

Forum III: 60 years of damage from Agent Orange and solidarity with the AO victims

THE MEETING OPENING SPEECH

15h00- 4/8/2021 – Senior General Nguyen Van Rinh, President of the Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin (VAVA)

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!