Security is not peace, or nuclear weapons abolition, but it can prevent catastrophic war and open the way for nuclear disarmament, collaboration to reverse the climate emergency and to address this and future pandemics.

Toward these ends, demands in or organizing

should include:

- U.S. adoption of a no first use nuclear war fighting doctrine, renewed military to military consultations to prevent miscalculations, and credible U.S. and Chinese steps toward fulfilling their Article VI NPT obligation.
- Ending ALL provocative and dangerous military shows of force.
- Honoring the one-China formula and encouraging Chinese-Taiwanese negotiations
- Engaging the ASEAN Regional Forum to renew U.S.-Chinese-ASEAN multilateral negotiations, including a binding Southeast Asian Code of Conduct regarding military operations in the South China/West Philippine Sea and for joint development of the sea's mineral resources.
- Nuclear umbrella states signing and ratifying the TPNW to put pressure on all the nuclear weapons states.

Thank you for your attention. May we prevail in our collective efforts to prevent nuclear war, ban all nuclear weapons, assist nuclear weapons victims, reverse the climate emergency, and stanch this and future pandemics.



Tsuchida Yayoi
Assistant General Secretary
Japan Council against A and H Bombs

Japan is witnessing before its very eyes the intensification of the US-China military confrontation. Claiming sovereignty over the South China Sea and the East China Sea, China is strengthening its effective control of the region in violation of international law, as seen in the building of military bases. In response to these hegemonic maneuvers, the US has strengthened its global containment against China, mobilizing its allies, Japan, South Korea, Australia and India, as well as NATO member states such as UK and France. As Joseph Gerson says, if a military conflict occurs accidentally, there is a danger of it escalating into a large-scale war between big powers and even the use

of nuclear weapons.

While the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) has come into force and the overwhelming majority of countries and people in the world are trying to move to a world free of nuclear weapons, humanity is still under the threat of nuclear extinction. Nuclear armed states are turning their backs on the TPNW, sticking to nuclear deterrence, modernizing nuclear weapons and intensifying the arms race.

Great powers should fulfil their responsibilities

In recent years, it is said that nuclear weapons and climate change are global risks threatening the survival of humankind and the earth. Faced with these crises, people all over the world are crying out for measures to resolve them. I feel indignation against nuclear armed states, especially the P5, for prioritizing their own national interest and bringing humanity and the planet to the brink of annihilation. The P5 are permanent members of the UN Security Council. The Security Council's mission is to have primary responsibility for international peace and security under the Charter of the United Nations. We urge these countries to stop hegemonic rivalries and wargames, settle disputes by peaceful means, shift to abolishing nuclear weapons based on the UN Charter, and fulfill their responsibility to protect world peace and security.

Japan is dragged into war and nuclear catastrophe

What is more serious is that the Japan-US summit meeting held on April 16 defined the Japan-US alliance as "the foundation of peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region and the world as a whole," and the government of Japan, as an equal partner of the US, agreed to promote military integration between the two countries.

In the Japan-US joint statement, the US stated its "unwavering support for Japan's defense under the Japan-US Security Treaty using all kinds of US capabilities, including nuclear"; and, being under the US nuclear umbrella, Japan promised to strengthen its defense capabilities.

"The importance of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait" was also confirmed. The Japanese government emphasized this in the context of strengthening the military alliance with the US, and it was agreed that the Self-Defense Forces would "commit" to the "Taiwan emergency." It is clear that if the Self-Defense Forces participate in any US military operations in case of the "Taiwan emergency", Okinawa and the Nansei Islands will be involved in war and turned into battlefields. We must not allow such a catastrophic situation to happen.

While saying that it shares the goal of eliminating

nuclear weapons as a country which suffered the A-bombing, the Japanese government has opposed the TPNW and committed to maintaining nuclear deterrence, entrusting Japan's security to US nuclear weapons. I cannot suppress my anger at seeing the abnormal subordination of the Japanese government to the US, and seeing it forge ahead down the path of dragging its people into war and nuclear disaster. At the UN General Assembly and the NPT conferences, it has distorted the NPT's agreements in its resolutions and spoken for the nuclear weapon states. Disregarding people's suffering from the coronavirus pandemic, the government has promoted such outrages as a record-high defense budget, bulk-buying of US arms, strengthening of deployment to the U.S. military bases stationed in Japan, participation of the Self-Defense Forces in joint military exercises, and attempts to revise Article 9 of the Constitution. We must even more urge the Japanese government to take the lead in the abolition of nuclear weapons, as the only-A-bombed country, and carry out diplomacy based on the UN Charter and the Constitution. For this purpose, the government should abandon military-first policies and break away from the US nuclear umbrella.

TPNW defeats nuclear deterrence theory

In this regard, the TPNW, which came into effect in January this year, has empowered us. The Treaty calls on the world to shift from "peace and security by nuclear deterrence" to "peace and security of a world free of nuclear weapons." It confronts head-on the nuclear deterrence theory that nuclear-weapon states and Japan have advocated. The current crisis facing us is nothing less than the culmination of competition and arms races based on nuclear deterrence by nuclear-weapon states and "nuclear umbrella" states. If the Japanese government joins the Treaty, this will bring about a major shift in its nuclear umbrella and security policy, and will also make a significant contribution to the peace and security of Japan and Asia.

To this end, we must increase public awareness that peace and security cannot be protected by nuclear weapons, and that the US, China, and Japan should stop military-first policies. The signature campaign to urge the Japanese government to sign and ratify the TPNW, which we have been conducting since October last year, plays that role.

The entry into force of the Treaty has also raised the interest and awareness of a wide range of people in Japan. The signature campaign was launched with 137 prominent people from all walks of life as joint proposers, including world-famous musician Ryuichi Sakamoto and former Foreign Minister Makiko Tanaka. On July 7 we posted an opinion advertisement in The Asahi Shimbun, which has 5 million readers. In response, we received a lot of signatures and donations

from a wide range of people saying, "I feel the same way!" In opinion polls, 72% of the population said the government should join the TPNW. As of July 20, 593 local governments have adopted resolutions to urge the government to join the treaty.

Let's develop the movement with the TPNW as leverage

It was announced that the 10th NPT Review Conference, which had been postponed due to the Corona virus pandemic, will be held in January next year. We are determined to put pressure on nuclear-weapon states and umbrella states including Japan to not only fulfill their obligations under Article 6 and the agreements to eliminate nuclear weapons, but also to seriously face the international law of the TPNW and achieve the total prohibition of nuclear weapons. Next year, the First Meeting of State Parties to the TPNW is also scheduled. According to a Kyodo News article dated July 6, Austrian Ambassador Alexander Kmentt indicated that there would be discussion about a proposal for a 10-year deadline for the abolition of nuclear weapons by nuclear powers. This news has raised our expectations greatly.

In Japan, a general election to determine the future of this country will be held in September or October. By generating more public support for the TPNW and encouraging political parties and parliamentarians to strengthen pressure on the government on this issue, we must create changes to Japan's politics leading the government to shift from its stance of subordination to the US and dependence on nuclear deterrence towards joining the TPNW. I am convinced that developing public opinion and the movement, with the TPNW as leverage, is the way to contribute to these decisively important political battles. Let's do our best together.



Lee Jun Kyu
Senior Researcher, Institute for Unification and Peace Policy, Hanshin University
Republic of Korea

Establishing Nuclear-Free and Peaceful Korean Peninsula and East Asia under the TPNW Era

Thank you for inviting me to the International Meeting of the 2021 World Conference against A-H Bombs.

This year's World Conference is taking place in the historical time of the Pandemic era and the TPNW era.

When the 2021 Doomsday Clock was released, Rachel Bronson, the president of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, which has warned of the dangers of climate change for more than a decade, said the coronavirus pandemic served as "a historic wakeup call" that the world is unprepared to deal with complex dangers that threaten human existence, like nuclear risks and climate change.

The pandemic calls on us to transform the international order, which should be based on human security, multilateral cooperation and international solidarity, and the coexistence of human and environment. However, nuclear weapons are at the top of military security, 'my country first' and environmental destruction. Nuclear weapons are the greatest traditional security threat that prevent international cooperation on non-traditional security issues such as epidemics, pollution, disaster, climate crisis, etc. It is the worst absurdity to continue to waste economic, human and social resources in producing, developing and maintaining such weapons.

However, there are still more than 13,000 nuclear warheads on this planet. In particular, the U.S. and Russia, which possess the largest number of nuclear weapons in the world, have been openly pushing forward "nuclear modernization" which means improving the performance of nuclear weapons and even creating "usable nuclear weapons". In March this

year the British government announced a security policy to increase its nuclear arsenal. Nuclear-weapon states, which have neglected the nuclear disarmament stipulated in Article 6 of the NPT, have been leading the nuclear proliferation and encouraging the nuclear arms race.

In the words of Tomas Hajnoczi, who has participated in this world conference, the TPNW has deprived nuclear-weapon states of the monopoly on nuclear disarmament. It will put pressure on nuclear-weapon states to the "full implementation" of nuclear disarmament by establishing the prohibition of nuclear weapons as an international norm and setting up the standard that all countries should actively work to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Power Politics among great powers has nakedly developed in East Asia, especially with the collapse of the Cold War and the rise of China. The US-China confrontation has expanded to all areas, including science & technology, politics, and the military. Moreover, the coronavirus has intensified the confrontation between the two countries and has even sparked the competition for values. Recently, NATO member countries such as the U.K. and France have been involved in major powers' power politics in this region.

There is a strong demand in the U.S. to block the possibility of power shift. The Biden administration is unlikely to change the U.S. policy toward China, even if it attempts some change in the form and pace of its policy compared with the Trump administration.

The US-China (or China versus the US-Japan alliance) confrontation is being developed with tinderboxes such as Senkaku (Chinese name, 'Diaoyudao'), the East China Sea, Taiwan Strait, and the South China Sea. Therefore, there are growing concerns about the dangers of war involving countries in this region. On the other hand, there is also a view that the probability of war between the two countries should not be exaggerated. But even if a full-scale war does not break out, as the US-China conflict worsens, the bloc confrontation will be aggravated, leading to fierce arms race in this region. And its economic, political and human costs will be passed on to Japan and South Korea with a military alliance with the U.S.

Just criticizing U.S. militarism is not enough. We must speak out firmly against all behaviors against peace, including China's provocative military action, and we have to organize collective action based on that position.

In such an international situation, the North Korean nuclear problem is a hot issue. The North Korean nuclear issue has been a factor of instability, especially in Northeast Asia, and at the same time has been a pretext for an arms race. That is why the resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue and the

advancement of the denuclearization-peace process on the Korean Peninsula can bring about a change in the international order in this region.

The denuclearization-peace process on the Korean Peninsula has been at a stalemate since the "Hanoi No Deal" of 2019. Even after the Biden administration announced its policy toward North Korea called a "calibrated and practical approach", North Korea's reaction to it was cold. More recently, it was reported that the north-south communication channel was restored. That is good news, but it is hasty to predict hopefully that the denuclearization-peace process will restart.

More than anything else, the South Korea-U.S. joint military exercise, which North Korea stipulates as a "hostile policy", is scheduled for August. Unless flexible measures are taken against the hostile policies of joint military exercises and sanctions against North Korea, it is difficult to move the denuclearization-peace process forward.

Additionally, it is more feasible to push denuclearization by advancing the "Peace Process" on the Korean Peninsula. North Korea has been obsessed with developing asymmetric warfare capabilities such as nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles to overcome the isolation caused by the collapse of the Cold War at the international level and its inferiority to the military power of South Korea and the South Korea-U.S. alliance.

For these reasons, the process of establishing a peace system, including formally ending the Korean war, concluding a peace agreement, and normalizing North Korea-U.S. relations, are necessary for North Korea to proceed with denuclearization.

However, the progress of the peace process does not automatically lead to denuclearization. North Korea's decision on denuclearization measures is necessary for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The anti-nuclear peace movement should urge North Korea to take measures for denuclearization and actively work to create conditions that will make it possible.

In that sense, establishing the international norm of TPNW, which prohibits nuclear weapons, the use of nuclear weapons, and the threat to use nuclear weapons, is of paramount importance in establishing a Nuclear-Free and Peaceful Korean Peninsula.

Finally, the goal, "Korean Peninsula as a place of peace without nuclear weapons and nuclear threats" agreed by the two Koreas in Pyongyang in September 2018, cannot be achieved only by denuclearizing North Korea. At least at the level of Northeast Asia, it is necessary to create a framework that deals with the nuclear strategies of nuclear states in this region such as the US, China, and Russia, and the U.S. nuclear umbrella, on which South Korea and Japan rely as the

agenda along with the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Northeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone initiative is very meaningful. By realizing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Northeast Asia, the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula can be accelerated and furthermore the denuclearization-peace process of the Korean Peninsula can be extended to create a multilateral cooperation framework based on common security and human security in this region.



Dong Huy Cuong
Secretary General
Vietnam Peace Committee

Distinguished guests,
Dear friends,

I am very happy and honoured to participate in the 2021 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs. First of all, I would like to thank the Organizing Committee to kindly invite me to address this session. May I convey to all distinguished guests, esteemed activists and friends the warmest greetings and sincere sentiments from the Vietnam Peace Committee and Vietnamese people.

Seventy-six years ago, the nuclear disasters in Hiroshima and Nagasaki caused enormous, devastating and lingering consequences to human and the environment. Since then, peace-lovers in Japan and the world over have spared no effort in the struggle for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, leading to the approval of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1968 and Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in 2017. In Southeast Asia, the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) was signed in 1995 and became effective in 1997, expressing the desire of Southeast Asian States to maintain peace and stability in the region and determination to take concrete action to contribute to the progress towards general and complete disarmament of nuclear

weapons. SEANWFZ, together with other nuclear-weapon-free zones are beneficial to the regional dialogues on how to address issues of security concerns.

The Vietnam Peace Committee echoes Vietnam's Government early ratification of the TPNW, as it has done with other similar treaties. It not only demonstrates the country's responsible participation and contribution to the work of the international community to totally abolish nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, but also expresses Vietnamese people's aspiration for a peaceful world.

As you know, the TPNW came into force in January this year. So far, 55 countries have ratified it. It ushers in a major step towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons and becomes an important part of the international disarmament and nonproliferation architecture. This multilateral treaty prohibits the development, testing, production, stockpiling, stationing, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as assistance and encouragement for any the prohibited activities for State Parties. The TPNW also demands victim assistance, environmental remediation, international cooperation and assistance and national implementation.

However, we are all aware that it is far from the total abolition of nuclear weapons as nuclear-weapon states still say "NO" to the treaty. Many countries are still researching, developing, manufacturing, trading in, and threatening to use nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. In addition, growing political confrontation among major powers has paved the way for militarism and arms race, leading to the nuclear-weapon states' refusal to join the TPNW and seeing nuclear deterrence as a "pillar" of their security policy. In Asia-Pacific region, conflicts and disputes in 'hot spots' including the East China Sea and South China Sea (Vietnam's East Sea) with China's excessive maritime claims, continued unilateral military build-up are placing people's lives and livelihood at risks.

Friends,

In an effort to struggle for a world of peace without nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, I would like to make the following proposals:

- All peace movements, people's organisations and peace-lovers worldwide work together to place pressure on all governments, especially nuclear powers to join, sign, ratify, respect and implement the TPNW;
- Promote international and regional treaties, including TPNW and SEANWFZ in order to the expand nuclear weapons-free zones;
- Strengthen cooperation among such international and regional bodies as ASEAN and

IAEA for peace, stability and prosperity;

- Call for peaceful settlement of all disputes in the region and the world, stop the use or threat to use force and fully respect the international laws, including UNCLOS 1982;

- Continue to support the hibakushas and victims of Agent Orange in their life and their struggle for justice. Stories and experience of Hibakusha and Agent Orange victims should be disseminated worldwide in order to raise awareness of the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons and create inspirations for the struggle and effort to achieve a treaty-based prohibition on such weapons of mass destruction.

Friends,

As we see today, after 76 years, the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have revived strongly, becoming a symbol of resilience and vitality of the people and the Land of the Rising Sun. I do hope that this spirit of the Japanese people will be a strong inspiration for us to strive for a world free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. It may take years, even generations, to achieve this ultimate goal. The Vietnam Peace Committee and Vietnamese people will join hands with Hibakushas and Agent Orange victims and all peace movements and progressive forces in the great struggle, especially in such context of COVID-19.

On this occasion, on behalf of the Vietnam Peace Committee, I would like to express our sincere and profound gratitude to Japanese people and peace movements and all international friends for your heartfelt sympathy and valuable support for Vietnam during our struggles for national independence and reunification as well as our national construction and development.

I wish all participants in this meeting and the 2021 World Conference good health, security and happiness. I do hope that the Covid-19 pandemic will end soon and we will meet each other in person in the next World Conference.

Thank you very much.



Achin Vanaik
Founding member, Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace India

1. While it is obvious that India as a declared nuclear power is not willing on its own to join the TPNW how can anti-nuclear activists and movements in India push it in this direction through promotion of nuclear restraint and disarmament measures, regional and global?

2. The first stage is to generate in various ways and activities as much public awareness as possible about the evils of nuclear weapons (NWs) for it is when this effort achieves a critical mass that it becomes possible to exercise enough pressure on the government to carry out desired policy changes. In this regard there is an important difference between the populace in advanced countries like US, Western Europe, Japan and in developing countries like India. In the former, substantial sections of the middle classes, because they are materially speaking fairly comfortable, can become seriously concerned with foreign policy matters concerning the dangers of nuclear rivalries and therefore involved in anti-nuclear movements. In India the vast majority of the population are preoccupied with basic livelihood issues of survival and comfort, so the nuclear question remains much more distant from their mind.

3. We recognize this reality even as we continue our efforts to generate greater opposition to NWs in India and elsewhere. Here, our awareness raising strategy incorporate the following themes.

(i) We highlight the financial and economic wastefulness, indeed criminality of the huge expenditures on maintaining and deploying the nuclear arsenal when such funds should be diverted to addressing basic needs of food availability, healthcare, education, social security, etc.

(ii) Since there are already mass mobilisations and anger against nuclear energy plans and plants, uranium mining, waste disposal sites, etc in different parts of the country, generating greater consciousness of the dangers posed by NWs in these struggles is very

important. Both NWs and nuclear energy are therefore opposed.

(iii) The South Asian situation is uniquely dangerous because of the continuous hot-cold war between India and Pakistan. The likelihood of a military conflict between them escalating to the nuclear level is all too real and greater than anywhere else in the world. We therefore have to push for certain restraint measures that make sense not only to the public in both countries but also to outside governments so as to increase the pressure for their acceptance. Two such proposals are a) setting up a demilitarised zone on both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border overseen by international observers such as the already existing UN Military Observers Group for India-Pakistan (UNMOGIP). b) Neither country deploys its nuclear hardware/software in their respective areas of Kashmir so we should press for declaring Kashmir on both sides a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (NWFZ). This has no operational costs for either government and can be their diplomatic riposte to outside governments claiming South Asia as the world's worst nuclear flashpoint!. As it is, one party in Pakistan, the All Jammu & Kashmir Muslim Conference has in the past supported this call.

4. What about the India-China conflict? This is basically a border dispute which can be solved by territorial give-and-take by both countries. The main obstacle, however, is the US policy of containing China through different alliance structures, including the Quad comprising US-Japan-India-Australia. This is where joint activity and opposition by Civil Society Organisations in these four and other countries against

the militarisation of the Pacific and Indian Ocean waters can play a positive role.

Furthermore, even as India and China are Nuclear Weapons States (NWSs) they are the only two that have adopted a No First Use (NFU) policy. We should press these two along with some other non-nuclear weapons states (NNWSs) to consider organising an international conference calling on the other NWSs to adopt NFU and an unequivocal non-use ever on non-nuclear weapons free states (NNWSs). In fact, China and Russia have established a bilateral NFU pact.

Incidentally, if the Biden Presidency can be pushed to ratify the CTBT, not only will China follow suit but India and Pakistan will immediately join this treaty signing and ratifying it.

5. Finally, let us recognize that the India-Pakistan nuclear face-off threatens all the governments and peoples of South Asia. But only one country in the region, Bangladesh, has signed and ratified the TPNW. Its government as well as activist groups in its society have publicly criticized this nuclearisation. This is why it is the one government that should be approached by representatives from the Nobel prize-winning bodies of ICAN and IPPNW (which has a Bangladesh chapter) as well as from major anti-nuclear organisations elsewhere. Bangladesh can be seriously persuaded to consider applying for membership of an extended Bangkok Treaty (Southeast Asian NWFZ) or move towards a Single State NWFZ status like Mongolia. Either development would be a major political step forward towards promoting greater nuclear sanity in South Asia.



2021 World Conference against A and H Bombs: Hiroshima Day Rally (August 6)



Opening short movie: “Grass-roots voices change the world”

Organizer’s Keynote Report:



Tomida Koji
Drafting Committee Chair/ Professor at
Kwansei Gakuin University

Greetings to all participants in the Hiroshima Day Rally of the 2021 World Conference against A and H Bombs. Allow me on behalf of the

Organizing Committee to deliver the keynote report and also explain the Organizer’s Statement released at the International Meeting of the World Conference on August 2.

The Organizer’s statement at the outset says that this year’s World Conference, which is being held following the historic entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), is going to be a place to renew our pledge to move toward the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, at a time when people all around the world are deepening their concern for the dignity of human lives due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Seventy-six years have elapsed since an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. The bomb devastated the city instantly and took the lives of about 140,000 people by the end of that year. As the statement points out, we must not forget that most of the victims were women, the elderly, children and other innocent citizens. The horrible consequences were likened to “hell on earth.” No other weapons had ever caused such massive and indiscriminate death and destruction. Those who narrowly survived later suffered from delayed effects and heart break, having lost their loved ones. Hibakusha, whose average age is now over 83,

continue to talk about their tragic experiences and warn that “humans and nuclear weapons cannot coexist.” As the Organizer’s statement appeals to the world, this tragedy should never be repeated. Now that we have made an historic achievement in banning nuclear weapons, we should stand up and take action in high spirits for the elimination of nuclear weapons and to ensure the survival of the human race and our future.

The Organizer’s statement sharply points out that humanity is still threatened by the danger of nuclear annihilation. There still exist about 13,000 nuclear warheads in the world. With confrontations and tensions between nuclear powers, the risk of actual use of nuclear weapons is increasing. The United States and Russia are said to keep 2,000 nuclear missiles ready for launch on warning. Also, China, Britain, and France intend to reinforce their respective nuclear arsenals and strengthen nuclear operations. Nuclear flashpoints persist in India, Pakistan, and the Korean Peninsula. The Organizer’s statement correctly points out that the solution of international conflict by peaceful means is the principle of international politics. All parties should abide by the UN Charter and relevant international law and put an end without delay to all armed conflicts and any other actions leading to such conflicts. The ongoing reinforcement, development and deployment of nuclear arsenals must be cancelled immediately. By no means can nuclear weapons defend peace. Military intimidation only increases the risk of the use of nuclear weapons. Facing the reality that there can be no winner in a nuclear war, we must get rid of the dangerous delusion of “nuclear deterrence.”

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entered into force on January 22, making nuclear weapons illegal under international law. As the Organizer’s statement points out, the more countries sign and ratify the TPNW, the more firmly the illegality of nuclear weapons is established. Surrounded by international law, neither nuclear-weapon countries nor countries relying on nuclear weapons can escape from the impacts of this development. We will continue to urge national governments to support and participate in the TPNW and work for its expansion. Building on this treaty, let us move forward to achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The Organizer’s statement says that the nuclear weapons possessing countries must echo the voices of the world that are reflected in the treaty’s entry into force. The Nuclear Five must implement without any further delay their obligation under Article 6 of the NPT to negotiate nuclear disarmament. The NPT Review Conference slated for next year is strictly called upon to confirm and

advance what has been agreed upon, including the “unequivocal undertaking” to achieve the “total elimination” of their “nuclear arsenals”, the establishment of a “framework” to achieve a “world without nuclear weapons”, as well as the establishment of a nuclear weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Let us strongly urge the nuclear weapon states to sincerely fulfill all these agreements and obligations.

As the Organizer’s statement correctly points out, if we are to move forward toward the abolition of nuclear weapons, while preventing their use, it is essential to work both to build international opinion in support of the TPNW and to change national politics in the nuclear-armed states and dependent countries. Since the TPNW took form, we have seen new positive developments linked to the growing public support for the TPNW among NATO members. As the Organizer’s statement strongly demands, it is time now to break away from pro-nuclear weapon politics by building overwhelming public support for joining the treaty.

The Organizer’s statement points out that the choice to be made by Japan, the only country to have suffered a nuclear catastrophe firsthand, will have a far-reaching impact. If the Japanese government supports the TPNW in response to the nationwide demand and breaks away from the reliance on “nuclear deterrence”, it will hugely increase the momentum of the current global movement towards the abolition of nuclear weapons, and such a development will certainly bring a positive change in the increasingly tense Northeast Asian situation. The Organizer’s statement is calling on the nation to act now to build overwhelming public support beyond differences in thought, belief and political affiliation in order to change the current policies that keep rejecting the TPNW. Friends, let us devote all our energies to bring about historic change in politics in the forthcoming general elections. Also, let us develop our movement in solidarity with the movement opposing an attempt to turn Japan into a country that will wage war under the Japan-US military alliance.

In the COVID-19 pandemic, large numbers of people have lost their lives or health and are suffering from widening social gap, poverty and loss of their jobs. At the same time, global spending on the military, including nuclear weapons, has reached 1,981 billion dollars. The Organizer’s statement correctly points out that military strength is useless against the coronavirus pandemic, which has claimed more than 4.2 million lives in the world. The need now is to put all energies into substantial disarmament and a peaceful resolution of disputes and into the effort to contain the pandemic and save people’s lives. The Organizer’s statement stresses

that the entry into force of the TPNW presents the prospect of a world moving away from superpower hegemony and towards an equal participation by all. This has been made possible by the cooperation between civil societies and governments of various countries. We should be convinced of this outcome.

Standing firm on the position I have just mentioned, the Organizer's statement proposes to launch actions on six fronts with a view to attaining a "nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world", a more hopeful world as we emerge from the coronavirus pandemic.

I hope you will respond to this call and renew the determination to stand at the forefront of these actions together with the Hibakusha and younger people who bear the future. By confirming this determination, I conclude my report on behalf of the Organizing Committee. Thank you.

Guest speaker:



Alexander Kmentt
Ambassador/Director, Disarmament,
Arms Control and Non-Proliferation,
Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration
and Foreign Affairs of Austria

Distinguished delegates of the 2021 World Conference against A and H Bombs. It is a great pleasure for me to participate in this Conference again after 2014. Being in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in person at that time was a profound experience for me.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entered into force on January 22, 2021 after the ratification of the 50th state. This is a milestone in multilateral diplomacy and a paradigm shift in international efforts to resolve the nuclear weapons problem. The first resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1946 advocated the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. For the first time, the Ban Treaty now sets an international law prohibiting these weapons,

explicitly based on their catastrophic humanitarian effects and the great risks that the collective practice of nuclear deterrence entails.

The increased international focus on the humanitarian dimension and risks of nuclear weapons - for example at the Vienna conference dedicated to this topic in 2014 - has shown that these effects are much more serious, complex and long-lasting than previously assumed. Such humanitarian consequences are unacceptable if only one nuclear weapon is exploded; they are unimaginable if a nuclear conflict occurs.

At the same time, the risks in connection with the possession of these weapons and the – misguided - belief in the safety and stability of nuclear deterrence are much more considerable than the public is largely aware of. These risks are not only those of nuclear escalation and conflict but also risks of miscalculations or accidents caused by technical or human errors. New technologies such as artificial intelligence, hypersonic weapons and cyber vulnerabilities of nuclear systems add further disconcerting layers of risks. Only last January, the experts of the "Doomsday Clock", which goes back to Albert Einstein, warned that the existential risk posed by nuclear weapons is greater today than it was during the Cold War. Today there are more nuclear actors, more trouble spots and tensions with nuclear escalation potential and massive nuclear modernization programs in all nuclear states. The experts have therefore set the doomsday clock to a worrying 100 seconds before midnight.

The nuclear ban treaty follows the logic that there are no right hands for the wrong weapons, as the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon put it in 2013. The treaty is thus an essential normative supplement and further development of and complement to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which also includes an obligation to nuclear disarmament. However, more than 25 years after the end of the Cold War and 50 years after the NPT came into force, this central condition of the NPT has not been fulfilled by the nuclear weapon states. They seem unwilling or unable to take steps away from their precarious belief that nuclear deterrence can be a sustainable foundation for stability and security. This belief is to the detriment of the security of all.

The TPNW now establishes a clear prohibition norm that is directed against this weapon of mass destruction per se. In this way, the treaty underscores that the overwhelming majority of the international community no longer sees the nuclear status quo and the permanence of the nuclear sword of Damocles over the heads of all humanity as legitimate. In addition, a clear prohibition norm forms the legal basis on which actual disarmament

steps can be taken and the goal of a world without nuclear weapons can be achieved. In the case of other types of weapons, from chemical weapons to biological weapons, anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions, a ban under international law was first established as the basis for the subsequent elimination of these weapons.

The entry into force of the Ban Treaty is, of course, only a first step, especially as the nuclear powers are currently opposing the TPNW and not engaging with the arguments on which the treaty is based. The task now is therefore to strengthen the young treaty and its normative power. In 2017, 122 states adopted the treaty during negotiations and 55 states have already ratified it to date. Each additional treaty accession is an opportunity to demonstrate that the international delegitimization of nuclear weapons is getting bigger and clearer. The arguments about the humanitarian effects of nuclear weapons and their risks are compelling and raise profound questions about the legality, legitimacy and sustainability of an approach to international security based on the threat of mass destruction. With the progressive strengthening of the treaty and the greater commitment of civil society, this line of argument will change the discourse on nuclear weapons and generate pressure to actually and seriously implement the disarmament obligations to which nuclear weapon States are bound to by the NPT.

Dear delegates and members of Japanese civil society,

Early next year, the 1st Meeting of the State Parties of the TPNW will take place. I have been given the great honour and responsibility of presiding over this meeting and facilitating its preparations. These preparations have been going very well so far despite the limitations imposed on us by the pandemic. The State parties and signatories of the TPNW have been clear that they take this conference very seriously and want to use this opportunity to put the implementation of the treaty on a strong and solid track. One very important aspect of the TPNW and a focus at the 1st Meeting of State Parties are the positive obligations of assisting victims and addressing the environmental remediation of nuclear weapons. The Hibakusha have played such an important role in making this a strong element of the TPNW.

