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. In any case, 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.