

2021 World Conference against A and H Bombs – Hiroshima Day Rally

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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 Eniwetak 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.