We hope at the 1MSP to send a strong political message refocussing on the humanitarian consequences and risks of nuclear weapons. This will be an opportunity for States and civil society to underline the importance of the humanitarian rationale of the TPNW and every participating State and civil society organisation is important to demonstrate the growing support for the treaty and

for moving away from the dangerous and misguided reliance on nuclear weapons.

All States have been invited by the UN Secretary General to attend the conference. TPNW State parties will welcome the participation also of States that currently do not support the TPNW. We want and we need the engagement with those who are still skeptical and stuck in the belief of the necessity of nuclear deterrence. States can, of course, maintain that they do not want to accede to the TPNW, at least in the near term. However, there is no reason or excuse not to engage with the profound humanitarian arguments on which the TPNW rests. I certainly hope that many States that not yet support the TPNW, will therefore come to the 1st Meeting of State Parties in Vienna to participate as observers. In this context, I certainly hope that Japan will decide to participate as an observer. Firstly given Japan's historical role as the only State in which nuclear weapons were used in conflict and, secondly, because of the essential role that the Hibakusha have played in raising awareness and bringing the TPNW about, Japan's participation would be important. Japanese civil society can play a crucial role to make this happen. I look forward to seeing many of you in Vienna.

Distinguished delegates,

The Covid pandemic in particular has shown how vulnerable and fragile our societies are and how our collective security is in truth inextricably linked. The Covid virus will not wipe out humanity, despite all the serious problems we are now facing. Nuclear weapons, on the other hand, do have this potential. The experts of the „Doomsday Clock have thus warned that today's pandemic must be a wakeup call to solve the nuclear weapons conundrum once and for all.

Thank you.

Greetings from Hiroshima Mayor:



Matsui Kazumi
Mayor of Hiroshima City

On the occasion of the 2021 World Conference against A and H Bombs, I would like to extend my message.

On August 6, 1945, a single atomic bomb took so many precious lives and completely destroyed the city of Hiroshima. Having experienced the devastation caused by the atomic bombing, Hiroshima continues to call for a peaceful world without nuclear weapons based on the Hibakusha's sincere wish that "no one else should have to suffer such an experience".

However, turning to the situation of nuclear weapons, more than 13,000 nuclear warheads still exist in the world. Instead of fulfilling their obligation to pursue negotiations on nuclear disarmament in good faith, as mandated by Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), nuclear weapon states are developing and modernizing their nuclear arsenals.

As the world faces the new threat of COVID-19, we are finding that we can respond to this threat by working together in "solidarity". In light of this experience, I believe that we can overcome nuclear weapons, a common threat to humanity, if people of the world continue to stand in solidarity under a shared idea. As the number of people who can talk from personal experience about the tragedy of nuclear weapons decreases, it is important to ensure that the desire for peace is passed on to younger generations, to make the absence of war and nuclear weapons a common value of civil society, and to work to achieve an eternal world peace.

Both the NPT, which entered into force in 1970, and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which entered into force in January 2021, are indispensable for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Future generations should continue to maintain the framework formed by these treaties. However, the trends have been uncertain. In order for the world's leaders to confirm their determination to effectively operate this framework, it is increasingly necessary to build a major trend for peace by fostering awareness of peace in civil society, generating international public opinion for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and encouraging politicians of each country to change their policies. In that sense, this year's holding of the World Conference against A & H Bombs is highly meaningful, as a forum where you disseminate your appeal for achieving a peaceful world without nuclear weapons, both inside and outside Japan. I would like to express my deep respect for your efforts.

The City of Hiroshima, together with more than 8,000 member cities of Mayors for Peace in 165 nations and regions, will do its utmost to create an environment that supports leaders taking actions

for the abolition of nuclear weapons. I sincerely hope that you will continue to work for the abolition of nuclear weapons, which are "absolute evil," and for the realization of an eternal world peace.

In closing, I wish the conference great success, and everyone the best of health and good luck with your activities.

Appeal by the Hibakusha:



Mimaki Toshiyuki National Board member Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo)

My name is Mimaki Toshiyuki from Hiroshima, representing Nihon Hidankyo.

Eighty years ago, with what thought did the Japanese military decide to launch a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor? A handful of politicians and military officials pushed Japan into the war, which took many people's lives and properties until it ended in August 15, 1945. The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were the finishing blow of a war that this country started. The lives of little children and infants had to end just two or three years after their births were blessed by their families. How did A-bomb orphans survive without their parents? The stories of these children touch our hearts deeply.

Under the militarist ideology, the precious lives of these human beings had to end 76 years ago. Is there any way for us to take actions globally to eliminate nuclear weapons and bring about a peaceful world?

I hope that politicians of each country in the world learn from the tragedy that took place in Hiroshima and Nagasaki 76 years ago. Who would have imagined that 76 years after August 6, 1945, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons would enter into force in the United Nations?

What was Hiroshima like on that day? What did people in Hiroshima have to go through? What

was it like in areas around 1 km, 10 km, and 50 km from the hypocenter? Events that happened 76 years ago are not an “old story” or a “fairy tale”. When the A-bomb exploded, its temperature rose to 3 or 4 thousand degrees Celsius. At the moment of the explosion, a blast of several hundred thousand atmospheres was generated, blowing people away. The blast collapsed buildings, people were trapped underneath, and many of them were burnt to death in huge fires. Even if they survived that day, many of those who were badly burnt died within a few days. People who came into Hiroshima to rescue A-bomb victims were exposed to invisible radiation. By the end of that year, about 140,000 people had lost their lives.

On March 10, 1945, the Great Tokyo Air Raid killed 100,000 people in one night. At that time, I was three years old and living in Tokyo’s Itabashi Ward with my parents and my newborn brother. If the Japanese military had declared defeat at that point, there would have been no suicide missions by young soldiers, no ground battle in Okinawa, and no atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I must say that crimes committed by the Japanese military were infinite.

Right now, about 14,000 nuclear weapons exist in the world. The preamble of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was adopted by the United Nations in July 2017, states, “Mindful of the unacceptable suffering of and harm caused to the victims of the use of nuclear weapons

(hibakusha).” The Treaty prohibits the development, possession, use, and threat of use of nuclear weapons.

The Treaty entered into force thanks to the efforts of more than 50 countries. But nuclear weapons states and countries that rely on their nuclear umbrella, including Japan, have not signed or ratified it.

Please imagine what would have happened to you if you had been in Hiroshima on August 6, 76 years ago. Look at the sky over Hiroshima. Imagine the scene of the B-29 bomber Enola Gay flying in and dropping an atomic bomb. Unless we eliminate nuclear weapons, the most dangerous of weapons, from the earth, it is impossible for us human beings to survive.

If human beings could be born again, I would want every single person who had to die in the A-bombing to be reborn and come back to Hiroshima. I would want them to enjoy watching TV and riding the Shinkansen train. The love between parents and children, the love between husband and wife, opportunities for children to learn, and family bonds were cruelly taken away from them. When I think about it, it makes me feel great pain and sadness. I cannot help crying.

We must prevent nuclear weapons from destroying the world.

For the sake of humanity, with a strong will, let us continue to earnestly call for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

* * * * *

Session 1: “Joint efforts for a nuclear weapon-free world”:



Beatrice Fihn
Executive Director, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)

Hi everyone, I’m Beatrice Fihn, the Executive Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, ICAN.

First let me say thank you for having me here, and thank you to for organizing this important conference on a topic that really is one of the most pressing global issues to solve.

It is always really fantastic to see how committed people in Hiroshima are to abolishing nuclear weapons. The energy and passion that Japanese people bring to this issue, inspires our entire global movement.

It is not surprising — Hiroshima knows better than anyone the consequences of nuclear bombs. But it is not just the hibakusha that know this, not just the people who lived through the experience and the rebuilding of this cities from the ashes that know this — but also regular citizens today, including young people, carry the stories with them, and carry the passion to make sure this is never done to anyone else again. Japanese people know the cost of nuclear weapons, and are dedicated to eliminating them.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki are cities of hope. They have emerged from the ashes of nuclear darkness to become beacons of light for the rest of

the world. It inspires me that we can do the same with this campaign to ban nuclear weapons worldwide.

The risk for nuclear weapons use is even greater today than at the end of the Cold War. But unlike the Cold War, today we face many more nuclear armed states, terrorists, and cyber warfare. All of this makes us less safe.

Modernization of nuclear arsenals are undergoing, increase of warheads, unravelling of arms control agreement. And this happens at the same time as a devastating pandemic and horrible impact of climate change is harming people all over the world. These weapons do not solve the security threats that people are actually facing today, they're relics from another time and only increase the risk of an existential threat that could eliminate us all.

But we have a reason to be optimistic: we are closer than ever to the elimination of nuclear weapons.

In January this year, the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entered into force, making nuclear weapons illegal under international law. This was a historic moment, and something that could not have been achieved without the tireless advocacy and campaigning by Hibakusha and Japanese people.

This Treaty gives us a framework to eliminate nuclear weapons entirely and it will now start building pressure and normative change so that we can once and for all solve one of the most pressing threats to humankind.

History shows that the prohibition of certain types of weapons is the first step towards their elimination.

Weapons that have been outlawed by international treaties are increasingly seen as illegitimate, losing their political status.

Arms companies find it more difficult to acquire funds for work on illegal weapons, and such work carries a significant reputational risk.

Banks, pension funds and other financial institutions divest from these producers.

With this treaty, we have the framework to create a new international norm that casts these weapons not as a symbol of power but as a symbol of shame.

They said banning chemical weapons was impossible. Biological weapons. Land mines and cluster munitions. But we banned them.

They always say something hard is impossible. But ICAN campaigners showed that it can be made a reality if there are enough of us all calling for change loud enough.

Governments answer to people, people know nuclear weapons no longer make sense, and they are demanding change.

That is where you all come in: there is one particular audience that needs to hear your message. One group of people that must be encouraged to share the values of people from Hiroshima — and that is your government in Tokyo.

The Japanese Government should know better than any other nation the consequences of nuclear weapons, yet Tokyo is happy to live under the umbrella of US nuclear protection, and has not joined the Treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons.

Is your government ok with repeating the evil that was done to Nagasaki and Hiroshima to other cities?

We must harness your voices to show your national government in Tokyo that it is unacceptable to be a willing participant in threatening to use nuclear weapons. That Japan must be a leader in the global movement for nuclear disarmament. That Japan must join this Treaty.

Encourage your politicians to take up your cause. Grow louder if they do not listen. Know that you have millions of people around the world who share your values and your cause.

Join with them to create an unstoppable force of democratic disarmament.

What happened to Hiroshima must not be forgotten. And that's why Japan has such an important part to play in this story.

Hiroshima has a unique place in history. Our challenge is to make sure Hiroshima and Nagasaki remains unique. That there are no more cities that join you in the list of nuclear bomb sites. That there are no more hibakusha.

So I want to end by thanking the Hibakusha for their tireless work. For sharing traumatic and painful memories over and over again only to protect others from experiencing the same.

The sacrifices made and courage that survivors have shown have been driving ICAN and our work to ban nuclear weapons. Through this work, the Hibakusha have gotten governments and the United Nations to outlaw this horrible, inhumane and immoral weapon and they have made this world safer. On behalf of the whole campaign, thank you. And ICAN will not stop until we've fulfilled the Hibakusha's wish for every single government to join this treaty and for every nuclear weapon to be disarmed.

Thank you.



Carlos Umaña
Co-President, International Physicians for
the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW)

IPPNW, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, is a federation of national medical groups in over 60 countries. It was founded in 1980 by then Soviet and American physicians with the aim of educating health professionals, political leaders, and the public about the medical and environmental consequences of nuclear warfare. This effort united physicians and communities across the Cold War divide, and for it, IPPNW was awarded the UNESCO Peace Education Prize in 1984 and the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985.

In 2006, IPPNW founded ICAN, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, which is now a coalition of over 600 organizations in more than one hundred countries. ICAN was awarded the Nobel prize in 2017 in recognition of our work, “to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons” and to our “ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons”.

This is humanitarian disarmament, and it is a process that places the people at the center of discussions regarding nuclear weapons. It is by raising awareness, through evidence, on their effects on people, that substantial change is taking place.

Humanity faces two existential threats: climate change and nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons are the most destructive and inhumane machines ever created.

As we know from the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and from the 2057 nuclear tests, the devastation they cause is great and long lasting. Cities become inaccessible and uninhabitable for long periods of time, and the atrocious effects of radiation not only affect survivors throughout their

lives, but also their following generations. No first response would be possible after a nuclear detonation. The survivors of these attacks would be left unattended to suffer horribly and die alone.

Even a limited nuclear exchange would have dire, global climate effects that would threaten the lives of billions of people, and a full-scale nuclear war would cause a drastic environmental devastation and a dramatic global climate change that would drive many species into extinction, perhaps even our own.

Furthermore, many experts agree that the risk of a nuclear war occurring is, today, higher than ever.

A nuclear war is a terminal disease that we cannot cure, and we must prevent what we cannot cure. Let me be clear: there is no recovery from a nuclear war. The only solution is to prevent it.

That is why on July 7th of 2017, 122 countries, a clear majority in the international community, voted in favor of adopting, in the UN, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the TPNW or ban treaty, which entered into force on the 23rd of January of this year.

This landmark treaty is a triumph of international diplomacy. It is the result of the collective empowerment of non-nuclear weapon states and of them assuming an active role in nuclear disarmament, and coming together to challenge the world’s largest economic and military powers. This groundbreaking initiative is borne out of the evidence-based understanding that the nuclear problem is global, that its consequences are global, and therefore, all countries are stakeholders in the nuclear issue, whether they possess nuclear weapons or not.

This inclusive way of conducting international politics promotes cooperation and strengthens the multilateral regime, essential ingredients to face humanity’s other existential threat: climate change.

The TPNW works by stigmatizing nuclear weapons through their prohibition, a strategy that has history has proven to be effective, and the process whereby all other weapons of mass destruction -that is, chemical and biological weapons, landmines and cluster munitions- have been abolished. Today, it would be unthinkable for anyone to boast about being a chemical or biological weapons power. This is because a strong international norm and a global climate of moral condemnation have made such claims taboo. And this normative change, this shift in international behavior, is precisely how the TPNW is already starting to take effect.

We must challenge the idea that nuclear weapons are about security. They are not. And they are certainly not about evidence or about protecting people. They have done nothing to protect people

during the pandemic; quite the contrary, the billions of dollars spent in the maintenance and modernization of these weapons, of this existential threat, could have saved many of the millions of lives that have been lost to the pandemic. Nuclear weapons are about projecting power, and this irrational pursuit of the nuclear last name has been very detrimental to humanity and could very well lead to our own demise.

A nuclear war is not a natural catastrophe. It is something we can and must prevent, but we can only accomplish this if we come together, if we spread awareness on the nuclear reality, and move all countries to support the ban. We must continue to demand that our political leaders make decisions based on evidence and reason. Nowhere is this more urgent and relevant than in nuclear disarmament. When faced with the overwhelming evidence, when we understand the plight of the hibakusha, we can see past the idea that nuclear weapons somehow provide peace, and we understand that the only hope for peace is justice and equality; for value to be placed not on the ability to rule on impositions and threats, but on the ability to create dialogue, build bridges and come to agreements.

We must never forget the unspeakable suffering caused by the inhumane atomic bombings of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The lesson from this, one of the darkest chapters in human history, must be that unless we act to prevent it, it will happen again, only this time at a much larger scale. Our very existence depends on our actions, on us getting our governments to stand with humanity and reason, and it is our collective duty to demand that they do so. Nuclear disarmament is in our hands. Let's make it happen.

Thank you.



Takemoto Masahiro
Environmentalist/ Professional diver
Japan

I am a professional diver and environmental activist. It's my 42nd year since I started diving.

During my 40-year career as a diver, I have witnessed drastic changes. In the first 20 years, as you can see from these photos, wherever I dived, I was able to see wonderful oceans rich in biodiversity (Photo: Page 1-3).

However, in the last 20 years, I have continued to witness heart-wrenching disasters in the sea. The phenomenon called "coral bleaching" is found across the globe. Coral reefs become white and eventually turn into rubble—the death of corals. It is happening everywhere around the world (Page 5-6).

The situation is particularly disastrous in Okinawa.

This is the sea of Okinawa more than 20 years ago (Page 7). The next photo shows the current situation near the main island of Okinawa (Page 8). Once, in the sea surrounding Ishigaki Jima, coral reefs were basically intact (Page 9). But now, according to a survey this year by the Ministry of Environment, only 10% of them remain. Not only in Okinawa, but coral reefs are disappearing at the global level (Page 10-11).

The cause of coral destruction is climate change and global warming. The temperature of oceans is really going up (Page 13).

The situation in the Pacific islands is serious, too (Page 14-15).

Every year I sail on my own yacht to survey islands in the Pacific. People of the Pacific islands say that the direction of the winds has changed and they have become fiercer (Page 16).

As a result, palm trees are withering away, seriously threatening the islanders' food security. The sea level continues to rise. The mayor of this island told me his house was washed away by the waves (Page 17-18).

In the seas surrounding Japan, "Isoyake (rocky-shore denudation)" is spreading, where the sea bottom is turned into a desert with not a single kelp growing.

This photo shows the sea floor near Kanagawa's Enoshima Island where I live. Compared with ten years ago when there was still seaweed (Page 20), the situation has changed completely (Page 21). The amount of Hijiki seaweed harvested in Sagami Bay has drastically reduced (Page 22-23). If this situation continues, desertification of the sea will result, meaning no creatures can live in the sea (Page 24).

We will soon reach a "critical stage" if global warming is not stopped. We must quickly decarbonize our lifestyles and economic activities (Page 25).

At the same time, we should realize that all military activities cause enormous environmental destruction. We must take the environmental issues as one and the same problem as the task of

eliminating nuclear weapons and achieving peace.

Above all, wars can destroy both humans and environment in an instant. The destruction starts at the very moment of the construction of military bases and continues to destroy and pollute the planet through military exercises and the cleanup actions after the war has ended (Page 26-27).

This is where a military base is being constructed at Henoko, Okinawa (Page 28). The corals in the sea turned white due to climate change and were finally killed by the soil input for the reclamation work for the base construction (Page 29).

An enormous amount of CO2 is emitted from military exercises and jet fighters (Page 30). The U.S. Navy trains not only soldiers, but also dolphins and sea lions as live weapons (Page 31-32).

Once a war starts, horrifying environmental destruction is caused mercilessly (Page 33). And even after the war is over, the sea will be turned into a dumping site for all kinds of remnants of weapons (Page 34-35).

This photo shows Runit Dome, a storage site of radioactive wastes from nuclear tests conducted at Bikini Atoll and Eniwetok Atoll (Page 36). It's a simple nuclear dumping site. They dug a big hole for nuclear wastes and put a concrete lid over it.

It is known that high level radiation is leaking into the sea, according to research by Columbia University of the U.S. And nuclear weapons, if used, will instantly destroy all living creatures and the environment (Page 37-38).

Both wars and climate crisis will deprive young people of their future!

All over the world, young people are standing up to take action to stop the climate crisis. Wherever I go for lectures across the country, I also speak about the need to take action (Page 39).

The peace movement and the environmental movement share the same goal -- It is to save the future of our planet Earth and achieve peace (Page 40).

To achieve this goal, let us work in solidarity and continue to raise our voices together (Page 41). Thank you for your attention.

PowerPoint file of Mr. Takemoto's presentation can be accessed here:

http://www.antiatom.org/english/world_conference/pdf/2021/Takemoto-Photos.pdf



Mekata Motoko
Steering Committee member
Japan Campaign to Ban Landmines

It is a great honor to be given this valuable opportunity to speak before you at the Hiroshima Day Rally of the 2021 World Conference against A and H Bombs.

In my engagement in the anti-personnel mine and anti-cluster bomb campaigns for over a quarter century, my study on nuclear disarmament in my student days became the starting point for all my disarmament work. In those days, in the midst of the “Cold War”, there were as many as 60,000 nuclear warheads. Notwithstanding the huge number of nuclear weapons at their disposal, the United States and the Soviet Union were still continuing their arms race.

Since the end of the “Cold War”, the United States and Russia have reduced the number in their nuclear arsenal. Yet with over 13,000 nuclear warheads still existing in the world, the situation remains fraught with fear that nuclear weapons could actually be used for a third time at any moment, despite the real danger that the world would be plunged into catastrophe.

At present, I am working to make a chronological record of the history of the Japanese peace movement. If we restrict ourselves to developments since World War II, it is safe to say that the nuclear abolition movement has been the main pillar of the whole Japanese peace movement. In addition to the tireless work of the Hibakusha and other people who support them, rallies and marches by national organizations, discussions and studies by researchers and experts, statements of warning by scientists, literary works, films and theater created by people of art and culture – all these wide-ranging activities in such a rich variety unseen in any other citizens' movement have piled up for over 70 years. Further, the nuclear abolition movement was among the first to serve as a global campaign addressing its appeal worldwide and calling for

international solidarity.

Indeed, large numbers of people in Japan have continued to take action out of their heart-felt belief that coexistence with nuclear weapons is unacceptable and that nuclear weapons must be eliminated. This belief has not abated. According to a nationwide opinion poll conducted early last month (July this year), 71% answered that Japan should join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and 85% said that Japan should attend the first meeting of States Parties to the TPNW as an observer.

Given the tenacious resistance of the superpowers, it will be no easy task to achieve a “world without nuclear weapons” by way of the TPNW. Nevertheless, I believe that it is possible to open a new horizon by multiplying our efforts.

Take COVID-19, for example, which has been assailing the world since early 2020. It has placed a heavy financial burden on every government to cover the medical and hygiene costs and to make up for economic losses. In response, it has given rise to calls for cuts in military expenditure, including nuclear weapon-related spending. The number of financial institutions which, in response to pressure from civil society, have decided to disinvest from the nuclear weapon-related military industry is increasing. Regardless of the countries where they operate, both governments and enterprises must give more weight to “human security” to protect the lives and rights of people.

Mr. Thomas Hajnoczi, former Austrian disarmament ambassador who was deeply involved in the adoption of the TPNW, has pointed out that if the argument on nuclear issues is confined to the military experts and diplomats of nuclear powers, then the realistic perspective will be lost. That is because nuclear issues concern not only the national security of all countries, but also the very survival of the human race.” Mr. Hajnoczi is an ambassador who also made a great contribution to the formation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

The development of the bans on anti-personnel mines, on cluster bombs, and now on nuclear weapons has been achieved by virtue of collaboration between global civil society movements and national governments who share the goal. This series of campaigns, now referred to as “humanitarian disarmament”, meaning the prioritization of the security and welfare of human beings over the security of states, is now gaining momentum and is beginning to move world politics.

The view that “humans and nuclear weapons cannot coexist” represents the desire of most Japanese, and is now becoming the shared understanding of the vast majority of the people around the world. It is a lesson of history that even

small efforts by individuals, when added together, can develop into a motivating power that drives politics. Taking this lesson as a basis for my own action, I will keep thinking about what I can do. I thank you for listening.

Cultural program:



[A-Bomb poetry reading by Saito Tomoko \(actress\)](#)



[Performance by Japan Singing Voice Group](#)

Session 2: "Exchange of grass-roots movements of Japan and the world":



Roland Nivet
National Secretary
French Peace Movement

Hello. I am speaking to you as the national co-spokesperson of the French Peace Movement, but also as one of the leaders of the national collective of peace marches which brings together more than 150 very different organisations in France.

More than ever, the international call of the hibakushas in 2016 for the elimination of nuclear weapons is topical: "Today, humanity is at a crossroads. Either we save our blue planet as it is, with all its living beings, or we are heading for self-destruction."...

We are facing immense crises: the health crisis of covid 19, the climate crisis, inequalities in development and injustices. Conflicts persist, and UNICEF and the UN are warning about the spread of famines. These different crises weaken people and can contribute to dividing populations under the influence of the media-military-industrial and financial lobby.

The time has come for unity and solidarity between peoples, demanding that the world's financial, economic, intellectual, scientific and technological resources be concentrated in favour of the well-being of peoples.

In France, based on the United Nations resolution for the culture of peace, we are acting to promote the convergence of social struggles in several areas with our struggle for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Thus, the "National Collective of Peace Marches" was born, which brings together more than 150 organisations and is currently preparing marches that will take place on September 25, 2021, as part of the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, with the unifying theme of "for peace, nuclear disarmament and climate; for social justice and human rights".

We have To act locally with the population and

to put continuous pressure on decision-makers and institutions at all levels, local, regional, national and international.

Thus, on 21 and 22 January 2021, when the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons came into force, public actions were organised in a hundred or so communes in France and we were also in front of the National Assembly to demand that the deputies take up the question of the ratification of the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons. These mobilisations resulted in this issue being discussed in the National Assembly on 24 January during oral questions to the government.

We also raised the demand for nuclear disarmament on 8 March, International Women's Rights Day, 1 May, Workers' Day, 8 May for the celebration of the victory over fascism, 16 May for the day of living together in peace, etc.

But the difficulties and challenges are great and the victories not as numerous as we would like. We must also be clear about the fact that sometimes discouragement can overtake the democratic forces because the forces of the media-military-industrial lobby take advantage of this to divert the peoples' aspiration for security in order to increase the budgets devoted to military expenditure and nuclear weapons.

On the basis of this experience in our country, we believe that we must work to increase the population's awareness that it is the numerous and unifying popular struggles that are the most effective way to obtain results and achieve our objectives in the elimination of nuclear weapons.

In France, for example, 76% of French people are in favour of eliminating nuclear weapons (IFOP survey). But the difficulty is to make these 76% aware that it is their commitment to the struggle that will bring about the process of peace and nuclear disarmament.

The responsibility of the leaders of all organisations fighting for nuclear disarmament is extremely important.

While the diversity of our organisations is an asset, the global visibility of our unity for the elimination of nuclear weapons is not enough.

The wave for peace between 6 and 9 August has become one of those moments of international visibility. However, we believe it would be useful to work on a day of global struggle to make visible the global demand of the people for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The objective would be a worldwide unitary appeal bringing together as many movements, associations, parties, trade unions, politicians, scientists, intellectuals and artists as possible in favour of a worldwide day of action for nuclear

disarmament, as the anti-war movement succeeded in doing to express its opposition to the war in Iraq.

Such a day would give high visibility to the global movement for the total elimination of nuclear weapons and make it imperative that this force be heeded. The proximity of world conferences in January within the framework of the UN makes such a mobilisation urgent, which in our opinion could take place on 25 and 26 September in the dual framework of the World Day of Peace and the UN International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

It is the responsibility of all movements and their leaders to work to create the conditions for unity around a common call for a global day of action for the elimination of nuclear weapons. Why not from Hiroshima?



Bak Hayoung
Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of
Korea (SPARK)
Republic of Korea

1. I'm Hayoung Bak, in charge of international solidarity at SPARK.

2. 2018 was a hopeful year for many of us. The leaders of the DPRK and the US adopted the Singapore statement, and the leaders of both Koreas issued the Panmunjom and Pyongyang Declaration, making a historical stride toward complete denuclearization and a permanent peace regime on the Korean Peninsula.

However, denuclearization negotiations have been stalled ever since the Hanoi talks broke down in February 2019. Relations between the DPRK and the US, and between both Koreas came to a standstill.

3. Like the Trump administration, the new Biden administration has not made a breakthrough in denuclearization negotiations on the Korean Peninsula, merely maintaining the same stance when it comes to sanctions against the DPRK and its position to pre-denuclearize the DPRK, known

as complete, verifiable, irreversible denuclearization (CVID).

While denuclearization negotiations have been suspended, ROK and the US have stepped up their preemptive offensive forces under the Tailored Deterrence Strategy, the 4D strategy and operational plans. Here, 4D strategy refers to an offensive strategy in order of detect, deter, destroy and defense. The DPRK on the other side has also matched it up by increasing its nuclear/conventional forces.

4. Should the Singapore statement and the Panmunjom/Pyongyang Declaration be buried as a relic of history, causing a blockage in our path toward denuclearization and an establishment of a peace regime on the Korean peninsula? No! We cannot let that happen.

The recent reconnection of the hotlines between the north and south gives us hope that it could lead to the development of an amicable inter-Korean relations and the resumption of dialogues between the DPRK and the US. We must set the wheel of denuclearization and the establishment of a peace regime in motion again.

5. Therefore, if the US sincerely wants to resume its dialogue with the DPRK and denuclearize the Korean Peninsula, it should reconsider the tentative agreements from the Hanoi. A recent joint report by the UK and Russia reported that capacity of DPRK to produce nuclear weapons could have been reduced up to 80% by now if the US had agreed to the terms of dismantling Yongbyon nuclear facilities during the 2019 Hanoi summit.

6. As stated in the Hanoi tentative agreement, if the US lifts sanctions against the DPRK and the Youngbyon nuclear facilities dismantled in a simultaneous and phased manner, a complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula would surely be achievable. Furthermore, if the US provides security guarantees to the DPRK, for example, by signing a peace treaty and a non-aggression treaty, and establishing diplomatic ties with the DPRK, the dismantlement of the DPRK's nuclear weapons program and a complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula will be realized at a rapid pace

7. Ending the Korean War and the conclusion of a peace treaty would be a steppingstone for the denuclearization and peace in Japan and Northeast Asia. If a denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is realized by concluding a peace treaty, military tensions in the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia will be eased and the US will lose all its justifications to maintain its nuclear umbrella here in Korea. In addition, Japan's ambition to become a military power, evidenced by its development of

long-range missiles and building its capability to attack enemy bases justified under putative nuclear threats by the DPRK, will certainly lose ground.

8. The denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, which will be achieved with the conclusion of a peace treaty, is a premise and a steppingstone for realizing a nuclear weapons free zone in Northeast Asia. It is obvious that, without ending the Korean war and the conclusion of a peace treaty, Northeast Asia cannot move towards creating a nuclear weapon free zone.

Therefore, plans of Northeast Asia nuclear weapon free zone must include and be developed further based on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

9. Korea continues to exist under the threat of a highly likely nuclear war. The fact that the US considered using nuclear weapons against the DPRK during the 2017 US-DPRK nuclear confrontation proves this. Considering that Japan and Korea are the countries with the largest number of A-bomb victims in the world, it is absurd that they both continue to strengthen nuclear alliance with the US and have not joined or ratified the TPNW. People in Korea and Japan must urge their governments to sign and ratify the TPNW.

10. Since the 2019 Korea-Japan International Forum for denuclearization and peace held in Seoul, the Korean A-bomb victims and SPARK have been preparing a people's tribunal to hold the US accountable for dropping nuclear bombs. With the people's tribunal, we hope to establish international legal grounds and political legitimacy for holding the US accountable for its 76 years old war crimes, nullify any justification for the use of nuclear weapons and contribute to a complete nuclear abolishment in the world.

Much support from social justice groups of the world will be necessary in this movement.

11. We ask all of you to join us, support us, and work in solidarity with us in this movement. Together, let's build a world without nuclear weapons. Thank you.



Sakata Ayako
Kanagawa Chapter
New Japan Women's Association

New Japan Women's Association Kanagawa Chapter has encouraged our members to participate in the World Conference, saying, "Let's take advantage of online conferencing and invite those who have never been to the World Conference!" Convinced that it would be an opportunity to be connected from home to friends around the world, and that it would give us hope for the future, 512 chapter members have joined this World Conference.

The New Japan Women's Association has received many new members in different places. They came to know the association through social media and are involved in our real activities. At the Kanagawa Chapter, we too have such new members. Ms. K joined our chapter because she wanted to learn about gender issues. Attending the association's regular meetings, she became more and more eager to work for the elimination of nuclear weapons, and started to participate in the monthly signature drive on the 6th and 9th of each month. Today, she's attending the World Conference with her fellow branch members!

Another new member who joined our Chapter via social media, Ms. A, said that on social media she could only get to know people who have either similar feelings or opposite opinions, and she wanted to talk to someone in between. She attended the monthly signature drive last July. She told the senior members that few people received the flyers they were distributing. They responded, saying with a cheerful laugh, "Yes, as always!". Ms. A was amazed by the resilience and strength of those who have long carried on the activities on the ground.

Kanagawa Chapter has set the goal of each member collecting 10 signatures in support of the appeal for the Japanese government to sign and ratify the TPNW. Members have tried their best as they mobilize fellow members in the Bikini Day commemoration events, Peace March and the World Conference. In the peace march this year, we organized actions in each community instead of

marching in a long line. This made it easier for those who had never walked in the march to join and in fact they found it fun. In May alone, the number of signatures we collected during the peace march reached 3,120.

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the entry into force of the TPNW gave us courage and hope. Each branch of Kanagawa Chapter immediately made their own tapestries and took to the streets to appeal to the public. When the signature campaign calling on the Japanese government to sign and ratify the TPNW was launched, our local members were so happy and they said this was exactly what they wanted to do. We started a “Thank You” action to reach out to the people who had signed the Hibakusha Appeal petition to tell them that, thanks to their cooperation, the TPNW has been established and has now come into force. We sent out or brought copies of the new signature form with a “Thank You” letter to those people. This initiative has been successful in increasing local people’s support for our call on the government to join the TPNW.

As January 22, the date TPNW came into effect, was approaching, we discussed how best we could express our joy to the public under the COVID-19 state of emergency and inform them that the TPNW, the achievement of our own efforts, had now become law. We decided to distribute flyers with signature forms printed on them to all houses in our prefecture. On the morning of January 22, 39 branches of Kanagawa Chapter distributed 376,000 flyers by inserting them into major newspapers. A lot of feedback came in at once, saying, “You’re doing a great job,” or “Thank you for making the TPNW known.” We received new members among these people, too. We were greatly inspired by nearly 200 signatures signed on the forms we printed coming back to us. We felt proud of ourselves for having done what we could, even under the state of emergency, and this sense of accomplishment has been the impetus for us to move forward.

At the moment, the number of signatures our members have collected is 180,000. We still have a lot to reach our goal, but with renewed resolve given by this World Conference, we will gear up our effort.

Not Olympics but Lives! Money for COVID-19 measures, Not for Military Spending or Nuclear Weapons!

Let us do our utmost to push Japan’s ratification of the TPNW onto the election agenda as an essential issue for the joint struggle of citizens and opposition parties. Let us work together to establish a government that joins the TPNW! Let us achieve a nuclear-weapons-free, peaceful and just

world! New Japan Women’s Kanagawa Chapter, with all our local members, will make every effort from the grassroots to attain our signature goal. Together, let us keep on moving!



Sugasawa Saburo Yamanashi Prefectural Gensuikyo

In Yamanashi prefecture, an “Association of Yamanashi Residents for the TPNW Ratification by the Japanese Government” has been working since May 2021 to promote the petition campaign. The association was created on the initiative of 14 eminent people, including Hibakusha, a leader of the campaign for the abolition of landmines, representatives of Citizens Alliance Yamanashi, Christians for Article 9, Kofu City YWCA, U-Coop Yamanashi Headquarters, Gensuikin, Gensuikyo etc. It is trying to extend cooperation from the grassroots level upward, with the aim of changing the attitude of the Japanese Government, which is turning its back to the TPNW – an attitude unworthy of an A-bombed country. What we want to do is to change this by the power of public opinion. As a result of our efforts, cooperation between citizen groups at the grassroots has now reached a level it has never had before.

Experience involving autonomous associations of local residents

For about two and a half months since mid-April, the council of local residents associations in the Kokubo area of Kofu City has worked on the signature campaign to press the government of Japan to sign and ratify the TPNW. In that time it has gathered 1894 signatures. In fact, as early as April, a leader of the federation of local residents associations at its board meeting proposed to take up the signature campaign and it was decided that it was “a natural course of action for the Japanese government, as the government of an A-bombed country, to ratify the TPNW”. Petition forms were circulated among 3,000 households in the area,

organized in 14 autonomous residents associations. All residents in the area were called to cooperate for signature collection. The signature forms were collected by each association mobilizing all member families. They were then put together by the president of the associations and eventually brought to the headquarters of the federation of these associations.

Extended Dialogue with Religious Groups

In Koshu City, members of “Nakamanowa”, a group taking part in our Association of Yamanashi Residents, visited 15 temples and shrines in the city to collect petitions and to ring the bell on August 6 and 9, at the time when the atomic bombs were dropped. The members brought with them a letter of request, signature forms printed by our Association, the leaflet “Let’s join hands” produced by Japan Gensuikyo, a form to respond to the request letter and a return envelope with postage.

During the dialogue, many priests serving small parishes explained how difficult it was to keep the management of their temples financially sound and said that they often were obliged to take a second job. In other temples, they told us that their bells were confiscated during the war and were melted and cast into guns. A Buddhist monk expressed his appreciation of our members’ enthusiasm for the cause of peace and promised that he would willingly cooperate with them in the petition campaign.

At each temple we called at, the petition caught the attention of the priest. He promised his support for the campaign and also agreed to ring the bell where the bell had not been taken by the military. We also received additional signatures collected from family members and chief parishioners.

Cooperation spreading between local authorities and primary and middle schools

In Koshu City, we visit primary and junior high schools in the City to invite them to work together with us. One of our members who formerly worked

in junior high schools visited five junior high schools and met with principals and their assistants. Another member who regularly arranges “reading stories for peace” to school children called at primary schools to have discussions with teachers. At these meetings, our members talked about the “Gathering for Peace and ‘A-bomb and Humans’ Exhibition” that we co-sponsor with Koshu City Hall General affairs division. Flyers announcing this event are distributed to each school and each family through the city education board.

At the primary schools our members visited, they gathered 40 signatures on the petition for the TPNW ratification from teachers and staff. Teachers said: “We learned about your activities through the A-bomb photo panel exhibition last year. We think it wrong that the Japanese government refuses to ratify the Treaty. We stand with you in our thoughts”.

In the “Peace Wave” actions that began on August 2nd, we are taking part through an A-bomb panel exhibition organized by Yamanashi Chapter of the New Japan Women’s Association and through the viewing of high school students’ “A-bomb paintings”. These two exhibitions will take place in 6 cities in the prefecture. Some of them have the support of the city education board while others are co-sponsored with local libraries. We use these exhibitions to collect signatures on the TPNW petition from the visitors.

In addition to all these actions, cooperation has developed with other local groups such as Article 9 Association and “Circle for the Defense of the Constitution”. This has allowed us to gather 32,725 signatures in total by the end-July. We are looking forward to drawing valuable lessons from the outcome of the World Conference and making good use of them to attain our goal of 150,000 signatures. In doing so, we are determined to do our best to win the coming general election in autumn in order to achieve a breakthrough in the current political situation so that Japan will join the TPNW.

Special Session: “Dialogue with an MP for a Japan Joining the TPNW”



Moderator: Coming next is the special session “Dialogue with an MP for a Japan Joining the TPNW”. This session was originally planned to be a panel discussion among MPs who support the ratification by Japan of the TPNW. However, as it turned out, Mr. KASAI Akira (Japanese Communist Party (JCP) Member of the House of Representatives) was the only MP available today, so we modified this session into a “Dialogue with an MP”. The moderator for this particular session is Ms. NISHIMURA Misaki, member of the Japan Peace Committee.

Nishimura: Hello friends. I am Nishimura Misaki of the Japan Peace Committee. Allow me first to introduce you Mr. Kasai Akira, Member of the House of Representatives, who was kind enough to agree to take part in this session. Actually, he is talking to us on-line from a venue in Hiroshima. How do you do, Mr. Kasai? You are a second-generation hibakusha MP, and in that capacity, attended the TPNW negotiating conference in 2017. Without further ado, I would like to pass the microphone over to you to tell us what it means for Japan to join that treaty, the role of the MPs in that, and where the Japanese Diet is now in relation to the TPNW.

Kasai: Dear friends watching us on-line from around Japan, some as delegates to the 2021 World Conference against A and H Bombs, I am so glad to greet you. I am Kasai Akira, Japanese Communist Party member of the House of Representatives.

You may know that the TPNW, in its preamble, mentions “parliamentarians” along with hibakusha

and NGOs, as major actors representing “public conscience” for promoting the total elimination of nuclear weapons. This is the first time that a U.N. document refers to “parliamentarians” explicitly.

This morning, I went to Peace Park and presented a wreath of flowers to the Cenotaph devoted to the A-bomb dead. As it is the first Hiroshima Day since the TPNW took effect, I felt very humbled to think that I should bear a heavy responsibility in my role as an MP of the only A-bombed nation in war.

Four years ago, on July 7th, the U.N. adopted the first treaty in human history to outlaw nuclear weapons. I, as JCP representative member of “Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND)”, took part in that historic meeting. I still remember vividly that moving moment and the immense joy I shared with hibakusha and other participants at the adoption of the treaty.

At that time, I felt as if I was witnessing the end of the reign of nuclear powers over the world. They had been taken over by countries and civil society that constituted together a majority force on the planet. Nuclear weapon possessing countries, the U.S., China and others, are still clinging to nuclear weapons, but now we can condemn them as “violators of international law”. The time has come for us to work together to drive these pronuclear forces into a corner.

Now that the TPNW is in force, the focus of our attention is what the Japanese government is going to do with that treaty. If Japan, as an A-

bombed nation, joins the TPNW, it would make a tremendous impact on the world: it would accelerate the global tide towards a “world without nuclear weapons” and contribute to peace and stability in Northeast Asia, as well as the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. We parliamentarians are expected to do our utmost to realize that. This is what the treaty says.

We in the Diet have already received petitions from over the country all asking for Japan to participate in, and sign and ratify the TPNW.

Since the TPNW was adopted at the U.N., the House of Representatives has received 10 petitions of four different types introduced by the JCP or the Constitutional Democratic Party (Rikken Minshu Party), as well as 388 resolutions from local councils. The PNND, which is a non-partisan group of parliamentarians, has begun deliberating how it should position itself in relation with the TPNW.

The “Rally for demanding the Japanese Government sign and ratify the TPNW” was organized by Japan Hidankyo on January 22nd, the day the treaty took effect. Representatives from all political parties, including myself were there and heard Hibakusha declaring: “we Hibakusha have no time to spare. We want the Diet to seriously discuss Japan’s joining the treaty and to offer Hibakusha opportunities to testify about the atomic bombing consequences.”

However, in a Diet session held on the same day, Prime Minister Suga reiterated that he had “no intention of signing the treaty”. Also, at the Peace Memorial Ceremony this morning, he did not say a word about the treaty. Is it acceptable that a government of the only nation that was devastated by atomic weapons used in war continues to turn its back on the TPNW, which is now in force? With China and the U.S. competing for global supremacy, is it right to continue to rely on the U.S. “nuclear umbrella” or the “nuclear deterrence” that presupposes the use of nuclear weapons in the event of emergency? The position the Japanese government will adopt when attending or if it attends the Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW next year, is of utmost importance.

Four years ago, in 2017, only three countries had ratified the treaty. Today, overcoming all kinds of obstacles set by nuclear powers, as many as 55 countries have ratified it. It is expected that 70 will have done so by the end of this year. The flow towards “a world without nuclear weapons” has grown and become unstoppable.

When we look around the world, we see promising signs of change happening in the countries that depend on the U.S. “nuclear umbrella” for security. In particular, in Belgium, Germany, Netherlands and Italy, between 60 and 70 percent of

the general public support their country joining the treaty. In Norway, the Labour Party, which is in favor of joining the TPNW, is mobilizing to win the general election this autumn and take back power.

In Japan, 71 percent of the public think that Japan should “join the treaty” and 85 percent believe that our country should “participate in the TPNW Meeting of States Parties”. In addition, the general election is at hand. This situation is a window of opportunity for us to build strong public opinion and a popular movement to ensure a majority of Diet seats for candidates who support the TPNW and to establish a government that will make Japan join the treaty as a fully-fledged party to the TPNW. Let us not miss this opportunity!!

I, as a parliamentarian and second-generation Hibakusha, am resolved to do my best to fight through the election campaign until the victory. We will do this by developing joint struggle between citizens and opposition parties in this A-bombed country, while allowing the JCP to obtain more Diet seats. We will thus be able to initiate a regime change that will put into place a government of a citizens’ coalition and ensure that Japan joins the TPNW.

In the current situation, where there is no end in sight for the explosion of COVID-19 infection and U.S.-China confrontation is deepening, we must build on this year’s World Conference to make a contribution worthy of civil society actors and achieve further progress towards a “just and peaceful world without nuclear weapons”.

Dialogue with College and High School Students

Nishimura: Thank you Mr. Kasai. Now I invite high school and college students from Hiroshima to join us and ask questions to Mr. Kasai in turn. First is Yuippie, a college student.

Yuippie: I am Yuippie. I am a student at a college in the Western Japan region. Thank you for allowing me to ask questions in this session.

Mr. Thomas Bach, President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), turned down the City of Hiroshima’s request to the IOC to observe a minute of silence at 8:15 a.m., the time when the bomb was dropped. In this context, I want to question also the attitude of the Japanese government, which did not say anything critical about it. As far as I know, Mr. Bach had visited Hiroshima Peace Park before the Games, on July 15. He maybe wanted to show that the IOC was really committed to peace. He met with Hibakusha and listened to their testimonies. His negative reaction to Hiroshima City’s request made us angry and I wonder if his trip to Hiroshima had any meaning for him. It must be remembered that he defied the opposition of Hiroshima citizens to his visit to the

A-bombed city in that critical period of the pandemic. Having made such an unwanted call, he should have considered it an obligation as the IOC President to pay tribute to those who died by observing a moment of silence on August 6 and by speaking about the Hibakusha and their long-standing desire. What the IOC President did points to his profound disregard of the citizens' feelings. Mr. Kasai, could you tell us how you see the attitude taken by Mr. Bach and the Japanese government?

Nishimura: Mr. Kasai, could you respond to this?

Kasai: Yes, Ms. Nishimura. Thank you for the question. Yes, Yuippie, you are right. The media reported that the government neglected the voice of Japanese people who were saying that "human lives are more valuable than the Games" and forced the games to take place despite the risk of exacerbating the pandemic. As a matter of fact, yesterday, 5,042 people in Tokyo and 15,263 nationwide contracted COVID-19. The explosion of contagion and "overshoot" are so widespread that they cannot be controlled any more. In addition, I am really outraged by the IOC President's refusal to observe a moment of silence to remember the Hiroshima atomic bomb disaster on August 6, the anniversary of the bombing. Aren't the Olympic Games a celebration of peace? What was the purpose of Mr. Bach's visit to Hiroshima? We cannot help asking. To tell you frankly, I see in what the IOC President says and does a lack of respect for human lives and the history of Japan as the Olympic Games host country, and a neglect of Hiroshima citizens' feelings. In that sense, I share your frustration and anger.

But then, what is the reason why Prime Minister Suga remains silent facing such disrespect. I would like to ask the Prime Minister directly, but I can guess that he does not protest Mr. Bach's words and actions because basically, he does not see anything wrong there. I mean that he thinks and feels in the same way as Mr. Bach does. P.M. Suga puts the Olympic Games before protection of human lives and refuses to sign the TPNW in disregard of the aspiration of Hiroshima citizens. He takes the weight of human lives very lightly even though, as Prime Minister of our country, he is responsible for the safety and security of the population. This is what the incident has shown us.

This is why we should make the present government step down and replace it with a new one that is committed to saving and protecting human lives. It is not too late to stop the Games and implement comprehensive measures to combat the virus. We can end the government that has "no intention to sign the TPNW" and achieve a regime change that will make Japan join the treaty. Now is

the time for this. I always put the Hibakusha paper crane pin you see here on my chest. It is my dream to get a regime change and form a new cabinet in which all members, Prime Minister and all other ministers have this pin on their chest.

The future belongs to young people like you. You are the pioneers of what is going to happen. In this regard, I am happy to note that a new movement is emerging among young people to massively "go to vote". By chance, the general election for the House of Representatives is only a few months away. Let us all go to vote and change the government. Let us establish a new government that is committed to protecting human lives and that will allow Japan to participate in the TPNW Meeting of States Parties next year. I count on you, Yuippie and other young people to join us in working together for this goal.

Nishimura: Thank you Yuippie and Mr. Kasai. It is now the turn of Polly, a high school student.

Polly: I am Polly, a high school first grader. I am active in a high school club that studies peace issues. My question is related to what I have thought through these activities. I think that there is lots of violence in this world. I feel that peace has become a goal too distant to be attained, even if we succeed in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It will not be visible even when we will have reached a point, somewhere near a sustainable society. The definition of peace accepted in the international community is a state where there is no war, but I am still thinking if peace is merely the opposite of the present world filled with violence. Mr. Kasai, could you tell us what true peace means to you.

Kasai: Thank you for the question, Polly. It is a very big question which I want to share with all of us here and to think about. Being asked straightforwardly "what is peace" as you have done, I feel nervous and excited, not knowing if I could properly answer, but I will try. Well, I think that the definition of peace widely accepted in Japan and the world today could be "the state of society where life and dignity of each individual are respected".

For the sake of that peace, we must abolish war which is the worst form of violence and eliminate nuclear weapons, the worst of weapons that indiscriminately take the lives of massive numbers of people in war. And it is that peace we have been working for steadfastly with perseverance, in the two A-bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and around the country. What is crucially important at this moment is that we make sure that the calls of the Hibakusha and the Japanese people for "no more Hibakusha" and "away with nuclear weapons" are taken forward across generations. We must continue to do so all the way until we reach the goal of a

world without nuclear weapons. At the same time, we must keep a record of each step we take correctly in history. We must remain committed to our cause and never give up till our voices are heard. I am sure that in this way we can change politics and society. Remember. It took 76 long years to get a treaty that prohibits nuclear weapons in place. We were able to come this far thanks to the Hibakusha and their lifelong campaigning, the movement against A and H Bombs, and important mobilization of Japanese people for the cause.

After the TPNW entered into force, as Mr. Sakuma has just told us, people who were exposed to radioactive “Black Rain” and fought a very hard legal struggle through the last forty and some years, eventually obtained state recognition as Hibakusha and Hibakusha handbooks would be issued to them at last. From now on, we have to build on this victory, which we won by perseverant efforts and continuing to call for justice. We must cooperate and work together to put in place a government worthy of the A-bombed country, one that will make Japan a party to the TPNW. It will be the start of our journey to a “world without nuclear weapons”.

You see, Polly, I am sure, you, as a high school student, have had to raise your voice to be heard and you are studying different questions about peace. And I believe what motivates you to act as you do is certainly the knowledge about the realities of atomic bombing. I myself was raised by a mother

who experienced the atomic bombing in Hiroshima when she was 14 years old. She used to tell me her story and always warned me that the tragedy she lived through should never be repeated. Forty-eight years ago, I was a college student when I attended the Hiroshima Day Rally of the World Conference for the first time. Since then, I have visited more than fifty countries on speaking tours, and, as a second-generation Hibakusha, I have spoken about my mother and her life story to illustrate the actual effects of atomic bombing and I have called on the public to act for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Today, young people like yourselves are interviewing Hibakusha about the realities of the atomic bombing. They are trying to preserve the knowledge and memories of the Hibakusha, along with their aspiration for nuclear weapon abolition, and to pass them on to younger generations. You make the Hibakusha’s call your own call and, in this process, you progressively change your society, transform it into a community of peace where the life and dignity of each individual are respected and protected. I want you to keep keeping on. I will do the same.

Nishimura: Mr. Kasai, Yuippie and Polly, thank you. Let us mobilize ourselves for the general election campaign this fall, so that PMs willing to work for a nuclear-weapons-free world will form a majority in the Diet. Thank you for your attendance.



Call from Hiroshima

“The States Parties to this Treaty,

“Deeply concerned about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would result from any use of nuclear weapons, and recognizing the consequent need to completely eliminate such weapons, which remains the only way to guarantee that nuclear weapons are never used again under any circumstances, ...

“Have agreed as follows: ...”

(From the preamble to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons)

Seventy-six years have passed since the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. The Hibakusha's voices moved the world to achieve the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) – a truly historic achievement. At a time when people all around the world are deepening their concern for the dignity of human lives due to the coronavirus pandemic, we are meeting online for the 2021 World Conference against A and H Bombs. Building on the treaty, we renew our determination to make further advance towards a “world free of nuclear weapons”.

Humans are still threatened by the danger of annihilation due to the existence of more than 13,000 nuclear warheads in the world. With confrontations and tensions between big powers increasing, the concern over the danger of an actual use of nuclear weapons is increasing. They should put an end to all armed conflicts or any other actions leading to such conflicts, and further cancel the ongoing reinforcement and development of nuclear arsenals. Especially, we must get rid of the dangerous delusion of “nuclear deterrence” doctrine, which operates on the premise that nuclear weapons can be used.

We call on all countries to support and join the TPNW. We strongly urge nuclear-armed states to accede to the global call for nuclear weapons to be banned and eliminated.

In order to move forward toward the abolition of nuclear weapons, it is essential to change the policies of the nuclear-armed states and their allies. In particular, it is very important for Japan, the only country to have suffered a nuclear attack, to make a policy shift to supporting the TPNW. The House of Representatives election slated for autumn will provide a great opportunity to demand that.

We call on all people worldwide to take action to achieve a “nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world” as follows:

- In Japan, let us drum up broader support regardless of ideology or political affiliation to realize a Japan that joins the TPNW. We must make the forthcoming general election this autumn a turning point for that to happen.
- Let us call on all national governments to support and join the TPNW;
- Let us make known to people at home and abroad the damage and after-effects of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and expose for all to see the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons. Let us hold “A-bomb exhibitions” and other events so Hibakusha can share their tragic stories. Let us increase activities in support of and in solidarity with Hibakusha in order to achieve an overhaul of the system of certifying people with illnesses caused by exposure to radiation from the atomic bomb as Hibakusha entitled to receive benefits and state compensation for sufferings

associated with the atomic bombings. Let us work for broader areas to gain government designation as “Black Rain”-affected areas so that all Hibakusha in these areas can receive government relief measures;

- Let us further develop joint efforts among national governments, civil society and grassroots anti-nuclear and peace movements on the occasion of the upcoming 76th UN General Assembly, the NPT Review Conference, and the First Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW. Let us make a success of the Peace Wave 2021 (August 2-9);
- Let us broaden the signature collection drive urging the Japanese government to sign and ratify the TPNW. Let us press the government to discard the US nuclear umbrella and join the TPNW. We should further increase the effort to get local governments to adopt resolutions urging the government to sign and ratify the TPNW. We demand that the government abrogate the secret nuclear agreements it made with the United States, strictly observe the Three Non-Nuclear Principles (not to possess, manufacture, or allow nuclear weapons to be brought into Japan) and turn them into enforceable law;
- Let us further increase the struggle to prevent the adverse revision of the war-renouncing Article 9 of the Constitution and repeal the so-called “War Laws.” In solidarity with the “All Okinawa” movement to stop the construction of a new US military base in the Henoko district of Nago City, Okinawa, we demand the immediate return of the US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma site. We oppose any military buildup and the strengthening of the Japan-US military alliance, including the development or deployment of missiles to attack enemy base.
- Let us demand that the government carry out diplomacy for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the building of a peace system in East Asia by making use of Japan’s Peace Constitution. Let us develop citizens’ solidarity with South Korean and other East Asian countries working for peace. We will work on a fundraising drive for the relief of Orange Agent victims in Vietnam.
- Let us oppose the restart of nuclear power reactors, call for nuclear power to be replaced with renewable energy, and increase the movement to reverse the climate change. We must fight against the destruction of employment opportunities and livelihoods, which are exacerbating amid the pandemic and fight against the growing poverty and widening economic inequalities, and develop the movement to cut military expenditure to protect social welfare services and education. Let us fight against all forms of discrimination and demand gender equality and broader LGBT rights. Let us fight against all forms of violation of freedom of expression.
- Let us work hand in hand with all people who wish to live a humane life to develop great common action for human dignity. Let us work together with the Hibakusha, and with young people to open a bright future.

No More Hiroshimas! No More Nagasakis! No More Hibakusha! No More Wars!

August 6, 2021

Organizing Committee of the World Conference against A & H Bombs

On-Site Program in Hiroshima:
***“Hiroshima Forum in Solidarity with the Hibakusha –
From Hiroshima to the World 2021”***

Witness of the Hibakusha:



Yano Miyako
Hibakusha of Hiroshima

I am Yano Miyako. I was born in 1931 in the southern Hiroshima town of Ujina. That year Japan engineered the Manchurian incident as an excuse to invade northeastern China. That was the start of Japan's 15-year war of aggression in China.

I entered Hiroshima City Daiichi Girls' High School in 1944 when the Japanese military expanded the war front from the continent of China to all around Asia. Around this time, the Japanese armies had already been defeated on various fronts and, in the name of honorable death, chose suicide attacks rather than surrender. Due to the shortage of labor, senior students were sent to munitions factories from June and after the summer break some parts of the school were turned into a military uniform factory, which was closed at the end of March 1945. From April 1945 onward, third and fourth-year students were assigned to munitions factories. All classes were canceled for a year as a general rule for first- and second-year students, who were mobilized to engage in various public works from day to day.

I was among them and all my classmates were ordered to help the demolition of houses, which started at 7 am from August 5 at an area which is

now the Peace Park. When the bomb was dropped on August 6, I was at home. I survived because I took leave of absence due to a stomachache. My family and I were in the same room of our wooden house, which was located 4 kilometers from the hypocenter.

After a sudden flash, everyone rushed to an air raid shelter outside, but I failed to escape and was blown up in the air by the blast along with tatami mats. After some time, I regained consciousness and found myself standing on the ground near the front door. As we were trained to extinguish bomb fires before escaping, I hurried outside and looked for the place where the bomb must have landed. Strangely, there were no trace of the bombing, though my house was heavily damaged. When I looked up in the sky to the north, I saw a big mushroom cloud growing upward in the sky. Though our area was as far as 4 kilometers from ground zero, many houses had fallen to the ground and people were trying to help their neighbors trapped underneath the rubble. No one had any idea what actually had happened.

I am not certain how much time had passed, but we were ordered by the military to carry the injured people who had escaped to our community on two-wheeled carts or on doorplates to Ujina port, where they would be sent to Ninoshima Island for treatment. The line of injured people coming into our community was never ending. All of them kept their injured arms stretched forward above the height of their heart. It made them look like a procession of ghosts. There were about 50 people staying in the premises of the shrine which my family ran, and my family members slept outside. Next morning, we were surprised to find some of them already dead, although they looked unhurt the day before when they carried other severely injured people to our place.

Not only my family members but the people in the entire community were engaged in the relief activities of the dead and injured. We dug big holes in the yard of a kindergarten next to our house and cremated the bodies. I was tasked with keeping watch over the fire for cremation every day from August 7. At that time no one had any knowledge about the effects of radiation. It was much later we learned that people exposed to strong radiation would in turn emit radiation from their bodies.

Military planes continued to fly over us and I was afraid they would attack us again.

On August 15, my older sister and I left home to evacuate to our relatives' home in a rural area and passed through the center of the city for the first time. The streets were mostly cleared, but among the rubble of destroyed houses were many rotten bodies left untouched and the city was filled with the smell of corpses. When we reached Hesaka Village, we were told to join our relatives and neighbors and listen to an important broadcast to be aired at noon. After the broadcast, my uncle said, "It seems Japan has lost the war." It made us realize there was no need to stay there if the war was over. As we had walked all the way to reach the village, our relatives suggested we should stay overnight there. But we really missed our family and decided to head back home right away the same day. When we finally got home, I found many neighbors gathered at our house and all the adults looked quite depressed.

My school reopened on September 1. In the second-year class, there were only two students besides me. It was then that I learned for the first time that none of the students and teachers who went to work on August 6 had survived. I felt ashamed of having survived. I asked myself why I had so easily succumbed to a health condition and skipped work that day. Every day, I thought about the meaning of my survival. Perhaps it was because we had been taught in the militarism-led education and had been made to believe that the greatest honor was to die for the sake of the state (Emperor).

We surviving students felt it our duty to search and collect the remains and belongings of our fellow classmates in the area where they were engaged in the house demolition work. On October 30, a memorial service was held in my school. The mother of a good friend of mine, who had come to my house that morning to go to school with me, said to me, "Honest students were killed and loafers survived. I hate to see your face." Her words made me think that I should not continue to live. I tried to die by throwing myself into a river several times, but I did not have the courage to do so after all.

During the occupation period, my school life was miserable and I was scared to be called by the ABCC (Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission). But the music festival for the reconstruction and the school bazaar were fun. I was really happy when we had the new Constitution of Japan, which declared the renunciation of war forever. A peace memorial was built in our school yard. Later, my school was closed due to the reform of the school system of Japan.

I spent my final school year in a senior high school which was established based on the new education system. I became sick and went to a local

clinic where they took my blood and sent it to the ABCC. The doctor said nothing abnormal was detected in me, although some symptoms of anemia were recognized. When purple spots appeared on some soft parts of my skin whenever I got tired, I asked the doctor whether it was due to the effects of the atomic bomb radiation. But he said that only those who were within 2 kilometers from the hypocenter and got burned or injured were regarded as affected by the atomic bomb. He said there was no problem with me because I was 4 kilometers away and was inside the house. However, I witnessed many bodies bearing purple spots on their skin when I helped their cremation, and some of the survivors, while they stayed at my house said, "If purple spots appear, I am doomed to die." So I could not stop thinking that my conditions then may be related to the atomic bombing.

During the year following graduation from high school, I was in low spirits and had no energy to do anything. I was in bed all the time in a dark room. Much later I realized that I suffered from the so-called "A-bomb bura-bura disease" (vague symptoms among the A-bomb survivors such as fatigue, headache, etc.) In the period when my condition got better, I started working, got married and gave birth to children. But when I got tired, I had abnormal conditions on my body. Starting from my late twenties, my upper teeth began to break off one by one and had to be pulled out by the dentist. But because I was too anemic, I was not able to find any dentist in the devastated city of Hiroshima who was able to treat my teeth. For several years I withdrew into myself at home.

My life changed in 1964. One day a woman in the neighborhood invited me to come to a meeting. Actually, I was really reluctant, but I followed her and sat in a women's meeting. I had no idea what they were talking about, but around the end of the meeting, they discussed how to disseminate a booklet entitled, "Burnt Like Fallen Leaves". It contained essays and testimonies written by women survivors of the atomic bombing. I took several copies of the booklet home and read it. There I found a testimony of a Hibakusha woman who never knew even after 19 years where and how her younger sister died on that day. I noticed that her sister was one of the first-year students of my school.

Until that day, I had never imagined what would have happened if the atomic bomb had been dropped one day earlier on August 5. I would have been killed in the same way as her sister. Timidly, I asked to meet the woman who wrote the testimony. She was so kind to say to me, "I am so glad that you have survived these years." After that, together with her, I started interviewing fellow Hibakusha and later joined the editing team of the "Burnt Like

Fallen Leaves” booklet. It completely changed my life.

Why am I telling my A-bomb experience even now? It is because I believe we should not repeat the tragedy of so many school children of Hiroshima, not only of my own middle school. The only life that those students who perished in the atomic bombing were allowed to experience was life during the 15-year war started by the Japanese military government. I believe that those of us who experienced the atomic bombing first-hand must continue to tell to the world that humans cannot coexist with nuclear weapons.

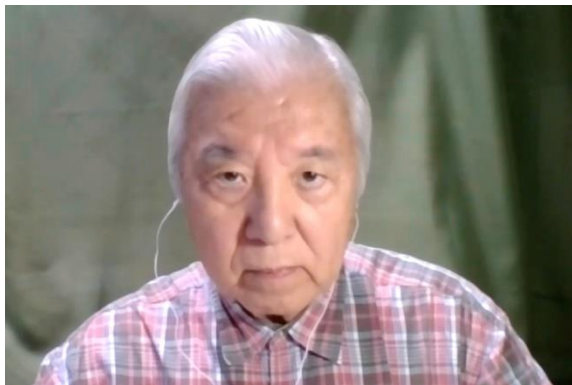
I was very happy when the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted at the United Nations on July 7, 2017. And the treaty entered into force on January 22 this year. However, it is regrettable that Japan, despite having suffered the damage from nuclear weapons during wartime, has not signed nor ratified the TPNW. For the sake of the people who have worked for the abolition of nuclear weapons but could not survive to witness the adoption of the treaty, the long-time desire of the Hibakusha, I ardently hope that Japan will join the TPNW in my lifetime.



2021 World Conference against A and H Bombs: Nagasaki Day Rally (August 9)



Keynote Address on Behalf of the Organizer:



Anzai Ikuro Committee of Chairpersons, World Conference Organizing Committee

I am joining you at this rally from the ancient capital of Japan, Kyoto, which, until half a month before the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, was slated as the primary target of the atomic bomb. (Slide 1)

This footage shows the record of a meeting of the Target Committee held in the US on May 9, 1945, one day after the defeat of Nazi Germany in

World War II, to consider where in Japan the US should drop atomic bombs. The record shows that Kyoto topped the list. (Slide 2)

The chosen target was a round warehouse at the railroad yard of Umekoji, about one kilometer west of Kyoto Station. It was in the middle of the Kyoto basin. The target can be seen today at the Kyoto Railway Museum near Kyoto Station. (Slide 3)

But, in fact, atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as shown in this slide show. We should not take these mushroom clouds as a symbol of ending the war. (Slide 4)

We must take a hard look at the inhumane damage that was caused below the mushroom clouds and deepen our awareness that nuclear weapons must never be used. We need to turn this awareness into the source of energy for the movement for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The picture on the left shows Taniguchi Sumiteru, a Hibakusha of Nagasaki, who passed away in August 2017, a month after the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear weapons was adopted at a UN conference. After resuming his place in society, he devoted his life to the relief of the Hibakusha and the movement for the elimination of nuclear weapons. (Slide 5)

The picture on the right shows a boy incinerated by the atomic bomb in Nagasaki. In

November 1995, Nagasaki Mayor Ito Ichiro testified in tears before the International Court of Justice, putting up this photo and appealing to the hearts of the justices.

The United States thought no other country would be able to develop atomic bombs for the next 15 years or so. But, in 1949, only four years after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the former Soviet Union successfully conducted a test explosion of a plutonium bomb in Semipalatinsk. (Slide 6)

In the 1950s through the 1960s, Britain, France and China succeeded in developing atomic bombs. US President John F. Kennedy expressed concerns that the number of nuclear weapon possessing countries might increase to 25 by the mid-1970s. The United States and the Soviet Union came to share the concern about possible nuclear proliferation. (Slide 7)

In 1970, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, or NPT, was concluded, with the United States and the Soviet Union taking the initiative. (Slide 8)

The NPT classified as ‘nuclear weapon states’ the five countries that had developed and tested nuclear weapons by January 1, 1967—namely the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China—distinguishing them from the rest and banning the non-nuclear NPT member nations from possessing such weapons. The treaty’s objective was ostensibly to prevent nuclear proliferation and promote nuclear disarmament. As of May 2021, the number of states parties to the NPT stands at 191 out of 194 UN member states. That’s 98.45 percent of all UN member states. This is why the NPT is sometimes referred to as a “constitution of nuclear disarmament.”

The NPT’s Article 6 requires the five nuclear powers—the United States, Russia, Britain, France, and China—to “pursue negotiation in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race and to nuclear disarmament.” But the undertaking has not been met. (Slide 9)

What’s more, these five nuclear powers are permanent members of the UN Security Council. They have a veto power. Each country has a right to block action proposed by others at the UN Security Council. The Security Council cannot come to a conclusion on any agenda item if one of the P5 opposes. (Slide 10)

In addition, there have emerged countries that produce nuclear weapons outside the NPT framework without joining the NPT. They are India, Israel, Pakistan and North Korea. Laws made in the Japanese Diet bind all Japanese people. But an international treaty is valid only for states parties. (Slide 11)

Non-nuclear countries and the people of the

world who want to get nuclear weapons eliminated thought they could not leave the matter to the nuclear weapon states. Recalling the starting point of the issue, they took a fresh look at how nuclear weapons were used against Hiroshima and Nagasaki in war, how the nuclear weapons were produced, and what damage the nuclear test explosions caused. They elucidated the inhumane consequences of the use of nuclear weapons and made these consequences known to people, appealing to the historic importance of the abolition of nuclear weapons. (Slide 12)

Experts from the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) and the International Association of Lawyers against Nuclear Arms (IALANA) took part in the drafting of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and brought it to UN discussions in cooperation with governments of non-nuclear countries. By bringing together voices of Japanese Hibakusha as well as people affected by nuclear weapons around the world, they launched a major international campaign calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons. (Slide 13)

On July 7, 2017, the draft Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted at a UN conference with 122 countries voting in favor, one country against, and one country abstaining. The Netherlands voted against to represent the NATO position, which does not mean Dutch people are against the treaty. (Slide 14)

Japan was absent from the conference at the historic adoption of the treaty. As shown in the footage, a message card was left at the Japanese delegation’s seat. It said, “Wish you were here.” (Slide 15)

On October 24, 2020, Honduras was the 50th country to ratify the treaty. It was United Nations Day. And 90 days after that, on January 22, 2021, the TPNW came into force. Unfortunately, all the nuclear weapon states and the countries which are slave to the so-called “extended nuclear deterrence” policy for their defense remain opposed to the treaty. (Slide 16)

Why are the nuclear weapon states and their allies opposed to the TPNW? It is because the TPNW is the first treaty to comprehensively prohibit signatories from developing, testing, producing, stockpiling, transferring, using and threatening to use nuclear weapons. (Slide 17)

The nuclear weapon countries’ “nuclear deterrence” policy is structured on a security policy that allows nuclear weapons to be used in an emergency. If nuclear weapons are banned, there is no justification for nuclear deterrence policy. For this reason, they could not accept the treaty unless they gave up their nuclear deterrence policy. (Slide

18)

There are more than 13,000 nuclear warheads, stockpiled by nine nuclear-weapon countries, threatening the survival of humanity. We won the entry into force of the TPNW on January 22, 2021. The reality is that there still remain a huge number of nuclear weapons in the world even though the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is in force. We must work to resolve this contradiction. (Slide 19)

What can we do? First, we should reach out to the governments of nuclear-armed states and the people and eligible voters supporting their governments' policy to convince them more than ever of the inhumanity of the use of nuclear weapons, and urge them to change this policy. Secondly, we should urge the governments and people of countries that have voted for and signed the TPNW to take necessary measures to ratify it as soon as possible. We should build a larger coalition to isolate the nuclear weapon countries while overwhelmingly increasing the TPNW's normative power. Thirdly, we, in the name of the sovereign people, should replace the government of Japan, which, at the beck and call of the US, is turning its back on the treaty, while pretending to represent the only country to have suffered nuclear attack in war. (Slide 20)

The theme of this World Conference is: "With the Hibakusha, Let Us Achieve a Nuclear Weapon-free, Peaceful and Just World – for the Future of Humankind and Our Planet." The tasks for us now are as follows. First, we should not just call for a ban on nuclear weapons but also show the prospect for the elimination of nuclear weapons for the nuclear weapon countries that are still to join the TPNW. Secondly, we should expose the risk of the use of nuclear weapons and continue to tell people about the necessity of abolishing nuclear weapons. Thirdly, we should further develop the movement and joint efforts to create a Japanese government that signs and ratifies the TPNW. (Slide 21)

I hope the participants will take the World Conference as an opportunity to study about the issues and situation relating to nuclear weapons, and to think and put into practice what you can do to overcome this disaster in human history. (Slide 22)

With this I conclude the Organizer's report. Thank you.

PowerPoint file of Mr. Anzai's presentation can be accessed here:

<http://www.antiatom.org/Gpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/7416fd59bdbb2445a4a2ae4f60607e29.pdf>

Guest speakers:



Syed Hasrin Aidid Permanent Representative to the U.N. Malaysia

Opening

Let me start by thanking the organizing committee of the 2021 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs for extending the invitation to participate in this year's conference.

It is my honour to be part of the Nagasaki Day Rally once again, as I recall the 2020 World Conference that was convened one year ago.

We are still meeting through this virtual format because of the pandemic. Nevertheless, I am sure it does not affect the quality of our exchanges and the impact being generated all around the world.

I am always humbled when listening to and reading the testimonies by the Hibakushas as their powerful messages trigger our emotions.

Even after more than 7 decades since the catastrophic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, one thing is clear.

No human being and no single soul should have to endure, ever again, the cruel and horrendous experience of an atomic bombing.

Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

It is with this conviction that we continue to strive towards our ultimate goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

For Malaysia, we firmly believe in the complete and total elimination of these abhorrent weapons. Their continued existence represents a serious threat to humanity. Hence, total elimination is the only solution against their possible use or threat of use.

Attaining a nuclear-weapon-free-world has been a longstanding desire of the international community. It was first brought to the United Nations through its General Assembly resolution in 1946.

While we have seen reductions in nuclear arsenals over time, approximately 13,500 nuclear

weapons remain in existence till today. And these weapons continue to play an important role in military and security doctrines of some countries.

The existential threat facing humanity, posed by the continued reliance on and modernization of nuclear weapons, has become more critical than ever.

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

As we speak, the States Parties of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) are preparing for the upcoming 10th NPT Review Conference.

Since its inception, the NPT has been the cornerstone of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

It remains integral to international peace and security, and facilitates international cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

All States Parties have the responsibility to implement their obligations under the NPT in a full, objective and balanced manner across the three (3) pillars of the Treaty.

Despite consistent calls for balance across the three (3) pillars, progress under the pillar of disarmament has been slow, and in recent times, seems to be reversing. This is a major cause for concern.

Nuclear-Weapon States must fulfill their obligations under Article 6 of the NPT to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament under strict control in a verifiable, irreversible and transparent manner.

Joint Communique Initiated by Malaysia

Given the important juncture in the context of the NPT, Malaysia initiated a Joint Communique to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the NPT.

The Joint Communique, as issued in May 2020, was a collective pronouncement by 17 countries, from all regions of the world and with long-standing positions on nuclear disarmament.

The document underscores the significance of the semi-centennial of the NPT, the various challenges faced and the path to be pursued moving forward.

The Joint Communique was officially issued through the Permanent Missions of Malaysia to the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Vienna. It was also made available to other important entities and stakeholders such as civil societies.

We are grateful for the positive and constructive feedback received on the Joint Communique, in particular those from civil society.

The Upcoming NPT Review Conference

In recent times, we continue to observe an alarming trend of erosion of the multilateral nuclear disarmament and arms-control architecture, with existing agreements being abrogated and others in danger of termination.

The current global security environment and challenges warrant urgent action and progress.

The upcoming NPT Review Conference, which has been postponed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, presents a timely opportunity for States Parties to undertake a comprehensive review and assessment of the current status of the Treaty.

At a time of global uncertainty, the NPT Review Conference would accord us with the much-needed opportunity for thorough deliberation and negotiations on various issues across the three (3) pillars.

As we look ahead towards the upcoming NPT Review Conference, it is our hope that States Parties will earnestly reaffirm the various obligations and commitments agreed upon during previous NPT Review Conferences.

Guided by the leadership of Ambassador Gustavo Zlauvinen, the President-designate of the NPT Review Conference, Malaysia will continue to undertake its role as Chair-designate of Main Committee 1 of the Review Conference with the spirit of constructive engagement.

We will strive to preserve open, inclusive and transparent dialogues, with civility and diplomacy. We look forward to the cooperation and contribution of all entities and stakeholders, including civil societies, in making further progress.

Closing

As we honour the Hibakushas of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, let us all heed their call and continue to promote the cause of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

We must enhance global public awareness and education, especially among youth, on the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons.

Through collective and consistent efforts by all parties, we can attain a peaceful, just and nuclear weapon-free world, for the future of humankind and our planet.



Melba Pria
Ambassador to Japan
Mexico

I would like first of all to thank the Organizing Committee of the 2021 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, under the theme “With the Hibakusha, Let us achieve a Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World -- for the Future of the Humankind and Our Planet”, for extending an invitation to Mexico to participate in the Nagasaki Day Rally today, August 9, 2021.

Mexico pays tribute to the Japanese people, particularly to the survivors of the atomic bombs, who, raising their voices and sharing their testimony have played a key role in the efforts to raise awareness on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.

Hibakushas’ testimonies constitute a historical legacy that is a clear call for promoting peace and securing a world free of nuclear weapons. Therefore, we have to ensure that their thoughts, their voices and their enlightening stories are available for present and future generations.

The bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki has shown that nuclear weapons do not make any distinction between combatants and civilians; they do not differentiate gender, age, religion, social condition, ideology or nationality. Their effects are indiscriminate.

It has also shown that beyond the immediate death and destruction caused by a detonation, socio-economic development will be hampered, and the environment will be damaged. Radiation exposure could result in short and long-term negative effects in every organ of the human body and would increase cancer risks and future hereditary pathologies. Thus, it is imperative to ensure that such a calamity will never happen again.

Unfortunately, the risk of nuclear weapons use (intentional or accidental) has been increasing globally, because of several factors: proliferation,

the vulnerability of nuclear command and control networks to cyber-attacks and to human error, as well as potential access to nuclear weapons by non-state actors.

It is a fact that no State or international organization has the capacity to provide the short - and long- term humanitarian assistance nor the protection needed in case of an eventual nuclear weapon explosion.

The wide range of damage and catastrophic consequence in the likelihood of a nuclear explosion, as well as the enormous economic resources allocated globally to maintain and modernize nuclear arsenals, make the mere existence of these weapons absurd and contrary to human dignity.

For those reasons, Mexico has been actively promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. It is not only a diplomatic conviction, but also a commitment with international peace and security.

Therefore, since the first nuclear detonation, Mexico unilaterally adopted the decision to never develop or allow the deployment of any nuclear weapons of another country in its territory.

Latin America and the Caribbean played a key role in raising awareness on nuclear disarmament. Its commitment to this common objective was materialized with the entry into force of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, best known as the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

In this regard, Mexico is proud to belong to the first nuclear-weapons-free-zone in a densely populated area and to have contributed to the establishment of other four nuclear-weapons-free-zones.

Mexico believes that, in order to achieve nuclear disarmament, all the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) -- the cornerstone of the non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament regime-- must commit and exert all efforts to guarantee its effective implementation, including taking forward multilateral negotiations on the matter.

In this context, Mexico celebrates the recent entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) on January 22th, 2021. The TPNW reinforce the NPT, as it is consistent with the obligation enshrined in article VI of the NPT.

Mexico acknowledges that the testimony of atomic bomb survivors in Hiroshima and Nagasaki played a very important role during the processes of adoption and entry into force of the TPNW.

However, the entry into force of TPNW is not the final goal, is just the beginning of the process

towards its universalization. In this regard, Mexico will continue promoting and encouraging all States that are committed to the elimination of all nuclear weapons, including the overwhelming number of States that supported the adoption of the TPNW, to ratify or adhere the Treaty as soon as possible.

Also, Mexico will actively participate in first Conference of the TPNW, planned to be held on January 2022, in Vienna. During this international conference TPNW States parties will define the roadmap to promote universalization of the treaty as well as the necessary steps for its implementation. In this context, Hibakusha's voices, testimonies and wisdom are needed to promote and ensure the universalization of the TPNW.

I would like to conclude by reaffirming that it is our responsibility to make sure that a nuclear weapon detonation, like those which sadly took place in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, never happen again. Therefore, Mexico will continue striving for the construction of a safer world based on the rule of international law, international cooperation and peaceful settlement of international disputes.

Today, more than ever, the world needs the Hibakusha spirit for a peaceful coexistence of humanity.

Greetings from Nagasaki Mayor:



Taue Tomihisa Mayor of Nagasaki City

I send my greetings to you all. I am Taue Tomihisa, the mayor of Nagasaki City.

On the occasion of the 2021 World Conference against A & H Bombs – Nagasaki Day Rally, I would like to extend my message on behalf of the people of Nagasaki.

I express my sincere respect to the organizers for their passion and effort and ingenuity in holding the World Conference, so as to keep moving toward the abolition of nuclear weapons, even while it is still difficult to meet together in one place for such

an event due to the effects of coronavirus infectious disease.

Seventy-six years ago today, the city of Nagasaki instantly fell into ruins as a result of a single atomic bomb. Its fierce blast, heat rays, and radiation attacked residents mercilessly, claiming 74,000 precious lives and injuring 75,000 others. Those who barely survived the attack are still suffering from aftereffects of the radiation.

Hibakusha, who know the threat of nuclear weapons firsthand, have shared their heartrending experiences, even though they are painful to recall, and called for the abolition of nuclear weapons, saying, “No one else in the world should ever have to go through that.”

This small current has led to a major current covering the entire world. In January this year, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons came into force. The Treaty outlaws nuclear weapons for the first time in human history, marking a fresh start toward a world without nuclear weapons.

Of course, nuclear weapons will not immediately be eliminated from the world by the entry into force of this Treaty.

In order to develop this brand-new Treaty into a common global rule and to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons, we in civil society need to stand in solidarity and raise our voices more tenaciously than ever. I believe that the sharing of wishes for nuclear abolition by many people through opportunities like this event lays the foundation for such efforts.

I am convinced that all these individual irreplaceable actions will come together to create a major current and eventually build a force that changes the world.

I sincerely hope that you will expand the circle of peace widely. You are our powerful and important friends who continue to work together for a world without nuclear weapons.

In closing, I wish the organizers and everyone watching today continued success and good health in the future.

Appeals by the Hibakusha/ Nuclear Victims:



Tanaka Yasujiro Hibakusha of Nagasaki

We have only one life

Dear friends gathering at this World Conference against A and H Bombs, welcome to Nagasaki. I am Tanaka Yasujiro. I feel honored to speak before you today. Thank you for this opportunity.

We often say, “We have only one life”.

Our lives have been given from our fathers and mothers. If you go back 10 generations on your family records, you are connected with 1000 people. Going back 20 generations, more than 10,000 people are connected with you. You and I live now, succeeding the lives of all these people who lived in the past. It’s like a miracle. We must not lose this precious life to war.

Japan was waging a war of aggression until 1945. At the close of the war, the abominable atomic bombs were dropped. Almost 140,000 people in Hiroshima and 74,000 in Nagasaki, most of them civilians not involved in the war effort, were indiscriminately killed. Still now, about 127,000 A-bomb survivors are battling to live, while suffering from various kinds of health conditions as the aftereffects of the A-bombing.

On that day, I was 3 years old. I was exposed to the A-bomb flash and blast on the street in Shin-Nakagawamachi, in the eastern part of Nagasaki City, at 3.4 kilometers from ground zero. I was 10 meters from our house, playing with my friend, my grandmother (56 years old) and my baby sister.

Suddenly, I was engulfed in a bright bluish-white light, equivalent to tens of thousands of camera flashes released at once. As soon as we jumped into a neighbor’s house with fright, an enormous blast came from the right side.

After a while we went outside. I saw an orange colored sun shining dimly in the dark sky. I heard no sound. A mysterious silence reigned. Fortunately, all of us – my grandmother, baby sister and myself – were unhurt and we hurried back

home. I heard that my mother (36 years old), who was inside our home, had numerous small fragments of glass stuck in her back.

I myself have no memory of the misery and tragic conditions created by the atomic bombing around that time. My grandmother died 47 years ago at age 85 and my mother died 24 years ago at 89, both from kidney disease with much pain and suffering. My little sister died 4 years ago in February at age 72 after 3 years of hospitalization. She also suffered kidney failure.

Probably due to the bomb blast, I suffered hearing difficulty in my right ear. I was a weak child, susceptible to colds and skin disease. Due to my ugly scabby skin, especially in summer, I was often bullied by my classmates in my junior high and high school days.

Our family was poor and often had difficulty getting food on the table, but thanks to the help extended by many people around us, I have survived until today.

Hibakusha were not allowed to live decently nor die as humans. Such suffering should never be experienced by any young person living in the present world. We must learn from the past, face the present society, and explore how we should live in the future. Those who do not learn from the past are not qualified to talk about the future.

Now, I often have the opportunity to talk about the atrocity of the atomic bombings before high school students who come to Nagasaki on their school trips. With bright eyes, they earnestly listen to my story while taking lots of notes. I find hope for the future in these young friends.

I want to hand over the baton of peace to many of these friends. The number of surviving Hibakusha was 127,000 as of March 2020. Their average age was 83.94. Nine thousand Hibakusha died during the last year. In several years’ time, there will be no Hibakusha left alive. With a hope that those young people who have listened to our stories will become messengers for peace and retell our accounts, we continue to share our stories every day before younger generations.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entered into force on January 22, 2021. For us Hibakusha, it is like a dream come true. We have come one step closer to a nuclear weapon-free world. However, Japan, the only country to have suffered the atomic bombing, continues to turn its back on the treaty. Isn’t that strange? We Hibakusha are committed to our activities urging our government to sign and ratify the TPNW, as the only A-bombed country in war.

Each of us has only one life, so let us treasure today and this very moment, while being kind to others and to ourselves. “Blessed are the

Peacemakers.” Let us take spiritual nourishment from this, and stand up together to take action to create peace.

Shalom. Let there be peace on earth!



Lee Gyu-yeol
President, Korean Atomic Bomb Casualty
Association
Republic of Korea

I humbly pray for the souls of those who died in the atomic bombing.

76 years ago, on August 9th, 1945, the United States of America, after having attacked Hiroshima with an atomic bomb three days earlier, dropped another atomic bomb on Nagasaki, indiscriminately killing a large number of people. At that time, about 70,000 South Koreans lived in Hiroshima and about 30,000 more in Nagasaki, in total about 100,000 in these two Japanese cities. According to documents of the Japanese Police Agency, they were mostly workers, victims of forced labor and their families. They accounted for more than 13% of the population of these two cities.

It can be said that they all suffered damage from the atomic bombings. Over 50,000 of them died in Japan. More than 50,000 people who survived went back home after the liberation of their homeland. However, many of these returnees could not withstand serious diseases and mental suffering and died of despair and hunger without receiving adequate medical care. As of today, the number of Korean Hibakusha registered with our association is 2,050, as well as about 2,500 second generation Hibakusha. They all suffer from the consequences of the atomic bombing.

South Korean A-bomb survivors have lived with miserable feelings, not to mention those who have passed away during the past 76 years. More than once, they have asked the US, Japanese and South Korean governments to acknowledge their respective responsibility for the atomic bomb damage, officially apologize and take action to provide relief measures for the victims, but no such

action worthy of relief has been taken yet. Instead, these governments continue to adopt a shameless attitude toward the demands of the Hibakusha. They don't deserve the title of state leaders.

Despite these difficult conditions, we have developed and expanded our movement in solidarity with citizens organizations and SPARK (Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of Korea), trying to achieve a nuclear-free and peaceful world. At the Japan-Korea International Forum for a Nuclear-Free and Peaceful Northeast Asia held in May 2019 in Seoul, we proposed to organize a "Citizens' Tribunal on the Responsibility of the Atomic bombing".

At that time, SPARK declared the year 2019 as a "Year to Work with A-Bomb Hibakusha" and it openheartedly accepted our proposal to organize a civil tribunal on the occasion of the 2025 NPT Review Conference to put into question the "perpetrator's responsibility for the atomic bombing". I am very pleased that our plan is steadily taking concrete shape, thanks to the participation and collaboration of jurists, legal experts and researchers.

As the President of the Korean Atomic Bomb Casualty Association, and even after I retire at the end of my term as President, I am firmly resolved that I will continue to promote the Civil Tribunal initiative together with like-minded South Korean Hibakusha.

Allow me to disclose an idea I have nurtured for some time. I would like to invite Japanese Hibakusha to join this campaign. I would like you to join us in the campaign to question the responsibility for the US nuclear attacks, so that we can together develop this as our joint action. Japan is responsible for the Pacific War, but it is the US that is responsible for killing so many Asians by attacks with nuclear weapons. I want to expose this fact to the whole world and demand that the US recognize its responsibility, apologize and compensate for the damage. At the same time, I wish to request the international community to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to contribute to the total elimination of these weapons, so that such tragedies will never be repeated.

In concluding, I wish good health and success to Japan Gensuikyo and members of the international civil society. And I ask you to continue to support us and help us South Korean Hibakusha, our Association, and SPARK and other Korean civil society movements in our effort to expose the US as the perpetrator of atomic bombing and massive killings.

Thank you.

Session 1: “Joint efforts for a nuclear weapon-free world”



Philip Jennings Co-President, International Peace Bureau (IPB)

I bring you greetings from the world’s oldest peace organization, the International Peace Bureau.

I bring our respect to the tireless work of the Hibakusha to bring their message of peace to the world. That they must be the last people to suffer from nuclear weapons.

My message to you is one of solidarity and hope.

Solidarity with your campaign for a world free of nuclear weapons.

Solidarity with your appeal that Nagasaki must be the last place on earth that a nuclear weapon is used.

Hope because with a Peace Wave of action, we have changed the world, we now have a global treaty that prohibits nuclear weapons.

The Tokyo Olympics have shown how sport can be a force for good.

Then nuclear weapons represent a force for evil placing all human endeavors at risk.

The world is on a wrong and dangerous path.

We have reached a tipping point.

The doomsday clock is at 100 seconds to midnight.

Military expenditure at 1.9 trillion dollars and 72 billion dollars wasted on nuclear weapons each year and spiraling up.

New fault lines on old nuclear concerns.

Military doctrines embracing the use of nuclear weapons.

Mutual assured destruction closer and closer.

Strategic cooperation between superpowers sidelined replaced by strategic competition which means a downward spiral of division, polarization, xenophobia. A political narrative that slips into hate, discrimination and encourages relentless military expansion.

We have to demolish the case for strategic competition.

It means conflict on all fronts over nuclear, military, land, natural resources, economic and political.

It weaponizes diplomacy away from peace to confrontation.

The aggressive language from the G7, NATO and the Wolf Warrior diplomacy from China is a hammer blow to sustainable peace. It threatens war.

We need sustainable peace in Asia as power shifts, rivalries deepen, the new battlefield for strategic competition.

From India to Pakistan, the Korean peninsula, China, USA, and Russia nuclear expansion everywhere.

South China sea military maneuvers, territorial disputes all tempting conflict whether from an accident, miscalculation or misreading of events.

At the IPB we are assembling our members in Asia with the message we want a sustainable peace. The Southern Hemisphere is a nuclear free zone, the peace movement campaigned for this, it already includes much of Asia. Those in power listened to the people and made the giant step.

Our call. The time has come for a nuclear free zone for all of Asia.

At this moment let me also express our solidarity with the people of Myanmar who are fighting for their democratic freedoms.

We condemn the military dictatorship as we condemn all those that crush human rights in this region.

The IPB will not be silenced.

Friends it is time to Re Imagine our world that is the theme of our IPB Global Peace Congress that convenes in Barcelona in October.

The responses to the global pandemic, climate crisis, militarization, inequality illustrates not just our lack of preparation but misplaced priorities in a world running away from sustainable peace.

We must Re Imagine our world. We have an alternative vision with peace at its cornerstone.

We have helped launch a new Global Commission on Common Security. Together with the global trade union movement and the Olof Palme Centre in Sweden.

Why? It’s because 2022 marks the 40th anniversary of the publication of the Olaf Palme report Common Security: A Blueprint for Survival.

The former Swedish Prime Minister assembled a Global Commission which concluded

‘There are no victors in a nuclear war, deterrence cannot be made foolproof, nations must abandon doctrines and preparation for fighting limited nuclear wars as a matter of deliberate policy’.

They were clear - nuclear deterrence cannot

provide a long-term basis for peace, stability and equity in international society it must be replaced by the concept of common security.

They said then and I am sure the new Global Commission will repeat –

‘The conclusion is therefore inevitably that nuclear weapons must be eliminated’.

We will report in 2022 our aim is to get the world excited once again about the idea of common security, to put it into practice, that collective planetary security rests on our common security.

Time to Re Imagine our world.

We must push for nuclear de-escalation. To put brakes on proliferation to reinsert an architecture of control over nuclear weapons.

Russia and the USA have recently reaffirmed that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought – they should go one step further and eliminate their nuclear arsenals. They have launched a strategic stability dialogue - you achieve stability by removing thousands of weapons from hair trigger readiness.

The Common Security Commission in 1982 shifted thinking the 2022 aims to do likewise.

Help us spark a new debate for common security in Asia.

In conclusion the campaigning that you have done, the tireless efforts of the Hibakusha from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, messages conveyed across the generations have resulted in a global treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons.

54 nations have already ratified the treaty. Global public opinion is with us. The first meeting of states parties will take place in Vienna in January 2022.

The world would welcome Japan signing this treaty before then.

Our struggle continues. We will unite with the new generation, with the climate change and labor movements for with no justice, no green planet there can be no peace.

You will be ready for Vienna.

We will be ready for Barcelona.

Moments of hope, solidarity and ambition.

The time to Re imagine our world is upon us.

Let’s deliver. Thank you.

Tina Ebro
International Coordinating Committee
member, Asia-Europe People’s Forum

I am honored to bring strong greetings of solidarity to the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and to the participants of this World Conference against A & H Bombs, from the Asia Europe People's Forum (AEPF).

AEPF is a broad network of major regional



and national civil society movements across Europe and Asia. It serves as a vibrant platform for movements, parliamentarians and public intellectuals to strategize and work together on pressing actions for peace and security, as well as social, economic, political, and climate justice.

Allow us to pay tribute to the Hibakusha. Since the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, their voice of experience and hope have fortified our awareness and resolve that humankind and the planet cannot co-exist with nuclear weapons and that these horrific weapons of mass destruction have to be abolished completely in our lifetime.

We cannot express enough our gratitude to the Japanese peace movements like Gensuikyo for their tireless efforts over the years to organize this conference and to mobilize public support for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

We deeply thank the disarmament movements that brought the Treaty for Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) into being. The TPNW is indeed a radical step that puts activists in a stronger position in terms of international law. But challenges remain.

Today, however, nine countries possess an estimated 13, 400 nuclear weapons which is enough to end human civilization. Deeply influenced by their military-industrial complexes, these nuclear powers continue to upgrade their military and nuclear arsenals.

It is no wonder that in January of this year, the Doomsday Clock was set by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists from 100 seconds to midnight, an alarm and wake up call for humanity.

Furthermore, human security, our ecological systems and the climate is endangered by the emergence of intense competition between the US and China with Asia as the centre of geopolitical rivalry.

At the AEPF Peace and Security Conference in 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, the following was foretold by security experts: The United States would use the strategy of containment in the Asia- Pacific to forestall the rise and growing power of China. This strategy could lead to a coming war on China, and the implications

to countries in the region, especially in East Asia and Southeast Asia, in the aftermath of a nuclear war, could be tectonic.

Thereafter, "Pivot to Asia" was launched by the Obama Administration in 2011. It entailed moving two-thirds of the US naval forces to the Asia-Pacific and surrounding China with 400 American bases from Australia to Japan, Korea, and across Eurasia to Afghanistan and India.

Not surprisingly, China modernized massively its military. It has an estimated 260 nuclear weapons, though the United States has approximately 1,500 deployed nuclear weapons and 4,000 are stockpiled. China has also become the world's second-largest military spender, though its military budget is one-third of that of the United States. Moreover, there is a \$1.7 trillion commitment to rebuild the entire nuclear arsenal of the United States.

Thus Micheal Klare and many leading security experts forewarned that "The United States and China have entered a period of intensified economic, political, and military competition that can only be characterized as a New Cold War, with a very real possibility of becoming a hot war – even a nuclear war." **At the AEPF Peace and Security Conference in 2018 in Berlin**, Joseph Gerson warned: **A minor incident in the East or South China Seas** could escalate into a major military clash between the U.S. and China, creating widespread destruction in China and nearby, such as Japan and Taiwan. **A major U.S.-China military clash in the South China Sea or over Taiwan** would likely involve American air and missile attacks on the Chinese mainland, China could face a threat to its strategic defense capabilities and so place its nuclear forces on high alert – setting off a chain reaction of nuclear actions on both sides resulting in the actual use of atomic weapons.

We support Walden Bello's argument that to reverse the cold war and to prevent a new and catastrophic war: Our first imperative is to revitalize our efforts to demilitarize and to denuclearize the Asia Pacific region in the immediate future.

At the 13th Asia Europe People's Forum held in May of this year, a biennial civil society summit prior to the ASEM heads of state summit, the challenges and ways forward were discussed at Peace and Security workshops. The following AEPF campaigns/advocacies were identified: I) With Gensuikyo, the campaign will be waged to help build up public opinion in Asia and Europe calling for support of and participation in the TPNW; II) With the Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS), the campaign will be pursued

for the reduction of military spending and to reallocate these resources to critical human needs - i.e. free and universal vaccines, healthcare for all, and life-affirming essential public services - and there will be joint activities with social movements working for social justice and fighting inequality; III) with the International Peace Bureau, a Eurasia Common Security Policy will be developed.

The facilitation of these campaigns and advocacies is made possible by the unique character of AEPF's work which focuses on bringing together dynamic regional and national movements, as well as progressive parliamentarians and public intellectuals across Asia and Europe - to discuss and strategize on actions with a common framework. Actions that will enable civil society networks to call for rapid responses from states, parliaments, and international bodies, and for the legislation and establishment of relevant policies.

Friends, the tasks we have are daunting, but they cannot be deferred. Noam Chomsky stated that while the pandemic is the foremost issue on all of our minds, what is vital now is robust internationalism to pay immediate attention to the perils of extinction: extinction by nuclear war, by climate catastrophe, and by social collapse due to neoliberal destruction of the social contract.

I am confident that we could ignite worldwide solidarity and collective action and organize our strength into compelling power, so that states cannot elude our demands and we can overcome.

Hence let me close by acknowledging the generations of peace movements and activists who have worked, since the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, for a nuclear-free, peaceful, and just world. In these seemingly desperate and dark times, you continue to give hope and to bring light. So we thank you.



Shinohara Yoshinori
Executive Director, World Conference of
Religions for Peace (WCRP) – Japan

Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak before you at this Nagasaki Day Rally of the 2021 World Conference against A and H Bombs. The World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP), which I represent, is a campaign body in which Shintoism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam and various other religions in the world work together in solidarity in pursuit of building peace. It has national networks in about 100 countries at present, having started in Kyoto in Japan where it was founded 51 years ago. It was motivated by the reflection of religious people around the world on the history of the world's failure to prevent the outbreak of the tragic World War II. On the war that claimed innumerable victims, they undertook deep soul-searching, questioning themselves about the fact that they had not seriously raised their voices against the war, or that they had even taken active part in the war effort. Based on this review, they shared their determination that there should never be another war. This formed the start of the WCRC movement. Since our founding, we have placed a special emphasis on the campaign for the abolition of nuclear weapons, which we carry forward in solidarity with the Hibakusha.

We of WCRP extend our full solidarity with the World Conference against A and H Bombs. The goals put forward by the World Conference, namely, "achieving a world without nuclear weapons", "total elimination of nuclear weapons (by the nuclear weapon states)", and "support and participation in the TPNW", are the same goals that the WCRP has continuously appealed to governments in Japan and overseas and to the wider public.

In my presentation, today, I want to specifically emphasize an urgent need for the reexamination of nuclear deterrence doctrine. I believe that this nuclear deterrence doctrine is the major obstacle to the elimination of nuclear weapons. The very essence of nuclear deterrence, i.e., threat and intimidation posed on adversaries, arises from distrust between humans based on misgivings. Such a relationship of mutual suspicion, in turn, helps increase mutual hatred and is actually escalating the danger of the use of nuclear weapons. We, in the religious community, can never support nuclear deterrence doctrine. As a matter of fact, it is not due to nuclear deterrence, rather it is sheer luck that nuclear weapons have not been used in the postwar period. Even now, nuclear weapons pose real danger through the potential for misuse, accident, burglary or proliferation. I also believe that the problem underlying nuclear deterrence doctrine, namely, the acceptance of the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons in "an extreme circumstance where the very existence of the state

is at stake" must be examined without delay. In such deliberations, the tragic consequences of the suffering from nuclear weapons, which Hibakusha have devotedly testified to, and the scientific predictions of the consequences of the use of nuclear weapons are priority factors which must be taken into consideration and from which we should never avert our eyes.

Before concluding, I want to reiterate my call on the Japanese Government to participate in the First Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW. The TPNW is now in force as international law. The Japanese Government should pay respect to the treaty and sincerely face up to it, without averting its eyes from it. The role that the Japanese government claims to play as a bridge can stand only if it recognizes the NPT and the TPNW as complementary elements of the same international law.

The WCRP will keep in heart both the heartfelt appeal of Hibakusha for "No More Hibakushas" and the critical reflection of the religious community on the past war, and we will continue to work with WCRP's international networks to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Thank you for your attention.

Cultural program:



[A-Bomb poetry reading by Saito Tomoko \(actress\)](#)



[Performance by Japan Singing Voice Group](#)

Session 2: “Exchange of grass-roots movements of Japan and the world”



Ralph Hutchison
Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance
U.S.A.

In the days, weeks, and months after August 6 and 9, 1945, the United States government imposed a complete blackout on news from the bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. When John Hersey finally told the people of the United States about the effects of the bomb, the government moved quickly to create a different story, a myth—that the bomb was necessary to end the war, that it saved a million lives. This story was not only to ease the moral discomfort that people might have felt about the devastation of the bomb. It also insisted that the bomb be seen as a military weapon.

For more than seventy-five years, that effort has been mostly successful. The clear and courageous voices of Hibakusha have not been listened to by the leaders of nuclear nations. Millions of people marched in the streets for nuclear disarmament; their governments ignored them. Even the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty was only moderately successful—four more nations joined the nuclear powers, and the promise to pursue disarmament was eventually exposed to be a hollow promise.

But this past year, all of this changed. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entered into force on January 22 of this year. One hundred twenty-two nations voted to approve the Treaty at the United Nations; eighty-four have signed it, and fifty-five have ratified it.

This Treaty changes everything. Although it does not have legal force in the states that have failed to join it, it does have moral force in every part of the world.

The fundamental change is this: the Treaty does not look at nuclear weapons from a military standpoint; it does not talk about nuclear policy or national security. The Treaty looks at nuclear

weapons through the most important lens of all—the impact of these weapons on human beings and the environment.

The TPNW knows that nuclear weapons are an existential threat—if nuclear weapons are used, even in a modest exchange, millions will die instantly, the global fallout will kill tens of millions more, and the planet’s water will be poisoned. But the deadliest effect of all will be nuclear winter—the cloud of debris launched into the atmosphere that will encircle the globe, block the sun, lower the planet’s temperature, and trigger a relentless global famine. Those who survive the bomb will die of cancer or will starve. There will be no vaccine.

It is this truth—one that Hibakusha and downwinders have been telling us for decades, that provides the power of the Treaty. And it is that power that we must be using to compel our governments to sign the Treaty and then to fully implement it—to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

When Setsuko Thurlow accepted the Nobel Peace Prize in 2018, she called into the great hall in Oslo “the presence of all who perished.” Those spirits—parents, grandparents, sisters, brothers, children, uncles, aunts, teachers, students, shopkeepers—everyone had a name. Everyone was loved. And everyone holds our promise, that we will work to rid the world of nuclear weapons, that we will not stop until we have achieved a world free of nuclear weapons.

In the United States, more than 100 demonstrations took place on January 22 when the Treaty entered into force. In dozens of communities, at weapons sites, military bases, colleges, town halls, Congressional offices, and corporate headquarters, large yellow banners declaring Nuclear Weapons Are Illegal were unfurled. The media took little note. But the peace movement felt the spark.

That historic moment is now a movement, and it is growing in strength. It is a global movement—people all around the world are working for nuclear disarmament. But it is in our countries—the countries that have nuclear weapons and the countries that have security agreements—that the work is most important. And perhaps hardest, too. But we must not step back because it is hard.

In Japan, the power of the voices of Hibakusha must be heard by the government. In the United States, too, we must hear those who understand as no one else the devastating inhumanity of nuclear weapons. Together, we must persevere.

In January, Setsuko Thurlow spoke again of those who have gone, and she told them we have accomplished something amazing, something she never thought she would see—a Treaty declaring nuclear weapons to be illegal. But she also told

them that we are not finished—we have not yet reached the ultimate goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. And then she said, “But we will do it. I promise you, we will do it.”

I believe that each one of us must make that promise our own. Those of us working for nuclear abolition in the United States know we have much hard work ahead of us. But I promise you, we will do it. We will use the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; we will tell the truth about the humanitarian and ecological impact of nuclear weapons; we will build alliances; we will amplify the voices of Hibakusha, Pacific Islanders, and downwinders.

It is an honor to be with you during this conference. I am reminded of my journey to Hiroshima and Nagasaki more than a decade ago; I am encouraged by the great spirit of the Japanese people and the amazing bravery of those Hibakusha who have been able to tell their story. We join with you in the simple demand: Never Again! In the presence of all those who perished, we pledge: Never Again! To our governments and in our organizing efforts we say: Never Again! Working together, hand in hand, in different languages but with one voice, we say: Never Again!



Ludo de Brabander
Vrede
Belgium

Dear Ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak at this important 2021 World Conference against A and H Bombs. I'll focus on the US nuclear bombs deployed in Belgium, the nuclear sharing policy of NATO in Europe and how the peace movement is mobilising to promote a nuclear arms free Belgium in a nuclear arms free Europe.

Belgium is one of the five European countries with US nuclear bombs on its soil. In today's light it might be interesting to briefly outline how those weapons of mass destruction got in my country and why it is so difficult to get rid of them.

In 1962 a governmental law was voted to allow the free passage of NATO troops through Belgian territory as well as their stationing. At the time, a Belgian Member of Parliament wanted to add an article to exclude nuclear weapons under the provisions of the law. But the government convinced the initiator of the amendment to withdraw it assuring him and other MP's that the deployment of nuclear arms would be of course only happen under parliamentary authorization. A year later, the US deployed secretly and with governmental approval nuclear gravity bombs on Belgian territory without any parliamentary debate or permission. The incident illustrates how democracy is inferior to military interests and strategies of the US and NATO.

Until today, the government maintains a policy of ambiguity, neither confirming nor denying the presence of nuclear bombs in Belgium, blocking any normal parliamentary debate.

However, it is no secret that about 150 US B61 nuclear bombs have been deployed in five European countries as part of NATO's nuclear sharing policy. Belgian fighter jets are responsible for employing these nuclear bombs in wartime - as it is the case for Germany, Italy and the Netherlands- which is in breach with the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) that prohibits the transfer to or control over nuclear weapons by non-nuclear weapon states. These bombs will soon be replaced by new B61-12 nuclear bombs as part of a \$ 10 billion US modernization program. Because of their precision and low yield options these nuclear weapons are considered 'usable', lowering the threshold for a nuclear war. This all happens without any official statement or public debate.

Various surveys show that the majority of the Belgian population does not want nuclear bombs in Belgium. According to a recent survey last year, 77% of the population wants Belgium to join the TPNW (even if the US were to exert pressure, 66% are still in favour). These is also the case for Germany, Italy and the Netherlands that all host US nuclear arms. The Belgian population's anti-nuclear weapons position was also translated cautiously into the governmental coalition agreement that was approved at the end of last summer noting that “Belgium will play a proactive role in the 2021 NPT Review Conference and, together with European NATO allies, will explore how to strengthen the multilateral non-proliferation framework and how the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons can give new impetus to multilateral nuclear disarmament.”

Nevertheless, Belgium voted against a resolution in the General Assembly of the United Nations last December to welcome the TPNW and

asking countries to accede. All NATO member states rejected the resolution. NATO is openly campaigning against the TPNW and a global nuclear disarmament regime claiming that it undermines the Non-proliferation Treaty. At the latest NATO Summit, June 14th the NATO refuses to commit itself to nuclear disarmament and declared: "NATO's nuclear deterrence posture also relies on United States' nuclear weapons forward-deployed in Europe and the capabilities and infrastructure provided by Allies concerned. (...) The Alliance reaffirms the imperative to ensure the broadest possible participation by Allies concerned in the agreed nuclear burden-sharing arrangements to demonstrate Alliance unity and resolve."

The pressure from the US and NATO to maintain the nuclear deterrent is huge. The Belgian government is divided over the issue. Greens and Social Democrats want Belgium to remove the nuclear bombs and sign the TPNW, but the Liberals and Christian Democrats want us to remain loyal to NATO's 'nuclear sharing'-policy. According to the Greens and Social Democrats, Belgium will play a proactive role at the next NPT review conference postponed to the beginning of 2022 and pledge to work within NATO for a new policy on nuclear weapons. But it looks like these parties don't want to get the government into trouble over nuclear weapons.

The peace movement is campaigning to pressure the government to be serious about nuclear disarmament and to sign the TPNW with much local support. Last year, 150 mayors asked the government to sign the TPNW. This summer we launched an official petition under the right of petition law to amend the 1962 law so that the deployment of nuclear weapons in Belgium will at least need a parliamentary consent. The Belgian peace movement participates actively in the new European "nuke free Europe" campaign against NATO's nuclear sharing policy and for the removal of all nuclear weapons in Europe. In Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and Italy, there will be actions near military bases with US nuclear weapons next September. Simultaneously, a European bicycle tour will cycle during three weeks from the military nuclear base in Büchel to the nuclear bases in Volkel (NL) and Kleine Brogel (B), to show the unified position and strength of the European peace movement. Remember how similar campaigns against the deployment of nuclear missiles in Europe in the eighties resulted in a mass movement bringing millions of people into the streets. Our first goal is to get the nuclear arms back on the political agenda, to have an open public debate and to raise awareness among other movements (trade unions, the climate movement,

women and youth movement) about the planetary threat of nuclear weapons and the need to act. To recall the iconic slogan of Greenpeace: "No time to waste!"



Nguyen Van Linh
Vietnam Association of Victims of Agent Orange

Ladies and gentlemen,

Three days ago, we have just organized a memorial ceremony for the victims of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima, today we are meeting here for the commemoration of the victims of the bombing of Nagasaki. First of all, I would like to pay tribute to the souls of the victims of the atomic bombings on these two cities. I also express my deep sympathy to those who are still suffering the consequences of these two atomic bombings.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Japan and Vietnam are two countries with many similarities. Having to suffer the same consequences of a war using weapons of mass destruction is an unwanted similarity. Today we are celebrating with you the 76th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, tomorrow we will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the first spraying of toxic chemicals in Vietnam (August 10, 1961 - August 10, 2021) which opens the longest and the greatest chemical warfare in human history. During the 10 years from 1961 to 1971, the United States sprayed in South Vietnam with 80 million liters of toxic chemicals, including 50 million liters of Agent Orange and containing 366 kg of dioxin, which is a type of chemical with the greatest toxicity known.

The chemical warfare carried out by the American army has caused very serious consequences for the Vietnamese people: More than 3 million hectares of forests have been destroyed. Thousands of villages have to live with contaminated soil and water. 4.8 million people have been exposed to toxic chemicals. Among

these people, hundreds of thousands have died. Those who are still alive must endure every day the pain of serious diseases and deformities. Many women have not enjoyed motherhood; Many newborns died or were deformed. Agent Orange related diseases and deformities have been passed down from generation to generation, so far there have been 4th generation victims and it is not known when this legacy will end.

The American chemical warfare in Vietnam not only caused serious damage to people and the environment in Vietnam, but also affected the health of American soldiers and soldiers from allied countries of the United States and at the same time affected the environment in places where toxic chemicals are stocked before or after being brought into Vietnam, including Okinawa in Japan.

Dear friends,

Agent Orange and atomic bombs are weapons of mass destruction. The use of these weapons in war has left heavy and lasting consequences for the peoples of Vietnam and Japan. In the efforts to overcome these consequences, the peoples of our two countries have united and helped each other, and at the same time received precious help from the peoples of the world. Allow me, on behalf of over 3 million Vietnamese victims of Agent Orange, to thank friends in Japan and around the world for actively supporting and assisting the victims of Agent Orange in Vietnam.

I also call on the people of Japan and all countries to continue to help the Vietnamese people overcome the consequences of Agent Orange, in particular the consequences affecting directly 3 million victims of Agent Orange, who are both tormented by disease and have to live in extremely difficult material conditions.

I also call on the peoples of the world to strengthen their solidarity to prevent the research, production, stockpiling and use of weapons of mass destruction, to prevent war and to build a peaceful world, so that there is no more victims of Agent Orange, no more victims of nuclear weapons, no more victims of war.

Thank you!

[Summary Report of the 2021 Nationwide Peace March \(Video\)](#)



Maruyama Minoru Nagano Prefectural Gensuikyo



In our prefecture, on July 18 we initiated a new alliance of citizen groups named the “Nagano Network for Expanding the TPNW -- Carrying Forward Hibakusha’s Wish”. This alliance aims at working together to spread prefecture-wide popular opinion and the movement calling on the Japanese government to sign and ratify the TPNW. It is steered by a panel of nine people from various fields, including 3 women, as well as distinguished personalities such as Fujimori Toshiki, President of Nagano Federation of Hibakusha Associations, Kuboshima Seiichiro, Director of Mugonkan (Art Museum in Ueda City showing the paintings of art students who died in WWII), and Sugaya Akira, former mayor of Matsumoto City. The name of the alliance was decided after an extensive discussion and with valuable inputs from young people: “The Hibakusha’s desire should be our starting point and, as they get old, the challenge now is to ensure the transmission of their will across generations”; “the activities of the alliance should not be limited to signature collection drives but should also include other type of initiatives to enlist support for the TPNW”.

The Nagano Network is the heir of the Nagano Prefecture Forum for the Promotion of Hibakusha International Signature Campaign that was active for 4 years from March 2017. The five local groups,

namely Hibakusha Association, Co-op, Teachers' Union, Nagano Gensuikyo and Nagano Gensuikin, that shared the secretarial work for the forum will continue to do so for the new network.

We took full advantage of our experience as citizens groups working jointly to make the Peace March more visible and attractive. In 2018, Gensuikin and Gensuikyo peace marchers of Nagano converged at Zenkoji Temple to form a single procession carrying side by side Gensuikin and Gensuikyo banners, a moving scene highlighting the cooperation of these two long standing rivals. The joint peace march in Nagano is now held every year. It culminated in the exchange of messages between the two groups at the 2020 World Conference.

These joint initiatives of citizens groups were made possible mainly through their cooperation in the campaign to oppose security legislation and to preserve the Constitution. The cooperation developed in scope and power through election campaigns that were run to eventually establish a coalition of opposition parties forming government with the support of citizen groups.

For instance, in the by-election campaign for the Senate fought last April in Nagano prefecture, opposition parties and citizens groups concluded a policy agreement that included the ratification of the TPNW. Our joint candidate won an overwhelming victory. We are now calling for the adoption of this "Nagano-model election campaign" in other prefectures.

In view of the general election in the coming fall, we citizens and opposition parties need to develop a common roadmap so that we can work together to put in place a national government that will ratify the TPNW. However, even if we succeed in establishing a coalition government through citizen-opposition party cooperation and the way is opened for Japan to join the treaty, there still will be persistent resistance and obstruction from opposing forces, the US in particular, before getting to the stage of signing and ratifying the TPNW.

We therefore have to create a groundswell of public opinion to support and encourage the coalition government that will promote the joining of the TPNW. A benchmark for our strength and ability to match this task is the number of signatures we can collect on the "petition to call on the government to sign and ratify the TPNW" currently underway.

According to an opinion poll, 71% of the respondents think "Japan should join the TPNW", and 85% believe "Japan should participate in the first Meeting of the States Parties to the TPNW". We must bring together and make visible the opinions of Japanese people in general that widely

"reject nuclear weapons for any reason whatsoever". We are called to take a bold step to build nationwide cooperation across differences in political stance and ideological thought through the petition campaign we are working on.

To bring together an unwavering opinion against nuclear weapons, we must expose the true nature and deception of "nuclear deterrence logic", which is based on the use of these weapons, and work to overcome such logic.

"Nagano Network" is committed to actions intended to expand the support to a broad range of personalities and people of culture living in Nagano, including mayors, members of local assemblies, on to all groups and all elements of society, so that each city and each village in the prefecture is actively engaged in the signature campaign.



Tahara Chihiro Tokyo High School Students Peace Seminar

My name is Tahara Chihiro. I am a third-grade high school student and a member of the Tokyo High School Students Peace Seminar.

In the peace seminar, high school students learn and share their thoughts about peace.

For three years since January 2017, on 40 different occasions we collected signatures for the International Signature Campaign in Support of the Appeal of the Hibakusha. By February last year, we were able to collect 5,479 signatures, exceeding our target.

With the signatures we collected, we made representations to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in August last year. We directly conveyed our message to the ministry that as the only country that was attacked by atomic bombs during wartime and the country that knows the horror of nuclear weapons the most, Japan should ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

We asked ministry officials five questions, including, "Shouldn't the government join the

TPNW in response to 70% of citizens who think Japan should do so?" and, "What concrete measures is the government taking for the abolition of nuclear weapons?"

In response, ministry officials said that although the Japanese government shares the TPNW's goal for the abolition of nuclear weapons, Japan's joining it would undermine U.S. nuclear deterrence.

After the representations, participants expressed their thoughts, such as, "Bearing in mind the government's position, I want to deepen my opinions," and, "I felt the contradiction of supporting nuclear deterrence while calling for nuclear abolition."

Realizing that high school students' actions, though small, can be a force to change current policies of the Japanese government, I was able to gain confidence.

On January 22, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons came into force.

Hibakusha told us with tears, "I was able to see the treaty in my lifetime."

However, it is regrettable that the Japanese government has not signed or ratified the TPNW.

We in the peace seminar launched a campaign "Raise our voices! High school students' signature campaign" calling on the Japanese government to sign and ratify the TPNW.

I wanted to collect signatures as soon as possible, so together with my high school friends and residents in my community, we began our action. In front of a university gate and outside Kichijoji station, we were able to collect about 100 signatures in three days.

Yesterday, we held a high school students' national peace rally online. We confirmed that peace seminars not only in Tokyo but also in Aichi, Osaka, and Hiroshima will jointly carry out this signature campaign.

By appealing to students from elementary schools to universities, we can tell them that issues of nuclear weapons must be solved by us in the young generation.

Since about 13,000 nuclear weapons still exist in the world, it is possible that we might be affected by radiation.

In addition, high school students will obtain the right to vote when we turn 18 years old.

Leaning, thinking about, and raising our voices about social issues can encourage us to take a first step to become sovereign citizens.

With their belief that "nobody else should ever go through a similar experience," Hibakusha have

built the history leading to the TPNW.

It is our turn now to build the history leading to the abolition of nuclear weapons.

It will not be an easy path to take, but we continue to act for a better future.

Concluding Declaration of the "Peace Wave 2021" Actions:

Obata Masako, President National Confederation of Trade Unions (Zenroren)

In solidarity with the Hibakusha, the "2021 Peace Wave" actions were held for eight days from 2 to 9 August, with the common aim of calling on the nuclear weapon states to abolish nuclear weapons, and on the governments of each country to support and join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. A variety of creative actions were organized around Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days, in the midst of the corona pandemic, taking precautions against infection.

In 16 countries outside Japan - New Zealand, the Philippines, Nepal, India, Ukraine, Finland, Lithuania, Belgium, Norway, Austria, Germany, France, the UK, Togo, Canada and the USA - a variety of actions were held, including vigils, lantern floating, flash mobs with A-bomb photos, anti-nuclear film screenings, reading of Hibakusha testimonies, online debates and paper crane folding workshops.

In Japan, with signature campaigns at the heart of the action, more than 300 events were held, including the display of a model of the Nagasaki A-bomb Fat Man, floating of ad balloons with messages, public standings with A-bomb panels, ringing of the peace bell, street public viewing by young people, an A-bomb exhibition, and exhibitions of A-bomb photos and drawings by Hiroshima City Motomachi High School students.

Let's develop the "Peace Wave", which has spread so broadly, into further global actions.

In Japan, the general election is coming soon. This is our chance to achieve Japan's participation in the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Whether we can make the most of this opportunity depends on our actions. Let's create a big swell of signature campaigns from the grassroots.

(※ [The complete listing of actions of the "Peace Wave 2021" is found here.](#))

On-Site Program in Nagasaki:

“2021 Nagasaki Forum in Solidarity with the Hibakusha – From Nagasaki to the World”

Witness of the Hibakusha:



Yokoyama Teruko Vice President, Nagasaki A-bomb Survivors Council (Nagasaki Hisaikyo)

My name is Yokoyama Teruko. I was exposed to the atomic bombing when I had just turned four years old. At the end of July 1945, the air raids had intensified, so my two older sisters and I were evacuated by our grandparents to the countryside.

My parents and my younger sister, who was one year and four months old, remained at home when the atomic bomb was dropped.

When the bomb exploded, my father was at Fuchi National Elementary School, 1.2 kilometers away from the hypocenter. He was blown away from the school building, over the playground and down the cliff.

My mother was at home, four kilometers from the hypocenter, when she learned that B-29 bombers were coming. She was about to dress my younger sister, who was playing naked in the front yard. She felt a blinding flash of light as she called out to my younger sister "Ricchan!" from the house. Immediately she put her own body over my sister. Inside the house, all the drawers of the wardrobe flew out, tatami mats floated, and windowpanes were shattered and impaled on the walls.

My mother went out to look for my father but wasn't able to see him again until the fourth day, when she found him in an air-raid shelter.

Inside the shelter, drips were falling from the ceiling, and there were only thin straw mats on the

floor. Underneath was a soggy mess of vomit, dirt, and maggots that seeped through to the top of the mats. It made my mother hesitant to lay my sister down to rest.

In September, my sister's lymph glands swelled up and she had an incision. However, her voice gradually became hoarse. When she was five years old, she finally underwent throat surgery at the Nagasaki University Hospital which had opened at the Shinkozen Elementary School.

After the surgery, my sister's voice was reduced to a muffled whisper. After that, she was in and out of hospital repeatedly and started junior high school three years late. She was only able to attend junior high school for one semester of first year. She was forced to live in hospital until she passed away at the age of 44. Before her death, she became blind in both eyes and asked me from the darkness, "How many times am I suffering? What am I being punished for?" I could not say anything.

My mother often used to say, "In my dream last night, I heard Ricchan's voice."

Nine days after the bombing, my grandmother took me back to Nagasaki from our evacuation home. I grabbed my grandmother's mompe (women's working pants under wartime regime) tightly and asked her, "Where am I? Where am I?" I still clearly remember walking a little and asking, "Where am I?"

My youngest sister, who was born three years after the atomic bombing, developed purpura when she started elementary school. Fortunately she survived but even she, who was born after the atomic bombing, suffered the aftereffects of the bombing.

In our family, someone was always hospitalized. My mother always took care of them. She died of stomach cancer at the age of 64. She always said, "The atomic bomb is to blame," and told me before she passed away, "Please take care of your father and Ricchan," Her regret and disappointment were immeasurable. Three years after her death, my father died of lung cancer.

If only the atomic bomb had not been dropped, my family would have lived a healthy and a happy life. Every day we were haunted by sickness and worries of the aftereffects. The atomic bomb did not

only afflict us on that day but also afterwards and continues to torment us now and in the future.

"Let us achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons while we are still alive, so that there will never be another Hibakusha like us!" Many Hibakusha have departed while wishing and fighting for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

This year marks the 65th anniversary of the establishment of the Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo) and the Nagasaki A-bomb Survivors Council (Nagasaki Hisaikyo).

From right after the establishment of these associations, we travelled not only to many cities in Japan but also abroad to tell the reality of the devastation caused by the atomic bombing. We went to the five nuclear weapon states, European countries, across the United States, and Asian countries. Since 1974, I have participated in peace movement delegations to petition the United Nations to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons. In 1977, the "International Symposium on the Damage and After-effects of the Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki" was held by the U.N. Special NGO Committee for Disarmament, and the comprehensive damage caused by the atomic bombings was revealed to the international community. In the following year, in 1978, Ms. Chieko Watanabe made her appeal at the NGO Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. It was Ms. Watanabe's first trip abroad in a wheelchair. In May, the SSD-I (the First Special Session on Disarmament of the United Nations General Assembly) was held, and 41 delegates, including myself, from Nihon Hidankyo joined 500 delegates from Japan. Four years later, at SSD-II, one million people gathered in New York and marched against A & H bombs. Mr. Yamaguchi Senji became the first A-bomb survivor to make an appeal at the United Nations General Assembly. His powerful speech, "No more Hiroshimas, no more Nagasakis, no more war!" inspired us all. Furthermore, at the NPT Review Conference in 2010, Mr. Taniguchi Sumiteru made an appeal holding a photograph of his burn-injured back right after the bombing.

On July 7, 2017, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) was adopted at the United Nations and we rejoiced together from the bottom of our hearts. We offered our gratitude to all those who had passed away and were not able to share this joy with us. On January 22 this year, the treaty entered into force. In his last message, Sumiteru Taniguchi said, "The countries that do not have nuclear weapons must surround and isolate the countries that do." Let us all work together to increase the number of ratifying countries and encircle the nuclear states. More than anything, I am

appalled that the only A-bombed nation, Japan, has neither signed nor ratified the treaty. It is an act of betrayal to the A-bomb survivors. Let's gather even more strength so that the Japanese government will sign and ratify the treaty. Let's work together to realize a world without nuclear weapons as soon as possible.



Honda Tamashii
President, Nagasaki A-bomb Bereaved
Families Association

Although I don't remember the immediate aftermath of the bombing, what it was like three to four years later is still in my mind. The Urakami Area of Nagasaki was burned to the ground except for the steel buildings. The wooden buildings were completely gone.

Facilities such as the Nagasaki University Hospital, Chinzei Gakuin Junior High School (where Kassui High School now stands), Shiroyama Elementary School, Yamazato Elementary School, and Nagasaki Commercial High School were burned black, even though they were made of steel. I remember those facilities faintly for they remained there for several years. From the hilltop where Peace Park is now, all I could see was a devastated landscape, except for some steel buildings. All such buildings have been removed by now, except some parts of the buildings still preserved in Shiroyama Elementary School which you can actually see. I would like everyone to go to the Atomic Bomb Museum, see the photos displayed there, and know the destructive power and horror of the atomic bombing.

If even one nuclear weapon were to be used again, nuclear-armed nations would surely fight back using their own weapons. So I don't think it is an exaggeration to say that our world would come to an end in such a case.

I believe that our continued efforts, even if they were small, led to the Treaty on the Prohibition of

Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entering into force on January 22, 2021.

That marked only the first step in our long

struggle to realize a world without nuclear weapons. I would therefore like to ask for your cooperation to achieve our goal.



2021 World Conference against A and H Bombs: Forums on Various Themes (August 2 - 8)

Forum II: Solidarity with Okinawa and Removal of Foreign Military Bases (August 5)



Summary of the discussion:

Chisaka Jun, Secretary General, Japan Peace Committee

In Forum II, “Solidarity with Okinawa and Removal of Foreign Military Bases,” participants exchanged the reality of the strengthening of U.S. military bases and people’s struggles against it in different countries.

In his opening remarks, Chisaka Jun, Secretary General of the Japan Peace Committee, stated, “Incorporated into the U.S. military network against China, Japan is about to be sacrificed for the U.S. military. We must change this foolish and dangerous attempt and move toward the prohibition and abolition of nuclear weapons, removal of foreign military bases, and dissolution of military alliances.” He called for the victory of anti-nuclear and peace forces in the general election in Japan.

Joseph Gerson from the United States,

representing the Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security, reported how the U.S. Biden Administration is strengthening U.S. bases in the Indo-Pacific region in a bid to reinforce its control.

LisaLinda Natividad from the Guahan Coalition for Peace and Justice in Guam, where the U.S. Marines are planned to be relocated from Okinawa, stated that, like Okinawa, Guam is suffering from environmental contamination, health damage, and loss of ancestral land because of the construction of U.S. bases.

Choi Sung-Hee, representing the Gangjeong Peace Network in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, spoke about how the U.S. missile defense system deployed in her country and South Korea’s Jeju Naval Base have been strengthened.

Senaga Kazuo, secretary general of the Okinawa United Action Liaison Council against U.S.-Japan Security Treaty (Toitsuren), called for national and global support as Okinawa Governor

Tamaki Denny is expected to reject the national government's application for change of design for the construction of a new U.S. base in Henoko. Nago City Assembly member Kishimoto Yohei, who is working hard to win as a candidate backed by the "All Okinawa" forces in the Nago mayoral election in January next year, said in his recorded video, "Let us protect the sea of Orua Bay and the global natural environment with its rich biodiversity. Let us gather our wisdom to achieve a world without nuclear weapons."

Uesato Kiyomi, representing No Missiles! Miyakojima People's Forum, pointed out that Nansei Islands have been turned into a military fortress for the U.S. to contain China. She added, "Ryukyu Islands are about to be sacrificed again."

Speaking on behalf of the Forum of Citizens Groups to Oppose Construction of US Facilities on Magejima, Kagoshima Prefecture, Miyake Kimihito criticized a plan to build a new military training site on Mage Island, saying that it would destroy the local natural environment. "We will continue our signature campaign and other activities to stop the plan," he said.

Questions were asked of each speaker. When the speaker from Guam shared the reality of colonization and human rights violation by the U.S. military, other speakers expressed their sympathy one after another.

Other participants also shared their local struggles, including:

- a campaign to remove Osprey aircraft deployed in the U.S. Yokota Base in Tokyo;
- opposition to exercises by nuclear and chemical units in the U.S. Atsugi Base, Kanagawa Prefecture;
- an anti-base struggle in Takae, Okinawa Prefecture (the representative said, "Instead of lines of defense, let us create lines for human rights, peace, and justice");
- "Dugong Action" in solidarity with Okinawa organized by the Nagasaki Peace Committee;
- a protest against local governments' cooperation in recruiting young residents by the Self-Defense Forces in Miyagi Prefecture;
- a signature campaign by Bereaved Families for Peace in Aichi Prefecture to block the use of soil mixed with the war dead for the landfill work for a U.S. base construction in Henoko.

Presentation by the Panelists:

Joseph Gerson Campaign for Peace, Disarmament And Common Security, U.S.A.



I want to thank Gensuikyo for the opportunity to join Senaga-san, Lisa, and Choi Sung-Hee in this uniquely important workshop. I have the greatest respect and appreciation for their anti-bases freedom and peace movements.

I initially met Okinawan and Guam anti-base movement leaders when I came to Japan for the 1984 World Conference. I was shocked to learn that the U.S. still had more than 100 military bases and installations across Japan, with nearly three-quarters concentrated in Okinawa. I was pained and angered to learn how the U.S. bases serve U.S. war making and how people suffer from the military accidents, crimes, prostitution and sexual violence, environmental degradation, low altitude and night landing flights, live-fire exercises, and the political corruptions that are inherent to foreign military bases.

Representatives of the Guam Landowners Association brought two maps to that conference. One showed where Guam's best drinking and fishing waters and its best farmlands were. The other was a map of the U.S. bases. The maps were nearly identical, hammering home the displacements and injustice of the U.S. conquest and military colonization of the Chamorro people.

Before turning to the imperial contexts of the Biden Administration's campaign to build on the history of unequal treaties and alliances to diversify, upgrade and expand the bases of U.S. Indo-Pacific military domination, I want to share a few experiences that have marked me.

Once I was taken to a 500-year-old Okinawan compound where elite figures of the Ryokan Kingdom era hosted Chinese officials during the time of the Chinese tributary empire. The compound and its impressive technology designed to defend against typhoons reflected a very advanced culture. That experience communicated depths of historical and cultural identity that are roots of the Okinawan freedom struggle.

Earlier, I learned how Okinawa was sacrificed at the end of the Pacific War to buy time for the Emperor system, and I was taken to an oceanside cliff where the Japanese military forced Okinawan student nurses commit mass suicide by leaping to their deaths.

Once, with Cora Fabros, I had the emotionally challenging responsibility of personally expressing

sympathy to a family who had recently lost their mother and sister to one of the many accidents by drunken G.I's. Nothing we could say could ease their pain.

Over the years, Suzuyo Takazato and others have recounted the terrible decades-long history of U.S. military sexual harassment and violence, including against young children. They also taught me about systematized military prostitution, which I have also see in Olongapo in the Philippines and in camp towns near U.S. bases in South Korea.

At Kadena, you can see nuclear weapons bunkers, and I've learned that in the 1960s nuclear weapons were stored at Henoko. The secret 1972 agreement permitting the U.S. to bring nuclear weapons into Japan despite the Peace Constitution and the Three Non-Nuclear Principles is apparently still in effect. And I have the memory of flying home from Seoul, next to a U.S. lieutenant, who told me that his responsibility had been to launch a tactical nuclear weapon in the event of a renewed Korean War.

I've returned several times to a Ginowan rooftop to look out at Futenma's expanse and warplanes. No progress has been made to fulfill the 25-year-old agreement to shut down "the world's most dangerous airbase". When visiting veteran activists at their encampment at Oura Bay and demonstrators outside the Henoko base gates, I have been saddened that they still must be out there, but truly inspired by their steadfast commitments.

Friends, U.S.-Chinese relations are at their nadir. We are witnessing the restructuring of the global disorder into a new, dangerous, and totally unnecessary confrontation analogous to the Cold War. At root are the inevitable tensions between rising and declining powers that in the past have climaxed in catastrophic wars. And like the years before WWI, there are also complex alliance structures, intense nationalism with its hatreds, territorial disputes, arms races with new technologies, international economic integration and competition, autocracies, and wild-card actors. An incident, accident, or miscalculation could escalate to a major, potentially nuclear, war.

Consistent with Trump's National Defense Strategy, the Biden Administration issued its Interim Strategic Guidelines which prioritize preparations for possible great power war against China or Russia. The Administration's "get tough" approach to China was previewed in the confrontational run up to the Anchorage mini summit. June's NATO summit adoption of its 2030 doctrine, makes containment of China one of the alliances two priorities.

One change from the Trump era is Biden's commitment to military alliances. Prime Minister

Suga and President Moon were the first foreign heads of state invited by Biden to Washington. Secretaries Blinken and Austin met with their QUAD alliance partners before confronting their Chinese counterparts in Anchorage. Biden has reaffirmed the U.S. "ironclad" commitment to its alliance with South Korea, its military backing to Japan's Senkaku/Diaoyu Island claims, and to the military defense of Philippine interests in the South China/West Philippine Sea. And, with China's increasing area denial capabilities, the Pentagon is in the process of diversifying the locations of its military bases, looking to build more and smaller bases to complicate Chinese targeting.

Taiwan is the world's most dangerous flashpoint. Neither side wants war, but accidents and miscalculations happen. U.S. support for the island's liberal democracy is a major source of tension with China, but two geostrategic realities lie at the heart of great power tensions over the island. Taiwan is just 100 miles from the Chinese mainland, making the island a source of China's military vulnerability. Taiwan is also the world's leading source of advanced semiconductors needed by the U.S., Chinese, Japanese and South Korean economies. The island is thus a coveted strategic prize.

China has been clear about its red line for what it calls its 'renegade province', Beijing warns that if Taipei takes irreversible steps toward de jure independence, it will respond militarily.

The U.S. is playing with fire. Biden has repeatedly dispatched warships to the Taiwan Strait, and there are plans to permanently deploy U.S. warships near Taiwan. Blinken and Austin have trumpeted Washington's "rock solid" commitment to Taiwan's defense, which is reinforced by U.S. bases across Japan. And now the Suga government has declared its intention to intervene militarily in a war over Taiwan.

China is no innocent. The PLA welcomed Biden by repeatedly sending warplanes into Taiwan's air space and warships into Taiwanese waters. And Xi Jinping marked the CCP's 100th anniversary by stressing that reunification with Taiwan is a principle of China's "national rejuvenation"

The situation is no better in the South China/West Philippine Sea. Encircled by U.S. military bases and installations and the 7th Fleet, in total disregard of other nations' legitimate claims and of international law, China has expanded its Southern defense perimeter with its neo-imperial nine-dash line and construction of military bases on disputed rocks and islets. The Sea holds the world's fourth largest oil reserve. Of greater strategic importance, it lies astride sea lanes

over which 40% of the world's trade transits, including fossil fuels that power the Chinese, Japanese and South Korean economies. Were its sea lanes to be blockaded, the region's economies would face disaster. The Sea is thus the jugular vein of global capitalism and the geopolitical center of the struggle for world power.

This explains the provocative and dangerous U.S., Chinese, Japanese, British, French, German, and Dutch naval shows of force in the Sea that could too easily result in an incident and escalate to a major, potentially nuclear, war.

Our governments should be pursuing mutually beneficial common security diplomacy that can eliminate the existential threats of nuclear weapons, the climate emergency, and pandemics, as well as the conflict over the uninhabited Senkaku/Diaoyu rocks.

The so-called "rules-based order" - the imperial system imposed by the U.S. and its allies in the aftermath of World War II - which the U.S. and its allies selectively enforce, includes the oppressive and dangerous U.S. global network of foreign military bases. In shows of force and to prepare for catastrophic wars, the U.S., its allies, and China are engaged in provocative military operations in the South China/West Philippine Sea and near Taiwan where accidents or miscalculations could trigger a military conflict and escalation to nuclear war. This helps to explain why the U.S. is so committed to building the Henoko base, why there are plans to deploy first-strike related missile defenses in Okinawa, expanding its bases in Guam, deepening its alliance with Seoul, and extending the Visiting Forces Agreement with Duterte.

Our response must be clear: No new bases. Withdraw all U.S. foreign military bases. Abolish nuclear weapons. Reverse climate change. Stanch pandemics. And build the future that promises us all peace, justice, and security.

LisaLinda Natividad
Guahan Coalition for
Peace and Justice
Guam



Buenas yan hafa dai, to all joining in this session of the World Conference Against A and H Bombs; the first gathering of this annual conference after the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) earlier this year!

Empowered by the TPNW, we celebrate the victory of this work to make the world a safer place and embrace our global humanity. We on Guahan

stand in solidarity with you as we vision and create a peaceful world with *genuine* security, where people not only have the basic necessities to survive, but everything we need to thrive on this planet. We strive for the protection of our environment, the use of diplomacy for global tensions, and the value of human life so that nuclear weapons will no longer be part of the vocabulary of our children. We stand in solidarity with the hibakusha, who have suffered from the destruction of nuclear weapons and support their call for a safe and peaceful world. We will continue in our work holding states accountable to the TPNW.

In 2006, the governments of the United States and Japan entered into an accord revealing realignment initiatives connecting the peoples of my homeland, Guahan (Guam), a U.S. territory or colony and Okinawa. The Realignment Initiatives indicated the U.S.'s intentions to increase its military presence on Guahan by transferring about 5,000 U.S. Marines from Okinawa to our island. Upon thoughtful review, CHamoru (indigenous population) women became aware of the Okinawan resistance movement to U.S. military presence, particularly as a result of voluminous sexual and heinous crimes committed by U.S. military members towards women and female children. It was this awareness that prompted local women (consistent with their traditionally matrilineal social order) to organize and give voice to these concerns. We learned about the crimes committed against Okinawan women and children and convened friends and family to organize around the issues of peace and justice affecting CHamorus. Both our communities- Guahan and Okinawa- struggle with environmental contamination and health problems, as well as the loss of our ancestral lands for the development of military bases. We also live with the loss of self-determination to make decisions about our communities because the political structures do not take into account our concerns and input about the dangers of living near military bases. We have little access to our traditional fishing grounds and medicines that are behind military fences.

Convenings such as this conference reminds us that peace and justice is central in light of the ongoing issue of militarization in the Asia Pacific region. Particular emphasis is made on keeping our island homes of Guahan and Okinawa safe and sustainable for our children and generations to come. We are all deeply committed to ensuring the survival of our people in the midst of militarization and colonization. In light of the proposed relocation of Marines from Okinawa to Guahan, we are very concerned about the safety of our women and children in our community when

considering the historical acting out of Marines stationed in Okinawa. It is for this reason that we must stand in continuous solidarity as the stewards of Okinawa and Guahan to work tirelessly for peace, justice, and a sustainable world!

We on Guahan stand in solidarity with Okinawa in the removal of U.S. military bases. The island has shouldered nearly 2/3 of U.S. troops in Japan and have suffered many problems because of it. We look forward to the realization of global peace free of nuclear weapons and all things nuclear in Okinawa, Guahan, and the whole world!

Arigato! Pas yan guinaiya (love and peace)!

Choi Sung-Hee
Gangjeong Peace
Network of Jeju
Island
Republic of Korea



Jeju Navy Base, THAAD, and Global Alliance

Hello, my name is Choi Sung-Hee. Thank you for having me in this important forum. I have been living in Gangjeong village, Jeju Island, Korea, for the last 11 years so far. I have been joining the anti-Jeju navy base struggle. I am also fighting to stop the militarization of Jeju and beyond. Today, I will share my talk focused on the danger of THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) and Jeju navy base.

The United States is moving its focus to the Indo-Pacific region. And not only the United States, but also some European countries such as the UK, France, and Germany are moving their influence toward the Indo-Pacific region. For example, The UK is to deploy two light aircraft carriers in the region from August.

Many nations including South Korea are being integrated into the US Indo-Pacific strategy. Under the US-led global alliance, each nation goes beyond its own so-called 'defense' boundary. The global alliance is to confront nations such as China, Russia, and North Korea. The United States is pressuring her alliance nations including South Korea to join her Quad strategy pivoted by the United States, Australia, Japan, and India. South Korea has not expressed her participation in the Quad. However, even though South Korea does not join the Quad, the ROK-US-Japan trilateral alliance makes South Korea join the US domination strategy regardless of her participation in Quad. And as Koh Young-Dae, Solidarity for Peace And Reunification of Korea notes, the

trilateral alliance is centered on the missile defense system.

The Jeju navy base and THAAD base in Soseong-ri, Seongju are parts of the US-led missile defense system. It is above all, because of radar that THAAD forcefully deployed in Soseong-ri, Seongju, main land of Korea, is threatening. The radius of THAAD radar reaches to some key military spots of China, Russia, not to mention North Korea. Unless THAAD is withdrawn and Korea war officially ends, the peace of Northeast Asia, not to mention Korean peninsula, is far-off. The United States has been constantly upgrading THAAD system. And with the launch of the Biden government, the oppression against the residents in Soseong-ri and their supporters has become more horrible than at any other time. It is noteworthy that the current US war secretary Lloyd James Austin III is a former board member of arms corporation, Raytheon.

Otherwise, the Jeju navy base which was completed in 2016 is officially a South Korean base. However, because of the ROK-US mutual defense treaty, the United States can use South Korean militaries and facilities any time she wants. The base is also a homeport for the most advanced warships in South Korea. Warships are sent from here to join the RIMPAC or the expanded Gulf of Aden including the Hormuz strait. The South Korean government is to deploy a mobile fleet command whose flag ships would be light aircraft carriers with Osprey in the Jeju navy base within years. The South Korean government is also secretly driving for a nuclear submarine. It is also in process of tests for the successful launch of SLBM. Then South Korea, being already the 6th military power in the world, would be the 8th nation who succeeds in launching the SLBM. The South Korean navy's arms build-up in the maritime area would contribute to US Indo-Pacific strategy in the region.

Lastly it should be noted that the ROK-US cooperation in space is being strengthened. Three high military officers from the US, Japan, and South Korea, including John J. Raymond, US Space Force chief, had a secret meeting in Hawaii last year. Recently, in Jeju, it became known that the National Satellite Integrated Operation Center had been driven concealed from the eyes of Island people, as well as Island Council. It was the National Space Committee who decided on the project in 2019. The Committee includes the NIS and Ministry of National Defense. Even though the South Korea Aerospace committee says the center would only serve for civilian purposes, people think the role of center would not be separated from the US Indo-Pacific strategy.

A good news is the Jeju 2nd airport project which Jeju islanders have struggled against for the last six years has in fact dissipated. However, it is not yet cleared for complete cancellation. People are continuously paying attention because the government may try to enforce the project again. The project will be very likely for an air force base with the cover of a civilian airport.

* * * * *

Choi Sung-hee joins the struggle opposing the Jeju navy base and militarization of jeju. She also joins other struggles such as "No to the Jeju Second Airport (which is suspected to be an air force base)" and "No to the National Satellite Integrated Operation Center" currently driven in Jeju. She has worked in the village international team. She also works for the Gangjeong Peace Network, Association of Gangjeong Villagers Against the Jeju Navy Base, People Making Jeju a Demilitarized Peace Island, and Inter-Island Solidarity for Peace. She is also a Korean board member of Global Network against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space. See savejejunow.org

**Senaga Kazuo
Okinawa United
Action Liaison
Council against
Japan-U.S. Security
Treaty (Toitsuren)/
All Okinawa Coalition against
Construction of New Base in Henoko**



My name is Senaga Kazuo, secretary general of the Okinawa United Action Liaison Council against Japan-U.S. Security Treaty (Toitsuren). I will report on our struggles to remove U.S. military bases from Okinawa.

Okinawa was once the Ryukyu Kingdom that flourished through maritime trade. However, it was invaded by the Satsuma domain in 1609 and became a vassal state. Then in 1879, it became Okinawa Prefecture when it was annexed by the Meiji government. People in Okinawa actively accepted the government's imperial and militaristic education in order to be recognized as "subjects of the Empire of Japan" and not as those colonized by the Satsuma domain. The teaching that "the greatest honor is to die for the nation" led to the tragedy of the battle of Okinawa.

During the Battle of Okinawa, one out of every four residents lost their lives. Japanese soldiers deployed to Okinawa were not allowed to surrender even in the face of the U.S. military's overwhelming capability since their mission was to

buy time for Japan to prepare for a battle on the mainland. They had to follow an order to fight until the last soldier had died, an order which increased casualties among residents. The war was so horrific that U.S. servicemen called it "the battleground gathering all hells on earth."

Due to the militaristic education forcing residents not to become prisoners of the enemy, mass suicides took place in many places, where people killed their family members by their own hand. Others threw themselves off cliffs because they had no place to escape. Teenagers' lives were also taken. Male students of junior high schools and teachers' training schools were mobilized to serve in the "Student Corps of Iron and Blood for the Emperor", and female students had to work for the military as nursing assistants.

Japanese soldiers were also a threat to residents. They killed Okinawans whom they considered to be spies. They drove out and took the food of residents who had escaped the U.S. forces' artillery fire and were hiding in gama (natural cave) and shelters. They killed crying babies. From such barbaric acts of Japanese soldiers, Okinawans learned that the military would never protect residents. They have expressed their determination to never repeat the tragedy of the Battle of Okinawa in the phrase "Nuchidu Takara (life is a treasure)" and have maintained their strong belief that life is the most important thing.

Following its victory in the battle, the U.S. military requisitioned the Japanese military's bases in Okinawa and expanded them. By forcibly taking residents' land in violation of international law and building airports and seaports, the U.S. turned Okinawa into an island of bases. In the 1952 San Francisco Peace Treaty, Okinawa forcibly became a colony of the U.S. military in exchange for the restoration of Japan's sovereignty.

Under the U.S. military occupation, the Government of the Ryukyu Islands run by Ryukyu people was established, but the U.S. military placed the U.S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands (USCAR) above it. Everything was decided with an order by the high commissioner, the head of the USCAR. Of course, Ryukyu people's human rights were denied. U.S. servicemen continued to commit murders and rapes. Even if they were arrested and prosecuted, they went back to the U.S. without any charge. There was a high commissioner who said, "Autonomy in Okinawa is a myth."

The U.S. brought chemical weapons into and deployed missiles carrying nuclear weapons in Okinawa. Aiming to further expand bases in Okinawa, the USCAR planned to turn the Ryukyu Islands into a permanent base. However, the power of the people, who waged land struggles covering

the entire islands, pushed back the plan. This developed into a movement for Okinawa's return to Japan. Ironically, the driving force of their struggle was "democracy" taught by the U.S. Women's suffrage was achieved, and local autonomy by elected mayors and assembly members was established. However, the contradiction between equality under "democracy" and the U.S. military rule became the driving force of the Okinawan people's movement to return to Japan with its pacifist Constitution.

Although residents wished for a "peaceful Okinawa without nuclear weapons and bases," the 1972 "nuclear-free and mainland-level status" reversion to Japan left large U.S. bases and the damage they caused in Okinawa. Next year will mark the 50th anniversary since Okinawa's return to Japan, but U.S. nuclear facilities and units remain in Okinawa, and 70% of all U.S. military facilities in Japan are concentrated in Okinawa. Crimes and accidents caused by U.S. military personnel and military aircraft crashes have been repeated. Contamination caused by PFOS and other contaminants is serious. COVID-19 infections among U.S. military personnel are considered as one of the causes of the explosive growth in infections in Okinawa. Okinawa, where the damage caused by the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and the Status of Forces Agreement is concentrated, is now about to be turned into a main battlefield for the next war due to the U.S. strategy against China.

The Japanese government's policy to "reduce bases" in Okinawa, indicated at the time of Okinawa's return to Japan, was changed to "relocate bases within Okinawa" under the SACO (Special Action Committee on Okinawa) agreement. This means that U.S. bases in Okinawa will be maintained forever. The first step is to relocate the U.S. Futenma Base to Henoko in Nago City, and the construction for the relocation continues today. However, when the construction will be completed is uncertain due to the soft sea bed in Oura Bay. There is no vessel to carry out the work and no precedent for improving soft sea bed as deep as 90 meters. The Okinawa Defense Bureau says that it will take at least 12 years to complete

the construction. But according to experts, it is a reckless plan with a high risk that the structure will collapse during the construction work. That is why some think tanks in the U.S. are questioning the possibility of the construction. The Japanese and U.S. government's plan to build a new base in Henoko and to turn Okinawa into a permanent base is now completely stuck.

The governor of Okinawa is expected to make a decision within this month on an application for a design change in the Henoko landfill work submitted to Okinawa by the Defense Bureau. Of course, Governor Denny Tamaki will disapprove the application. The All Okinawa Coalition plans to hold a rally to support the governor's decision and calls on other areas throughout Japan to organize rallies to express their solidarity with Okinawa. I hope to see such rallies held in many areas around the world.

Under the Suga administration, which is pushed into a difficult situation, the dignity of the war dead is about to be infringed for the landfill work in Henoko, due to a plan to use soil mixed with their remains in the southern part of Okinawa's main island. That is where a fierce battle took place during the Battle of Okinawa. With the enactment of the land-use restriction law, struggles for the removal of military bases are about to be punished.

However, Okinawa residents continue to fight persistently. We know the power of democracy. We know the power of solidarity. We believe that by the power of solidarity with people inside and outside Japan calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons and removal of military bases, we can push the Japanese and U.S. governments to achieve an Okinawa without nuclear weapons or military bases. In order to realize a petition proposed by Okinawan leaders, to block the Henoko base construction, and to drastically revise the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement, we will work hard for the victory of candidates backed by the All Okinawa Coalition in the upcoming general election and the Nago mayoral election. I would like to ask for your continued support.

Forum III: Sixty Years of Damage from Agent Orange and Solidarity with the AO Victims (August 4)



**Senior General Nguyen Van Rinh
President, Vietnam Association for Victims
of Agent Orange/Dioxin (VAVA)**

Opening Speech

Dear Mr. Hiroshi Taka, Director of Japan Anti-A-Bomb and H-Bomb Council,
Dear friends,

Today Gensuikyo and VAVA meet again to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Agent Orange disaster in Vietnam. First of all, on behalf of the Board of Directors and all VAVA members, I would like to thank Mr. Hiroshi Taka and all Gensuikyo members for organizing this special meeting. This is the second official meeting between Gensuikyo and VAVA to express the support of Gensuikyo and the entire Japanese people for Vietnamese Agent Orange victims.

Dear friends, since the first meeting, on August 2, 2020, our two organizations have had many practical activities to implement the agreement on coordinating actions and support each other in order to strengthen effectively support Vietnamese Agent Orange victims and Japanese atomic bomb victims, and at the same time promote the common struggle against the use of weapons of mass destruction.

Those activities took place in the context that the Covid-19 pandemic did not allow our two organizations to meet face-to-face, but it was also an opportunity for the Vietnamese people and Vietnamese Agent Orange victims to express their

support for the fight against nuclear weapons in which you are the core force and help the Japanese people better understand the consequences of Agent Orange used by the US during the war on the Vietnamese people Vietnam, thereby contributing to strengthening the support of the Japanese people for Vietnamese Agent Orange victims. I hope this meeting will continue to help you better understand the situation of Agent Orange victims in Vietnam and propose many concrete actions to coordinate and help each other between the two organizations.
Dear friends,

This year we commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Agent Orange disaster in Vietnam while you celebrate the 76th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Due to the complicated development of the Covid epidemic, we have had to change the way of organization of many events. I assume that this meeting will also be a concerted activity to commemorate the events mentioned above. So I hope our conference will be fruitful and successful!

Once again thank you all!

**Testimony by Pham
The Minh, Victim of
Agent Orange**



Dear Ladies and
Gentlemen!

My name is Pham The Minh, born in 1975, a 2nd generation Agent Orange/dioxin victim,

currently living at Nam Binh hamlet, An Hung commune, An Duong district, Hai Phong city. My parents were formerly the soldiers. Once participated in combat service in 1972 in the battlefield of Dong Ha - Quang Tri, where the US military sprayed many toxic chemicals. Enlisting in the army in 1964, my father was serving a fighting unit, while my mother served in the same unit and joined the art troupe of the army to serve the soldiers directly fighting in the battlefield.

In 1975 my parents got married. When I was born, I was born with a deformity but for unknown reasons. In fact, it wasn't until 2000 when we were given a health check to receive allowance from the government that we knew it was due to dioxin poison.

Returning to normal life, my family's life faced many difficulties due to low income and expensive annual medical expenses. My family has 4 people. My younger sister was born prematurely and I was born with a birth defect. Every day, my parents and I still suffer from dull pain due to the release of toxins in our bodies. I myself have many diseases in my body since childhood, so my health is weak. I had many difficulties in serving myself and studying. Thanks to the active support of my father and my own will, I have overcome many challenges in life to study, to overcome illness and become a useful person for society. I studied and graduated from the University of Foreign Languages. Then I found a source of joy for myself through teaching English to young people in my locality, seeing them grow up and be successful gave me more positive energy. When my health is in good condition, I actively participate in charity and humanitarian activities of local associations and receive the attention and assistance from these ones again. The Association of Victims of Agent Orange/dioxin in Hai Phong City is one of the associations that has cared and helped me a lot in life. Joining the association, I learned more about the plight of many other Agent Orange victims. Understanding their lives, knowing their difficulties, I sympathize and wish to contribute my efforts to share their difficulties. With my ability, I can only give free education to the children and grandchildren of Agent Orange victims to help them find ways to improve their quality of life, or contribute a little to the association's funds to help victims of Agent Orange in its annual activities in Hai Phong.

Following Mr Nguyen Van Quy, a first generation victim, who participated in the lawsuit of Vietnamese Agent Orange victims against American chemical companies, I was chosen by the Association of Agent Orange Victims/dioxin Hai Phong and the Central Association to participate in as a witness at the International People's Court of

Conscience held in Paris, France on May 15 and 16, 2009. At the court, I and 2 other witnesses spoke honestly about the effects of Agent Orange on our bodies, the diseases we were carrying and the difficulties in our daily lives to contribute more evidence to the legal fight against American chemical companies to compel them to compensate for the damage they indirectly caused to Vietnamese people and Vietnam country during the American war in Vietnam from 1961 to 1971.

In 2010 I, who again represented Vietnam's Agent Orange victims, and a representative of Vietnam Association of Agent Orange/Dioxin Victims, Ms. Nguyen Thi Hien (Chairman of Da Nang City Association), made a public opinion tour in the US for more than a month to propagate about the serious consequences of Agent Orange/dioxin on the environment and directly affected people in Vietnam. The trip was very difficult due to the time difference and my weak health, but we completed the mission and received a lot of good love as well as valuable assistance from American people and Vietnamese people living in America.

By the way, I would like to share more with you that I am currently receiving a monthly state allowance of more than 1 million VND. With this money, I have an extra cost for my monthly medical treatment. Currently, I have many diseases that need regular treatment, such as: hepatitis, heart failure, insomnia due to depression, gastritis, headache, high blood pressure, etc... . Fortunately, I still have a family with 2 normally developing children. Looking around, I see that there are many other victims living in extremely difficult conditions, with low income, without work, in poor health with many diseases, and their children cannot even take care of themselves or can't control themselves. Thanks to the activities of the Vietnam Association of Agent Orange/Dioxin Victims at all levels in the localities in advocating state policies, mobilizing material support from benevolent individuals and organizations, domestic and foreign businesses..., the lives of Agent Orange victims have also been partly improved to alleviate the Agent Orange pain that still exists in each individual victim. I hope that in the coming time, all Agent Orange victims will continue to receive more attention and assistance from the government, organizations, businesses, and benefactors domestically and abroad to encourage and help them step by step remove difficulties in life, heal diseases so that they can integrate into the community. Let's join hands for a peaceful and tearless world.

Thank you for your attentive listening!

Phạm Trương
International Secretary,
VAVA



Situation of Victims:

Good Afternoon everyone,

Regarding the victims of Agent Orange, it is often said that they are "the most miserable of the miserable, the poorest of the poor". Why is that? I would like to make a few remarks:

1. First on the disease:

- People who are directly infected with Agent Orange - We call them first generation - most have serious illnesses. The Vietnamese Ministry of Health has recognized that Agent Orange can cause 17 types of diseases, but there can be many other diseases and of these 17 diseases identified, there are up to 8 types of cancer.

- For victims of the 2nd and 3rd generation, that is to say those who have inherited from their father or grandfather, most of them present deformities, in particular intellectual disabilities. There are congenital cases; But in many cases, they start to get sick as they get older (7-12 years old).

These people are also called "persons with disabilities", but in comparison with other persons with disabilities, the status of disabilities of persons who are disabled by Agent Orange people is often more severe, most of them cannot help themselves on their own daily needs, and for different reasons, especially health reason, most of them do not have the capacity to go to school, to access rehabilitation centers like other persons with disabilities...

2. Regarding socio-economic conditions:

Since the end of the war in 1975, the Vietnamese government has endeavored to provide various forms of support to victims of Agent Orange, encouraging them to overcome difficulties, helping them to have a stable life and integrate into the community. The living conditions of the victims and their families have been improved significantly. However, in general, Agent Orange victims still face many difficulties:

Regarding living conditions:

- For those who directly participated in the fighting on the battlefield and were infected with Agent Orange (approximately 350,000 people): The state has preferential policies, including a monthly allowance to ensure a normal life for these people and their children infected with Agent Orange. However, many families in this category still have difficulties, especially families with several children, grandchildren infected with Agent Orange, families who lack labor ...

- For the civil population living in areas sprayed with Agent Orange and contaminated by Agent Orange, the State also has a form of social protection including: monthly social allowance, free medical insurance. In addition, these people are also given priority to benefit from other socio-economic programs such as poverty alleviation programs, programs supporting people with disabilities ...

However, so far, the number of people receiving monthly state social allowances is not large, the amount of the subsidy is still modest. Consequently, these families still have a lot of difficulties: housing, facilities to support people with disabilities, expenses for medical care ...

- Concerning the conditions of medical care and rehabilitation:

As mentioned above, the victims of Agent Orange of the first generation are elderly people (65 years or older) and suffer from serious illnesses, so it is difficult to treat their illnesses.

Second generation (35-45 years) and third generation victims of Agent Orange are often deformed or severely disabled, so it is also difficult for the treatment and rehabilitation.

The difficulty of going to rehabilitation facilities for people who live in remote countryside or people who cannot go to these facilities without support from their loved ones also reduces the possibility of organizing rehabilitation for disabled victims of Agent Orange. That is why we are considering developing a form of rehabilitation at home.

- About the future of Agent Orange victims: Currently, most Agent Orange victims of second and third generation are directly cared for by their parents at home. A huge question was raised: When these caregivers are gone away, what will happen to their children and grandchildren?

We have thought of building a system of care centers for our Association which, together with the system of the State's care centers, will collect, feed and treat these victims of Agent Orange. Currently, our Association has 26 centers in the provinces. We would like friends around the world to help us develop this model. Thank you!

Hiroshi Taka
Representative Director,
Japan Council against A
and H Bombs
(Gensuikyo)



We call for dissemination of information on war crimes and damage from chemical weapons and support to and solidarity with Agent Orange victims

In a few days, it will be 60 years since the first use of Agent Orange in Vietnam. Similar to the atomic bombing damage, the victims of Agent Orange continue to suffer from physical and mental pains even after 60 years, and the genetic effects are inflicting great scars on innocent people of the second generation and of the generations after that.

As with the atomic bombings, what torments the victims even more is the fact that the U.S. government, despite its obvious war crimes, has yet to acknowledge its guilt or responsibility, and therefore has not apologized or compensated for its crimes.

Crimes for which the government does not admit its guilt will surely be repeated. Agent Orange, which contains dioxin, has also been used in the United States and has caused many victims there. Two years ago, it was reported in Japan that a large amount of Agent Orange was buried in a national forest in Yubari, Hokkaido. It seems that the defoliant was buried in the early 1970s when the U.S. military could no longer continue to use it, but no explanation has been given by the government about it.

The struggle of the victims and people of Vietnam suffering from this disaster, just like the struggle of the A-bomb survivors in Japan, is a humanitarian struggle to prosecute the criminality of the use of weapons of mass destruction and to eradicate the damage caused by them. Originally, we wanted to send a delegation to Vietnam for the August 10 commemoration to renew our resolve together. But due to the pandemic, we are holding this meeting online instead.

Once again, I would like to thank the Vietnamese people who are present today, especially the victims who gave their testimonies. I would also like to express my heartfelt respect to Mr. Nakamura Goro, Ms. Sakata Masako, the Japan-Vietnam Friendship Association and all the other people present today who have been pioneers in taking action to support the victims. At the same time, we would like to renew our determination to strengthen our solidarity with the victims of Agent Orange.

Here I would like to propose our "Solidarity Fund" campaign towards next year's August 10th. The text is very short and I will read it out. I hope you will support our proposal.

Appeal for Solidarity with the Agent Orange Victims, Dissemination of Information about the Damage, and Fundraising for Support of the Victims

This year, 76 years after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and 60 years after the first use of Agent Orange/Dioxin by the U.S. military in Vietnam, we met at the Forum for Solidarity with the Victims of Agent Orange at the 2021 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, where we had the opportunity to hear in-depth reports from the victims, experts working on their treatment and relief, and people in Japan and Vietnam involved in the movement to support the victims.

From the 1960s to the early 1970s, during the struggle for national liberation in Vietnam, the U.S. military sprayed more than 7,000 liters of Agent Orange containing the poisonous substance dioxin, contaminating more than 3 million hectares of land and affecting more than 3 million people with genetic effects lasting for generations.

The use of Agent Orange/dioxin is a serious war crime in light of the international laws of the time. We stand in solidarity with all those who have suffered and call on the U.S. government to offer an official apology to the victims, provide comprehensive compensation for their medical treatment, health care and livelihoods, decontaminate the vast areas affected, detoxify the poisonous substances, and immediately begin efforts to eradicate all weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons.

Relief from the damage caused by weapons of mass destruction can only be truly achieved by informing the world of the unfortunate reality of the victims and by completely banning and eliminating weapons of mass destruction, as declared by the first World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs in 1955.

To this end, we are determined to take the following actions, and call on everyone in Japan and internationally to join us.

1. To inform the public of the reality of the damage caused by Agent Orange, as well as the damage caused by atomic and hydrogen bombs, at the grassroots throughout Japan and around the world, by making use of the testimonies of victims, photographs, videos, and many other materials that

have been created so far.

2. To raise funds for the relief of the victims of Agent Orange in order to support the efforts to save the victims and their families in Vietnam, as well as those who are suffering from the genetic effects, including the generations to come.

3. To stand in solidarity with movements around the world that accuse the government and corporations involved in these acts, and to demand an apology and compensation from the perpetrating government.

After the conference, the secretariat of the World Conference Organizing Committee will continue to disseminate the materials and other resources produced by the Vietnamese participants and Japanese journalists and artists, and the proceeds will be added to the funds to support the victims.

August 4, 2021

Forum III: 60 Years of Damage from Agent Orange and Solidarity with the AO victims
2021 World Conference against A and H Bombs

Forum IV: Nuclear-Free and Peaceful Asia and the Role of People's Movements (August 7)



Keynote Report:

Hiroshi Taka, Steering Committee Chair of the Organizing Committee of the World Conference/ Representative Director of Gensuikyo

For a Nuclear Weapon-free, Peaceful and Just World: Now is the time for civil societies to play their roles

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. It is 76 years since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and I am delighted to have this opportunity to speak alongside those who have played active roles in bringing positive changes in Asia recently.

As one of the leaders of the campaign against

atomic and hydrogen bombs in Japan, I would like to join you in discussing the problems we face today and the role that the Japanese movement should play.

Conflicts should be settled in line with the UN Charter and international law

We believe, as many of you do, that the world is facing both a crisis and an opportunity.

The crisis is one that I shared with you. I noted in January this year that the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists kept the hands of the Doomsday Clock at 100 seconds to midnight. I agreed with their reasoning that governments and international organizations are unprepared for the threats posed by nuclear weapons and the climate crisis and for other existential threats.

Governments, especially those of the nuclear powers and their allies, have kept nuclear weapons, building up their arsenals, and engaging in repeated confrontations and conflicts, all for the "security" of

their nationals. But when the world is confronted with existential threats to humanity, it becomes clear that such "security" is of no use at all.

In the "Organizers' Statement" for the 2021 World Conference, released on August 2, we strongly warned that the nuclear powers, in the midst of confrontation and standoff, continue to stockpile and deploy 13,000 nuclear weapons, with 2,000 warheads ready to launch on warning, and they are still developing, modernizing, building up and deploying new nuclear weapons on the grounds of their own "security".

In the background, of course, are the territorial disputes in the East China Sea and South China Sea, and the conflict between the US and China over global hegemony. However, no matter where the cause or history of the conflict lies, it is already an established rule in the UN Charter and international law that international disputes should be resolved by peaceful means and that threats of force or the use of force should be avoided.

We call for an end to war games that could lead to the use of nuclear weapons. We demand that countries strictly refrain from the use of force, including attempts to change by force the status quo in territorial disputes, and that they strictly adhere to the UN Charter and international law.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons - taking advantage of the opportunity

The world is now facing a crisis as well as a great opportunity. The importance of seizing and taking advantage of the current opportunity cannot be overemphasized.

The nuclear powers believe that if they boycott the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), it will have no effect; that they alone have the privilege of keeping the world safe with nuclear weapons, and that they can keep that privilege for the "foreseeable future".

However, this assumption overlooks the fact that the TPNW is a historic choice for humanity, as it concerns the survival of civilization and of the human race itself.

In the 1950s, after the long military occupation of Japan by the U.S., at the time when atomic bombs were being replaced by hydrogen bombs, we started this movement as a truly national struggle. It was 1954, in the wake of the damage caused by the U.S. hydrogen bomb test at Bikini Atoll. The number of signatures collected for the ban on atomic and hydrogen bombs reached 32 million, more than half of the total number of voters at the time. Most of the assemblies, from the National Diet to municipal assemblies, passed resolutions to ban atomic and hydrogen bombs. The first World Conference against A and H Bombs was held in 1955 on the

basis of this growing support from the public.

In the late 1970s and 1980s, the anti-nuclear peace movement, triggered by the deployment of theater missiles in Europe, swept over European cities with hundreds of thousands of people coming out in protest, and, in 1982, one million people rallied in New York on the occasion of the Second UN Special Session on Disarmament, demanding the abolition of nuclear weapons. The subsequent statement by President Reagan in the U.S. Congress calling for zero nuclear weapons and the summit meeting between the leaders of the U.S. and Russia on the abolition of nuclear weapons would not have been possible without these people's struggles.

In 2002, in response to the Bush administration's move to attack Iraq under the pretext of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, people took action in major cities all over the world. The overwhelming majority of governments joined them and even the Security Council called for a peaceful solution. At the 2005 NPT Review Conference, calling themselves the "second superpower," people demanded the immediate abolition of nuclear weapons. It was this power of the people which brought down the governments in most of the countries that joined or were complicit in the attack on Iraq and which produced the agreement "to achieve the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons" at the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

The "Statement on the Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons" and the subsequent three international conferences on the same theme represented the so-called "humanitarian approach" to the abolition of nuclear weapons and were directly instrumental in achieving the TPNW. The humanitarian approach was successful in that it reframed the issue of nuclear weapons as a matter of human security. Until then they had been discussed as a matter of national security. I believe that this is a critically important perspective for both governments and civil society movements.

Even in the midst of the current confrontations and tensions, the major nuclear powers are making united statements at the United Nations to protect their nuclear prerogatives and oppose the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It is very important to remind the leaders of the nuclear powers of their own pledges to abolish nuclear weapons, to call on them to give serious consideration to the TPNW, and to demand a change in course from extinction by nuclear weapons to security through the abolition of nuclear weapons. The deliberations at the First Committee of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly in October this year, the NPT Review Conference in January next

year, and the subsequent Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW are all important opportunities to initiate such actions.

Governments may not listen to us overnight. But people now realize that the overwhelming majority of people in nuclear-armed and nuclear-dependent countries now support the TPNW, and that this is where the real security lies. It is time to prepare for the peoples' voices for the abolition of nuclear weapons to become the first "superpower" instead of the "second".

Determination of the movement of A-bombed Japan

As we prepared for this year's World Conference, there was one more thing that we were determined to do. Just as the anti-A and H bomb movement did in the 1950s, now that the TPNW has come into effect, we must unite the will of the Japanese people to make Japan join the TPNW and lead the world in nuclear abolition.

Of course, the current ruling parties in Japan cannot be expected to do that. To realize this goal, it is necessary to make joining the TPNW a common policy among the opposition parties, to create cooperation among a broad range of civil society to support this policy, and to build national opinion in favor of leaving the nuclear umbrella and joining the TPNW.

It is not an easy task, but it is an attainable goal, and one that must be accomplished for the sake of peace and security. There is also a bright outlook. We have had direct conversations with the leaders of the opposition parties. Not all of the opposition parties are in favor of joining the treaty. Along with those who are in favor of the treaty, there are also parties that are undecided and leaders who believe that the "nuclear umbrella" is still necessary. However, there are many members of the Diet who believe that the issue should be debated in national politics, and not a few of them are willing to work together to join the ban treaty. This dialogue and cooperation are important.

There are both hopes and difficulties in the collaboration among civil societies. The Civic Alliance for Peace and Constitutionalism, which is proposing a common policy for the opposition parties to cooperate on, has incorporated "prompt ratification of the TPNW" into its proposal. Expanding the support of public opinion is the most important foundation for us to build on. The signature campaign urging Japan to join the TPNW is ongoing in every prefecture in Japan. More than one-third of all local assemblies have passed resolutions calling on the Japanese government to join the treaty. On August 1, the day before the World Conference opened, a public opinion poll

released by newspapers showed that 71% of the respondents called for Japan to join the TPNW and more than 85% called for Japan to participate in the First Meeting of the States Parties.

After the World Conference, a general election is scheduled this autumn. In preparation for that election, we will step up our activities to create an overwhelming groundswell of public opinion calling for Japan's accession to the treaty, beyond all differences in ideology, beliefs, and political affiliation. It would be a great support to us if you could take action in your countries directed at your own governments and the governments of nuclear-armed states in response to our efforts.

For solidarity in Asia

Last but not least, solidarity in Asia is an important issue.

In East Asia, there are already ten ASEAN countries that constitute a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Southeast Asia. Mongolia has established the status of a single state nuclear-free zone, and there are campaigns in South Korea for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. In this context, if Japan leaves the nuclear umbrella and chooses to join the TPNW, it will create new conditions for peace and security both for Japan and for Asia.

I believe that this will create the conditions in Japan's relationship with Asian countries for Japan to face up to its past history without any falsehood and to talk frankly and constructively to resolve issues of conflict.

To this end, we will continue to develop our exchanges with the people of Asian countries. We sent an invitation to the Chinese delegation this year as well, although they were unable to come.

I would like to conclude by expressing my gratitude to all of you from Asian countries for your participation in the World Conference and hope that this exchange of views today will be meaningful for the development of our mutual understanding and joint actions.

Tsuchida Yayoi Assistant Secretary General Japan Council against A and H Bombs (Gensuikyo)

Listening to the presentation of Mr. Takakusaki, I felt it important for us to understand correctly the current situation: namely, that while we are faced with the critical danger of nuclear weapons threatening the survival of humanity, we have a chance and hope to overcome it.

When it comes to nuclear weapons crises, the

US-China military confrontation intensifying in front of Japan is very serious. Claiming sovereignty over the South China Sea and the East China Sea, China is strengthening its effective control of the region in violation of international law, as seen in the building of military bases. In response to these hegemonic maneuvers, the US has strengthened its global containment against China, mobilizing its allies of Japan, South Korea, Australia and India as well as NATO member states such as UK and France. If a military conflict occurs accidentally, there is a danger of it escalating into a large-scale war between big powers and even the use of nuclear weapons.

Prioritizing their own interests, nuclear-armed states, in particular the P5, have been modernizing nuclear weapons and intensifying the arms race, turning their backs on the TPNW and sticking to nuclear deterrence. This attitude not only threatens peace and security in Asia but also puts humanity and the planet on the brink of annihilation. The P5 are permanent members of the UN Security Council. The Security Council's mission is to have primary responsibility for international peace and security under the UN Charter. We urge these countries to stop hegemonic rivalries and wargames, settle disputes by peaceful means, shift to abolishing nuclear weapons based on the UN Charter, and fulfill their responsibility to protect world peace and security.

Japan's complicity in possible wars and nuclear calamity

What is more serious is that the Japan-US summit meeting held on April 16 defined the Japan-US alliance as "the foundation of peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region and the world as a whole," and the Japanese government agreed to promote military integration between the two countries.

In the Japan-US joint statement, the US stated its "unwavering support for Japan's defense under the Japan-US Security Treaty using all kinds of US capabilities, including nuclear"; and, being under the US nuclear umbrella, Japan promised to strengthen its defense capabilities.

"The importance of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait" was also confirmed. It was agreed that the Self-Defense Forces would "commit" to the "Taiwan emergency." It is clear that if the Self-Defense Forces participate in the US military operations in the case of a "Taiwan emergency", Okinawa and the Nansei Islands will be involved in war and turned into battlefields.

It is a shame that in spite of being the only atomic-bombed country and having the peace Constitution, the government of Japan is collaborating with the US in endangering peace and

security of Asia and the rest of the world.

While saying that it shares the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons as a country that suffered the A-bombing, the Japanese government has opposed the TPNW and committed to maintaining nuclear deterrence, entrusting Japan's security to the US's nuclear weapons. I cannot suppress my anger when I see the abnormal subordination of the government to the US and see it forging ahead on the path of dragging its people into war and nuclear disaster.

Disregarding people's sufferings from the coronavirus pandemic, the government has promoted such outrages as a record-high defense budget, bulk-buying of US arms, the strengthening of deployment to the U.S. military bases stationed in Japan, the participation of the Self-Defense Forces in joint military exercises, and attempts to revise Article 9 of the Constitution. We must urge the Japanese government to abandon its military-first policies, break away from the US nuclear umbrella and take the lead in the abolition of nuclear weapons. Reflecting on the past war of aggression, which inflicted enormous damage on Asian people, Japan should carry out diplomacy based on the UN Charter and the Constitution as a nation of Asia.

TPNW defeats nuclear deterrence theory

In this regard, the TPNW, which came into effect in January this year, has given a chance and power to us. The Treaty calls on the world to shift from "peace and security by nuclear deterrence" to "peace and security of a world free of nuclear weapons." Therefore, it head-on confronts the nuclear deterrence theory that nuclear-weapon states and Japan have advocated. The current crisis facing us is nothing less than the culmination of competition and arms races based on nuclear deterrence by nuclear-weapon states and "nuclear umbrella" states. If the Japanese government joins the Treaty, this will bring about a major shift in its nuclear umbrella and security policy, and will also make a significant contribution to the peace and security of Japan and Asia.

To this end, we must increase public awareness that peace and security cannot be protected by nuclear weapons, and that the US, China, and Japan should stop military-first policies. The signature campaign that we have been conducting since October last year to urge the Japanese government to sign and ratify the TPNW plays that role.

The speeches of the International Meeting made clear that more than 70% of the public in nuclear armed and umbrella states support the TPNW. In Japan, too, 72% of the population said the government should join the Treaty. The entry into force of the Treaty has raised the interest and

awareness of a wide range of people in Japan. Our signature campaign was launched with 137 prominent people from all walks of life as joint proposers, including world-famous musician Ryuichi Sakamoto and former Foreign Minister Makiko Tanaka. On July 7 we posted an opinion advertisement in the Asahi Shimbun, which has 5 million readers. In response, we received a lot of signatures and donations from a wide range of people saying, "I feel the same way!" As of July 20, 593 local governments have adopted resolutions to urge the government to join the treaty.

Let's develop the movement with the TPNW as leverage

It was announced that the 10th NPT Review Conference, which had been postponed due to the Corona virus pandemic, will be held in January next year. We are determined to put pressure on nuclear-weapon states and umbrella states, including Japan, to not only fulfill their obligations under Article 6 of the NPT and their agreements to eliminate nuclear weapons, but also to seriously face the international law of the TPNW and achieve the total prohibition of nuclear weapons.

In the Hiroshima Day Rally held yesterday, Ambassador Kmentt of Austria, who will be a chair of the First Meeting of States Parties to TPNW scheduled next year, said that he was counting on us to make the Japanese government join it. Let's develop our signature campaign drastically so that we can meet his expectation.

In Japan, a general election to determine the future of this country will be held in autumn. By generating more public support for the TPNW and encouraging political parties and parliamentarians to strengthen pressure on the government on this issue, we must create changes to Japan's politics leading the government to shift from its stance of subordination to the US and dependence on nuclear deterrence towards joining the TPNW. I am convinced that developing public opinion and the movement, with the TPNW as leverage, is the way to contribute to these decisively important political battles and achieve a nuclear weapon-free peaceful Asia. Let's do our best together.

Kim Jinyoung
People's Solidarity for Social Progress
Republic of Korea

The role of International Solidarity for a Nuclear-free Peaceful Asia

In order to achieve peace in Asia, we first need

a detailed understanding of the changes in the United States and China's policy, and in the US-China relationship. American hegemony is in crisis, but China's economic model has hardly formed a new hegemony to replace it. The Communist Party of China's "Chinese Dream" is not a new democratic order, but rather a coercive one based on military and economic power. China's military modernization and offensive military strategy are also triggering economic and military responses from neighboring countries.

President Xi Jinping's speech during the celebration of the CCP's 100th anniversary on July 1 shows this reality. In it, President Xi warned that "Any (foreign force which) dares to try (to oppress China) will find their heads bashed bloody against a great wall of steel." He emphasized "Socialism with Chinese characteristics," although it is questionable whether China's state capitalism and nationalism should be called "socialism. His promises to build "a world-class army" and achieve "complete reunification with Taiwan" have heightened concerns that China, which is experiencing slowing economic growth and widening economic inequality, could take military action against neighboring countries, including Taiwan, similar to the way in which Russia, whose economy has been stagnant since the 2007-09 financial crisis, invaded and annexed Crimea and intervened in civil wars in Ukraine and Syria.

The US' view of China's policy direction is well illustrated in the White House's "Interim National Security Strategic Guidance", released in March. The report defines competition with China, the US' "only competitor, as competition against authoritarianism and autocracy. As part of its efforts to contain China's growing military power, the US continues to expand its THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) installation in Soseong-ri, South Korea against the will of local residents, contributing to tensions in the region.

Bloc confrontations like those that occurred during the Cold War cannot be the answer to this situation. At the same time, we cannot ignore the "strategic competition" which is already happening between the US and China. A movement for peace in Asia must place value on non-nuclear peace, true social, economic, and political democracy, a concept of human rights grounded in equality and respect for difference and social and environmental sustainability. They should seek progressive alternatives based on these principles at the national and international levels.

On the Korean Peninsula, for example, both attempts to talk with North Korea and "pressure tactics" have hit a dead end as North Korea blocks its borders due to the COVID-19 pandemic. North

Korea is believed to be developing tactical nuclear weapons and considering scrapping its "No-First-Use Nuclear Policy". In South Korea, which is heading into a presidential election in March of next year, right-wing candidates are calling for a "NATO-style nuclear sharing system" with the US. Since the Moon Jae-in administration's North Korea policy has failed to achieve tangible results, North Korea policy will be one of the main topics during the presidential election. At this point, it is our urgent task to prevent South Korea moving in a direction that strengthens military tensions in East Asia. The solidarity of people across Asia will be of great help.

On the international level, social movements in Asia should lead the way to a nuclear weapons-free world, democracy, human rights, and climate justice together. The entry into force of the "Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons" (TPNW) may be the best example of a successful effort in this direction. The Treaty will expose the reality that the US and China share nuclear hegemony amid "competition" and be a means of pressuring them to disarm. International solidarity will be the key to creating more answers in the future.

Corazon Valdez Fabros Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition

I would like to express appreciation to the Organizing Committee of the 2021 World Conference, particularly Gensuikyo, for inviting me to join today's Workshop on Nuclear-Free and Peaceful Asia and the Role of People's Movements. It is an honor and a privilege to share this virtual platform with many friends and other movement leaders and with our Japanese friends Ohayo Gozaimas!

This is the second time we are holding these commemorative events in the midst of the pandemic. The challenges we face are many and complex, at times overwhelming, yet we are truly present in our struggles and resistance. We are learning lessons and skills we never expected we can muster the energy and courage to pursue. The Hibakusha, the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, who we honor as our inspiring compass in holding the conference every year, continues to inspire us with their determination to ensure that Hiroshima and Nagasaki will not happen again. I am also happy that more and more young peace movement leaders are taking on more active roles in organizing and making our gatherings possible.

Earlier speakers at the International Meeting and workshops, including Hiroshi Taka-san's lecture today have clearly laid out the situation of

un-peace, insecurity, injustice, inequality, conflicts and tensions in the world today. The Asia Pacific, has been for a long time a Theater of War, the American Lake, and sadly, continues to be so, where communities suffer the impacts of colonialism, militarism and patriarchy and the rise of fascist and authoritarian regimes.

In the Philippines, during the commemoration of 75th Anniversary of the US-Philippine diplomatic relations, and the 70th year of the Mutual Defense Treaty, it is significant to understand the nature of that alliance with the presence of US Defense Secretary Austin and the Philippine Defense Secretary Lorenzana at the helm of the commemoration, highlighted by the Philippine President's retraction of the termination letter for the Visiting Forces Agreement. putting back on track and highlighting "the significance of the bilateral defense relations between the Philippines and the US in light of new and emerging challenges that confront our nation." This therefore fully restores the Visiting Forces Agreement.

At the top of the US agenda, according to Austin, was finding ways to enhance and reinvigorate the alliance and the Mutual Defense Treaty. These include maritime Cooperation, support to further modernize the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and investments that will help the Philippines navigate the region's complex security environment. The specifics and contours of these general statements remains to be seen. Their discussion on counterterrorist cooperation as a strong area of common support is a cause of concern in light of the Philippine's policy of red-tagging and clamping down on activities critical of its authoritarian policies and governance. Already an Anti-Terror Law is being enforced despite the pending 37 petitions before the Supreme Court challenging its constitutionality. Never before have I seen such broad range of opposition and legal challenge. in our many years as peace, justice and human rights advocates. Duterte's human rights record across sectors (including lawyers and media) puts to shame the records of previous regimes. I am deeply ashamed of the subservient posture and foreign policy of this government towards foreign powers particularly towards the United States and China.

Note that the US has supported the counter-insurgency effort of the Philippine government in Mindanao since 2000. Closely related to this is US commitment of its support to the newly named operation in the Indo-Pacific, Operation Pacific Eagle-Philippines.

With the VFA in place, the U.S. can conduct more than 300 bilateral engagements every year with the Philippine Armed Forces, from expert

exchanges to ship visits to component exercises and major training exercises like Balikatan, including Philippines' participation in major military exercises like Talisman Sabre and RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific) in the name of interoperability and preparations for war.

In his speech at the International Meeting, Joseph Gerson expounded on the current state of affairs and direction of the US-China relations, with the U.S. forging a national consensus that "China is an existential threat to freedom and democracy; therefore the U.S. must aggressively defend democracy -- militarily, diplomatically, technologically, and otherwise." And warned about the "consequences of the tensions between rising and declining powers that in the past have climaxed in catastrophic wars."

China's rise as economic and military power, its aggressive military actions in the West Philippine Sea is an urgent concern in Southeast Asia and the rest of Asia and the Pacific. This situation challenges the unity and cooperation among the ASEAN that brings to the fore the need for the serious implementation of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Treaty.

As we meet today, the US naval and amphibious exercise called Large Scale Exercise 2021 (LSE2021), the largest of its kind in 40 years is underway until August 16, reminds us of similar Cold War exercises in 1980s demonstrating resolve and new capabilities. Involving units spanning 17 different time zones, "LSE2021 potentially puts adversaries on notice that the U.S. can simultaneously address challenges in the Black Sea, eastern Mediterranean Sea, South China Sea and East China Sea -- shutting down efforts to spread American military forces thin" (James R. Holmes, the J.C. Wylie Chair of Maritime Strategy at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I).

It demonstrates that U.S. naval and Marine forces can deny adversaries control of the seas, which is especially crucial in the Western Pacific, where the U.S. hopes to prevent China from occupying Taiwan or seizing the Japan-administered Senkaku Islands.

About 36 ships, more than 50 virtual units, military, civilian contract personnel, 6 naval and Marine Corps component commands with five U.S. fleets and three Marine Expeditionary Forces are involved. I shiver at the thought of the dangers it poses to the people of this region and the mind-blowing amount of money, resources and humanpower that is wasted in the name of preparations for war and the profits that exponentially make the war profiteers insatiably hunger for more.

What then is the role of the people's

movements amidst these challenges?

We have started this year celebrating the long awaited coming into force of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons paving the way towards a nuclear free world.

For us in the Philippines, we will hold on to our determination and aspiration expressed in the Philippine Constitution that served as the legal basis for the Philippines ratification of the TPNW: "THE PHILIPPINES, CONSISTENT WITH THE NATIONAL INTEREST, ADOPTS AND PURSUES A POLICY OF FREEDOM FROM NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN ITS TERRITORY." (DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND STATE POLICIES, Sec. 8, Article 2, 1987 Philippine Constitution), as well as the Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone Treat (1995); the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by the United Nations.

Our next step is to legislate a national and international treaty that bans nuclear power plants unless there is consent by the majority of the people thru a national referendum.

Allow me to lift lessons from struggles and resistance against dictatorship, U.S. Bases and the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant in the Philippines:

1. SOLID ORGANIZING at the national level and local communities.

2. Involve ALL SECTORS including students, teachers, local officials, church people, media, etc. for a broad, popular struggle.

3. Wage a CULTURAL STRUGGLE to SIMPLIFY and popularize our message through songs, plays, film, comics, etc.

4. Initiate LEGAL PROCEEDINGS in courts as well as initiate/lobby for LEGISLATIVE efforts to institutionalize victories. People Power!

5. Initiate campaigns locally and internationally against the financing and support of harmful nuclear energy technologies, weapons of war and mass destruction.

6. Activate world-wide networks for INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY against the global nuclear mafia, foreign military bases, military infrastructure, and the existence of autocratic and fascist regimes;

7. Creatively expose and critique the continuing rise of military spending and the weaponization of our laws, education, governance and social structures that only perpetuate injustice, violence and oppression;

8. POPULARIZE development alternatives that respect and uphold life, dignity and human rights that is manifested in the reduction of military spending, prioritizing the basic needs of people and the protection of the environment.

Finally, on behalf of the International Peace

Bureau and the Asia Europe Peoples Forum, I express our commitment to support the campaigns for the implementation of the TPNW; the reduction of military spending; the opposition to foreign military bases, the Korea Peace Appeal Signature campaign and peace in the Korean Peninsula and the important work of formulating a common security policy that involves social movements and governments across sectors and regions.

No more Hibakusha! No to nuclear weapons! No to War! And yes to justice, to a life sustaining climate and to people's health and human rights!

Anuradha Chenoy
Asia-Europe People's Forum
India

A Nuclear Free Peaceful Asia: The Role of Peace Movements

It is for a reason that the US, Russia and the Western world have adjusted their geopolitics and geo-economics to Asia in what is labelled the 'Pivot to Asia'. Asia is a center for resources, an engine of some growth for the failed neo liberal growth, one major and several rising powers, but it is also the center for the most unresolved inter-state disputes, frozen wars and tensions over sea lanes, nuclearization, all kinds of terrorisms and more. Each of these are the inter-connected dangers that can lead to a nuclear flash point/ accident and escalation. The consequences at a time of global warming and pandemics will be close to extinction.

The unresolved conflicts between states with nuclear missiles in Asia are: (i) North and South Korea dispute (ii) India vs Pakistan (iii) India vs China (iv) US containment of China (v) Russian Far East tensions with the US.

This makes Asia a dangerous site for both nuclear and violent interstate conflicts. Unlike during the Cold War and confrontation between US and Russia there is (i) There is no understanding for peace treaties between these conflicting parties. (ii) There is no equivalent to any disarmament treaty like the SALT, START, INF as there was between Russia and US/NATO (iii) There is no 'hotline' of direct communication between leaders of confronting states. (iv) There is no commitment to 'no first use' of nuclear weapons.

On the contrary these states face: (i) Rise of chauvinist right wing nationalism with deepening of national security states. (ii) Polarization of society into right wing often racist/ communal communities versus the minorities/ pro peace civil society actors (iii) The centrist mass of society has shifted in favor

of majoritarianism and accept hegemonic construction of an 'enemy other' in exchange for dreams of economic well being.

This means: (i) aggressive nationalisms that risk wars and militarist policies. (ii) Civil society is under pressure as states suppress dissent, and alternative ideas.

In these circumstances what can peace/social movements do?

1. Build on the legacy of the international peace and anti-nuclear movements.

2. Advocate the success, like TPNW and get other smaller states to sign it.

3. Build broad coalitions with social movements.

4. This coalition with climate and ecological movement is especially important as many places are facing dramatic climate shifts.

5. Build new arguments and advocacy, to show the impact link between nuclear impact/ militarization and climate.

6. The anti-nuclear campaign should align itself with the SDGs.

7. The anti-nuclear movement must use new social media methods.

The demands of the Asian civil society should include:

1. There is a need to develop an Asian Security System separate from the interference of external powers. Popularise the idea of declaring the Indian Ocean and South China Seas as 'Zones of Peace' free of foreign military bases by any country. Call for opposing US sanctions on North Korea and Iran.

2. Call for NATO to decrease defence spending.

3. Call on all states to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

4. Promote steps to (a) extend the Bangkok Treaty (Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone) to incorporate Bangladesh; (b) encourage Nepal to emulate Mongolia by moving towards declaring itself a Single State Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SSNWFZ). Representative bodies of parliamentarians from some Asian (and European) countries should visit Bangladesh and Nepal to pursue these efforts.

5. (a) Reject the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) wherein the US can forcibly board merchant ships on mere suspicion of carrying material that can claim however loosely to be related to possible production of WMDs. (b) Oppose BMDs and TMDs.

6. Call on the US to normalise political relations and arrange an unconditional peace treaty with N. Korea.

7. Have a demilitarized zones in Asian conflict prone areas.

8. Call for peaceful navigation in Indo-Pacific.

2021 World Conference against A and H Bombs: Associated Events/Forums

Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Power: “Ten Years after Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident -- Fukushima Today” (August 3)



The forum was held under the theme: “Ten Years after Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident -- Fukushima Today”, moderated by Miyazawa Yoko (Board member, Japanese Federation of Democratic Medical Institutions – MIN-IREN).

At the outset, Takeshita Takeshi (board member, National Confederation of Trade Unions - ZENROREN), as the coordinator of the forum, reminded us that this year’s World Conference was taking place in a new context with the TPNW coming into effect. However, he emphasized that the challenges involving nuclear power plants continued to be important and the risks that persist might escalate even to a nuclear war. He pointed in particular to the intensification of U.S.-China confrontation and to the Suga government’s attempt to take advantage of the emergency situation in Taiwan. Finance minister Aso stated that Japan should exercise the right to collective self-defense and participate in real combat in the event of an armed clash, considering it as an existential crisis for Japan. He stressed the need to tackle the problem of nuclear power plants and called on the participants to further strengthen the movement to achieve both the abolition of nuclear

weapons and Zero nuclear power plants.

The main report was made by Watanabe Kanichi, a local assembly member of Minami-Soma City (Odaka district) of Fukushima Prefecture. The gist of his report is as follows:

“Prime Minister Suga in December 2020 stated that ‘the recovery of Fukushima is now in the final stage’. Minami-Soma City stretches between 10 km and 38 km north of the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Power Plant, the theater of the unimaginable disaster that happened ten years ago. My constituency, Odaka district, is small enough to fit entirely within the 20km-radius from the plant. The areas, including Minami-Soma City, once designated as “forced evacuation zones” or currently under “evacuation order”, are far from “having recovered”. In fact, they have not even finished restoring farming lands devastated by the big quake and the tsunami. It is the hope of every resident there that the nuclear power plant accident will quickly and smoothly be brought to an end and that everything will return to the way it was before.

Nevertheless, the plant accident is not over at all. On the contrary, it is impossible even ten years after to figure out how the melted fuel debris remaining in the reactor can be safely retrieved. The

cooling water, which went through the reactor core and became contaminated with radioactivity, mixes with underground water and continues to accumulate in huge water tanks. As all the tanks available for storing contaminated water are likely to become full in two years' time, the SUGA Cabinet, at a meeting of relevant Cabinet Ministers on April 13 this year, decided to "discharge the radioactive water into the ocean". The Minami-Soma City Council immediately reacted to this by adopting unanimously a resolution condemning the Cabinet decision to release polluted water into the sea and demanding the withdrawal of the decision. The Council sent this resolution to the Government. We believe that the choice of discharge into the ocean undermines the perseverance of many people, including fishermen and farmers in the prefecture, who have worked so hard to recover safety and confidence in their products. It will create division among these people and cause further damage by harmful rumors.

The State and TEPCO take it for granted that contaminated water should be dumped into the ocean. But if a large tank is installed in the sea, it will be possible to safely store the radioactive water for 40 years to come.

Radiation, whether it originated from nuclear weapons or from power generation (which is promoted as being "peaceful use"), causes serious long-term damage and harmful impacts on all living things, including humans, as well as on the environment. We will work with you until these two evils are eliminated from the earth".

The following people presented reports from the communities hosting or campaigning against nuclear power-related facilities:

- Aomori: Tanizaki Yoshiharu, General Secretary, Forum against the construction of

nuclear fuel cycle installations

- Miyagi: Suto Michiko, Miyagi Network of women for protecting children from radiation contamination and for conversion to renewable energy
- Fukui: Hayashi Hirokazu, General Secretary, Fukui Forum of residents' campaigns on the problem of nuclear power plants
- Ibaraki: Ogitani Shoko, board member, Ibaraki Prefecture Gensuikyo
- Kagoshima: Taira Yukio, prefectural assembly member

After these reports, a part of the video "Fukushima, Spring 2021 -- Current situation and challenges ahead" (produced by Fukushima Reconstruction Center) was shown to the participants.

Prof. Ihara Satoshi, professor emeritus of Tohoku University gave a lecture as an expert, entitled, "Already ten years; still ten years; but only ten years since the nuclear plant accident". He described the present state of nuclear power generation in Japan and the nation's future nuclear energy policy as well as current problems and challenges of nuclear plants. He also called for a nationwide debate to envisage a society with zero nuclear plants.

In concluding, Takeshita summed up the session, saying that the discussion was fruitful in line with the session's theme: "Nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants: Ten Years after Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident - Fukushima Today". He urged the participants to build on what we learned in the session, especially in the coming general election campaign in autumn to develop campaigns to achieve a Japan joining the TPNW, a Zero nuclear power plant society and a shift in Japan's energy policy.

Forum of Anti-Nuclear/Peace Films (August 3)

Arihara Seiji Animator/Film director

This year, the "Forum on Anti-Nuclear Peace Films" was held online for the first time, with the great help of Maekawa Shiro, staff member of the Organizing Committee.

First, I briefly explained that the purpose of the Forum was to produce creative energy among participants through appreciating and discussing films which focus on the themes of nuclear weapons and nuclear power. I then introduced the content of

the two films in the program.

In Part 1, "**For an Eternal Peace: Calamity of A and H Bombs** (23 min.)", a documentary film produced in 1954, was screened. The film describes the start of the Japanese anti-A and H-bomb movement, triggered by the U.S. hydrogen bomb test conducted on March 1, 1954. Many Japanese fishermen, including the crewmembers of Daigo Fukuryu Maru, a tuna fishing boat, were exposed to the deadly fallout from the test. It was the third time, after the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, for the Japanese people to experience the tragedy of

nuclear weapons and it shook the entire nation. Massive signature campaigns calling for a total ban on A and H bombs were carried out nationwide. These led to the birth of the people's movement against nuclear weapons.

In Part 2, **“Son of Fukushima”** (55 min.) was screened. It is a U.S. documentary film which includes some parts described in animation. Ouchi Hidekatsu, the main character of the film, is a Fukushima farmer, whose father, now in a nursing home, is a Hibakusha of Hiroshima. Hidekatsu was deprived of his farmland due to the fallout of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident in 2011 and lives in a temporary dwelling with his mother. Through showing his post-accident days, including the scenes of official cleanup works on his farmland and house, the film describes how his family's precious everyday life was lost forever as a result of the nuclear power plant accident.

In her introductory video message, Beth Balawick, co-producer of the film, said she “saw an opportunity to talk about Japan's nuclear past, to talk about Hibakusha, by talking about what was the most recent nuclear disaster – the Fukushima nuclear disaster.” Beth planned to join the Forum live to interact with the participants, but due to an unforeseen reason she was replaced by Christian Schlaeffler, the lead animator of the film, who played an important role in describing the scenes in

the film depicting the tsunami and farm work. As an animation film producer myself, I was impressed by his ability to reproduce the landscape, culture and details of farm work of a foreign country. I asked him how it was possible. Christian was modest enough to say he learned directly from Mr. Ouchi, when he visited Fukushima with the filming team, how to handle a sickle and other tools to reap rice and do other work.

In the past, the Forum on Anti-nuclear Peace Films was held in a hall where all participants got together, so it was easy to observe the reactions and expressions of the participants, but in the online format, it was not possible. As the organizer of the Forum, I was concerned that the meeting might end up just a one-way communication. But I felt relieved to read one of the feedbacks from a Fukushima participant who said, “Thank you very much for this wonderful program. It presented the issue of “radiation and nuclear” before us in a way easy to understand, by combining our task of “banning A and H Bombs” not only with “Hiroshima”, “Nagasaki” and “Bikini”, but also with “Fukushima”.

(Introduction of the “Son of Fukushima” by Beth Balawick, co-producer of the film, can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/B0TBwB0WXiU>)



Appendices:

Messages of Solidarity from Overseas to the 2021 World Conference against A and H Bombs

National Governments/ International Organizations:

(Please see page 10 for the full texts)

Austria

Alexander Van der Bellen, Federal President

Ireland

Michael D. Higgins, President

Laos

Thongloun Sisoulith, President

Vietnam

Nguyen Xuan Phuc, President/ General Secretary
of the Communist Party of Vietnam

International Committee of the Red Cross

Peter Maurer, President

Anti-nuclear and Peace Movements:

Gediminas Rimdeika

Doctor/ Long-term conference participant Lithuania

Dear PEACE WAVE participants, organizers and participants of the World Conference against A and H Bombs,

This year the conference is again taking place remotely due to the pandemic. We cannot meet again, stay together, discuss the situation in our countries and in the World, but powerful Internet can partially compensate this. I am pleased to remember the year of 1992, when I first attended the Conference in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the unique atmosphere there. I am proud to have nearly over thirty years of attendances at the Conferences, where I had the chance to know many people dedicated to this work in Japan and other parts of the world. The pandemic forced us to intensify our

work in Lithuania as well. The photo exhibition presented by Gensuikyo about the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki continues to travel around Lithuania. This year it will be opened in Kupiškis on August 5 in the premises of the cultural center and will run until the end of September. During several years, the exhibition was shown in the Lithuanian Parliament, the Government of Lithuania, Lithuanian Medical and Elektrėnai City Libraries, Vilnius Žvėrynas, Lentvaris and Kaunas City Gymnasiums, Vilnius Fire Department. Lithuanian press has repeatedly written about the importance and significance of the exhibition. It is of a particular importance to the younger generation.

Dear friends, we need to work even harder in our countries to urge our governments to look even more responsibly at the reduction and total ban on nuclear weapons in the world. We cannot stay still knowing that there are still about 13,410 nuclear weapons in the world. Our aim is for as many countries in the world as possible to participate in the programme of 2017 July Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

I wish the best success to the Conference organizers, energy to the remote Conference participants.

Ali Ruckert

President, Communist Party of Luxemburg

On behalf of our party, I would like to inform the participants of the Conference about the solidarity of the Communist Party of Luxembourg and about the fact, that the communist daily newspaper here in Luxembourg is doing its utmost to inform the people about the truth.

Joseph Gerson, on behalf of the Board of Directors, Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security, U.S.A.

We write with congratulations and appreciation for your organizing this year's World Conference against A- & H-Bombs. We look forward to participating in the Conference and to learning from and continuing to build ties with Gensuikyo and your many national and international partners. In the midst of increasingly dangerous 21st century nuclear arms races and the escalating tensions among the nuclear weapons states, the World

Conference and the campaigning that will follow from it will be critical in reversing and eliminating the existential nuclear threat.

Since the World Conference was launched in 1955, it has played leading and prophetic international roles in movement building and advocacy for its three goals: preventing nuclear war, banning all nuclear weapons, and providing support for Hibakusha. Our engagements through the World Conference with Hibakusha, analysts, grassroots movement leaders and diplomats have provided us and other U.S. nuclear abolitionist and peace movement partners with essential resources and with opportunities to carry forward our educational and organizing initiatives.

In addition to providing one of the most important international forums to share information and analysis and to launch and coordinate national and international campaigns for the complete abolition of all nuclear weapons, we want to highlight the World Conference's contributions to the international vision and pressure which led to the negotiation of the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and its entry into force. Just as Gensuikyo's local and national and community-based organizing have prevented Japan from becoming a nuclear weapons state, this year's World

Conference will play a critical role in pressing the Japanese government to signing and ratify the TPNW.

We also want to communicate our special appreciation for the ways that the World Conference has been organized amidst the pandemic and the Suga government's failures to adequately insulate the Japanese people from Covid-19. Kudos to the World Conference organizing committee and to the staff and volunteers who are making it possible.

We look forward to the World Conference and to our collaborations which will follow.

Phyllis Creighton
Science for Peace, Canada

Greetings and good wishes as you get ready for the world conference on A & H bombs! I hope you are well and as skilled and committed as ever to our cause of freeing the world from the terror of nuclear weapons. From time to time Setsuko-san tells me about you.

As a Canadian who attended the 2001 and 2005 conferences, I hope that the conference energizes people to work together so more nations will sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We can and we must achieve this goal for the sake of humanity.

Program of Events of the 2021 World Conference against A and H Bombs (August 1 to 9, 2021)

August 1 (Sun)

Scientists Forum of the 2021 World Conference against A & H Bombs (Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan University/ Online)

August 2 (Fri)

International Meeting, 2021 World Conference against A & H Bombs
Launching of the Peace Wave 2021

August 3 (Sat.)

Forum of Anti-Nuclear/Peace Films
Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Power: "Ten Years after Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident -- Fukushima Today"

August 4 (Sun.)

Forum III: "60 Years of Damage from Agent Orange and Solidarity with the AO victims"
Arrival of the National Peace March at Hiroshima (A-Bomb Dome, Hiroshima Peace Park)

August 5 (Mon.)

Forum II: "Solidarity with Okinawa and Removal of Foreign Military Bases"
"Fast and Prayer for Life" organized by Japan Council of Religionists for Peace
Peace Forum of National Public Service Employees

August 6 (Tue.)

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony (Peace Park)
Hiroshima Day Rally, 2021 World Conference against A & H Bombs
Hiroshima Forum in Solidarity with the Hibakusha – 2021 World Conference On-site Program in Hiroshima
Arrival of the National Peace March at Nagasaki (Peace Park, Nagasaki)
Peace Wave Forum Online 2021 of Japan Federation of Democratic Medical Institutions (MIN-IREN)
Peace Forum of Teachers and Staff 2021

August 7 (Wed.)

Forum IV: “Nuclear-Free and Peaceful Asia and the Role of People’s Movements”
Forum V: “Let’s Discuss Nuclear Weapons, Economy and Environment”
No Nukes! Women’s Forum 2021
Youth Rally: Ring! Link! Zero 2021
43rd Peace Forum of Municipal Government Workers

August 8 (Thu.)

Forum I: “With the Hibakusha, Let Us Achieve a Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World: Aiming to Achieve Japan’s Accession to the TPNW”
48th National Peace Rally of High School Students

August 9 (Fri.)

Nagasaki Day Rally, 2021 World Conference against A & H Bombs
Concluding Ceremony of the Peace Wave 2021 (Peace Park, Nagasaki)
Nagasaki Forum in Solidarity with the Hibakusha – 2021 World Conference On-site Program in Nagasaki

List of Organizing Committee Members of the World Conference against A and H Bombs (As of August 2021)

Member Organizations (INPO):

National Confederation of Trade Unions (ZENROREN)
All Japan Teachers and Staff Union (ZENKYO)
Japan Federation of Private University Teachers' and Employees' Unions
All Judicial Workers' Union
Labor Union of MLIT (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, Tourism), JMA (Japan Meteorological Agency) and Affiliates
All Japan Non-Life Insurance Labor Union
Japan Social Welfare and Child-Nursing Workers Union
National Confederation of Automobile Transportation Workers Unions
Japanese Democratic Writers Association
National Council of Singing Voice of Japan Organizations
Japan Federation of Women's Organizations (FUDANREN)
League of Public Order Maintenance Law Victims for State Compensation
Japan Peace Committee
Japan-Eurasia Society
Japan-China Friendship Association
Japan Asia Africa Latin America Solidarity Committee
Japan Family Farmers Movement (NOUMINREN)
All Health and Welfare Ministry Workers Union
National General Workers Union - National Confederation of Trade Unions
Congress of Poets
National Federation of Tenants' Associations
Japan Federation of Democratic Medical Institutions (MIN-IREN)
National Council of Japan for the Visually Impaired

New Japan Women's Association (SHINFUJIN)
 Japan Customs Personnel Labour Union
 Japan Federation of National Public Service Employees' Unions
 Japan Federation of Publishing Workers' Unions
 National Federation of Financial Industry Workers' Unions
 Japanese Red Cross Society Workers' Union
 Japan Realist Photographers Association
 Japan Scientists' Association
 Association for Workers Education of Japan
 Women's Democratic Club
 Japan Council of Religionists for Peace
 Japan Christians' Association for Peace
 Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (GENSUIKYO)
 Workers' Union of Health Insurance Hospitals
 National Government Employees' Mutual Aid Association Hospital Workers' Union
 Postal Industry Workers' Union
 All Japan Construction, Transport and General Workers' Union
 Japan Federation of Medical Workers' Unions
 Japan National Hospital Workers' Union
 Japan-Korea Friendship Association
 Japan Center, Asian Buddhists Conference for Peace
 Democratic Youth League of Japan
 National Federation of Traders and Producers Organizations (ZENSHOREN)
 Central Liaison Conference of Youth and Students for a Bright Progressive Japan
 Japan-Cambodia Friendship Association
 National Confederation of Human Rights Movements in the Community
 National Campaign Committee for Abrogation of the Japan-US Security Treaty
 National Workers Union of Social Insurance Fee Fund
 Japan-Vietnam Friendship Association
 National Federation of Environmental Pollution Patients' Organizations
 National Federation of Associations for Safeguarding Living and Health
 New Japan Medical Association (Shin-I-Kyo)
 All Justice Ministry Employees' Union
 Liberty Lawyers Guild
 National Forum for Peace, Democracy and Progressive Unity
 New Japan Tanka Poets Association
 All Japan Congress of Realist Theaters
 National Council of Graduate Students
 All Labor Ministry Workers' Union
 All Japan Confederation of Warehouse and Transport Workers' Unions
 National Council of Securities Industry Workers Unions
 Water Resources Development Corporation Workers' Union
 National Federation of JA Hospital Workers Unions
 National Workers' Union of Labor Accident Hospitals
 Liaison Conference of Cultural Organizations
 Japan Clerks Union
 Warabi-za Theater Group
 Joint Struggle Conference of Welfare Ministry Workers Unions
 Faculty and Staff Union of Japanese Universities
 Japan Congress of Recreation Leaders
 Tele-Communication Workers' Union
 All Japan Metal and Information Machinery Workers' Union (JMIU)
 Japan Federation of Prefectural and Municipal Workers' Unions (Jichiroren)
 National Federation of Agricultural Co-op Workers Unions
 Legal Assistance and Human Rights Association of Japan
 Japanese Federation of Commercial Broadcasting Workers' Unions
 National Tax Office Workers' Union

Japan-Cuba Friendship Association
Japanese Medical and Dental Practitioners for the Improvement of Medical Care
Association for a Non-Nuclear Government
Japan Federation of Co-op Labor Unions
Japan Pensioners' Union

Observer

Federation of National Diet Workers' Unions

Committee of Chairpersons:

AKAMATSU Koichi	Advisor, Japan Council against A and H Bombs
ANZAI Ikuro	Director, Anzai Science & Peace Office (ASAP)
ANIYA Masaaki	Professor emeritus, Okinawa International University
ARAKAWA Yosei	Buddhist monk/ Director General, Japan Council of Religionists for Peace
EJIRI Mihoko	Former President, Japan YWCA/ Professor emeritus, Tsuda College
OTA Yoshiro	President, National Federation of Traders and Producers Organizations (ZENSHOREN)
OGATA Yasuo	Executive Committee Vice-Chairperson, Japanese Communist Party
OSANAI Mieko	Scenario writer
OBATA Masako	President, National Confederation of Trade Unions (ZENROREN)
YONEYAMA Atsuko	President, New Japan Women's Association (SHINFUJIN)
NISHIKAWA Ryuhei	President, Democratic Youth League of Japan
SATO Mitsuo	Advisor, Japan Peace Committee
SAWADA Shoji	Hibakusha / Professor emeritus, Nagoya University
SHIBATA Masako	President, Japan Federation of Women's Organizations
TSUBOI Shunji	Japan-Eurasia Society/ Former Executive member of Japan Consumers' Cooperative Union
HATADA Shigeo	Researcher of International Politics
HAYASHI Tatsuya	Advisor, Hiroshima YMCA
MASUDA Tsuyoshi	President, Japan Federation of Democratic Medical Institutions (MIN-IREN)

Co-Chairpersons of the Steering Committee:

TAKAKUSAKI Hiroshi	Japan Council against A and H Bombs (GENSUIKYO)
NOGUCHI Kunikazu	Association for a Non-Nuclear Government

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