



Devotion of Hiroshima to the Cause of Peace

2006

Peace Promotion Division
International Peace Promotion Department
The City of Hiroshima

1. The Intent of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial City Construction Law

The Hiroshima Peace Memorial City Construction Law is a “special law” under Article 95 of the constitution. The law was promulgated to promote Hiroshima’s recovery after its destruction by the atomic bomb; it took effect on August 6, 1949. The intent of the law is expressed in Article One. The law “aims at the construction of Hiroshima as a Peace Memorial City, a symbol of the ideal of making lasting peace a reality.”

2. The Positioning of Peace Promotion in Administration Planning

1) Basic Concept (Revised in June 1998)

City Image: International Peace Culture City

Promote simultaneously three aspects of the city: Peace, Culture, and International Sophistication



Established as a city that symbolizes peace and sings the praises of humanity, one that has overcome the tragedy of an atomic bombing, Hiroshima must use its experience as a point of departure in continuing to call for the abolition of nuclear weapons. At the same time, Hiroshima must work to secure peace at home, establishing a favorable environment that maintains the sanctity of life and the dignity of each human being, facilitating exchange and cooperation among countries, regions and people around the world, thus contributing to genuine and lasting world peace.

2) The 4th Basic Plan (Adopted in November 1999, Targeting the Year 2010)

(1) Create a city of peace open to the world

- Contribute to creating world peace
 - Convey the A-bomb experience
 - Promote efforts to realize a world free from nuclear weapons
 - Create peace
 - Promote peace created by the residents
- Promote international exchange
- Improve messe convention function

(2) Create a city where people coexist with the environment

(3) Build a safe, comfortable, and beautiful city

(4) Create a society where people can live healthily and happily

(5) Shape a society that fosters an abundant sense of humanity and enlivens its members

(6) Create a vital economy in Hiroshima

(7) Create an energetic city that can support various activities and exchanges

(Basic Policy)

1) Convey the experience of the A-bomb

By endeavoring to collect A-bomb materials, A-bomb testimonies etc, and organizing them in a manner that facilitates their use by future generations, we will convey the Hiroshima A-bomb experience to the next generation in Japan and people in other countries.

2) Promote efforts to realize a world free from nuclear weapons

As an A-bombed city, to realize a world free from nuclear weapons, we continue to appeal for the abolition of nuclear weapons to the world through coordination of the cities supporting Mayors for Peace, other cities and NGOs in Japan and abroad, and the United Nations.

3) Create peace

We contribute to solving various universal problems which threaten the continued existence of humanity, peaceful human life, and health. These problems include starvation, poverty, and violations of human rights, radiation exposure, and environmental problems. We promote lasting world peace through research, various studies, sending information on peace, and promoting the culture of peace. We are working to create a peace capital function fostering courage and hope for life in people around the world.

4) Promote peace created by the residents

We support citizen-led activities seeking the abolition of nuclear weapons and the realization of lasting world peace. In an effort to become a true "peace city" where citizens can live with full hearts, we nurture "peace of mind" in citizens, encouraging them to actively create peace in their daily lives. We also work to promote peace education in schools.

3. Main Projects

1) Communicate the A-bomb Experience

(1) Programs to communicate the A-bomb experience:

Because of our deep concern that the A-bomb experience could fade away with time and awareness of the importance of peace may be diminishing, particularly among the youth, in FY 2001 we created the Program to Promote Communication of the A-bomb Experience. The theme of the program is "Communicating the A-bomb Experiences to Future Generations." We are now performing disciplined analyses of the meaning of the A-bomb experience and are exploring means of communication that suit future generations. We are also looking a ways of ensuring efficient collaboration among all city government offices in communicating the A-bomb experience.

[Projects]

[Project to Communicate the A-bomb Experience to Future Generations]

Reinforce peace studies/Invite and provide support for school field trips/Use "Sadako" and paper cranes/Use A-bombed buildings and trees/Analyze the A-bomb experience through a variety of academic disciplines.

[Project to Lay the Groundwork for Communicating the A-bomb Experience]

Study, collect and organize the A-bomb materials/Digitalize A-bomb experiences/Collaborate with private sector activities

- (2) Testimonies of the A-bomb experience to students coming to Hiroshima on school field trips:
Children and students who come to Hiroshima on school field trips are given the opportunity to listen to survivors' testimonies and talk to survivors. They also watch A-bomb documentary films.
[Field trips in 2005] 1,791 groups; 152,216 people
- (3) Hiroshima Peace Volunteer projects:
To stimulate greater citizen participation in conveying the atomic bomb experience, volunteers were recruited in FY1998 to offer guided tours of the Peace Memorial Museum and to Peace Memorial Park and vicinity. In FY 1999, the initial group completed a training course, and the volunteer-guided tours began.
[Registered volunteers] 181 as of April 1, 2006
- (4) A-bomb exhibitions in Japan:
To convey the facts about the atomic bombing and arouse international public opinion in favor of nuclear abolition, in FY 1996 Hiroshima City began holding A-bomb exhibitions in (on average) three Japanese cities per year. Besides displaying A-bomb artifacts and photo panels, the exhibitions offer visitors the opportunity to hear A-bomb eyewitness testimonials. The cities that play host to such exhibitions in FY 2006 are Fukuoka, Kitakyushu, Oita and Saga.

To date, A-bomb exhibitions have been held in Niigata, Otaru, Sapporo, Kitahiroshima, Sendai, Morioka, Yamagata, Utsunomiya, Mito, Yokohama, Chiba, Urawa, Maebashi, Fukushima, Tokyo (Katsushika-ku and Meguro-ku), Kawasaki, Gifu, Nagoya, Nagano, Matsumoto, Nishinomiya, Nara, Otsu, Kobe, Kyoto, Osaka, Tokushima, Matsuyama, Kochi, and Takamatsu Cities.
- (5) Creating and using videotapes of survivor eyewitness testimony:
The survivors are aging and their numbers dwindling. Since 1986, we have been recording survivor testimonies each year on videotape to ensure that the A-bomb experience will be passed on to succeeding generations. We manage a loan program for those tapes. In FY 1995, we recorded on tape the testimonies of Korean returnee survivors. In FY 2005 we made videotapes of the testimonies of survivors with hearing impairments. In FY 2006, it is planned to record 20 testimonies of survivors.
[Total recorded testimonies: 910 as of April 2006]
- (6) Loaning A-bomb exhibitions and peace studies materials:
Hiroshima City loans Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb photo posters and panels, drawings by survivors, and A-bomb documentary videos to groups and individuals in Japan and overseas that sponsor A-bomb exhibitions or conduct peace studies. 68 sets of panels and 175 sets of posters were loaned in 2005.
- (7) Peace database:
To preserve, utilize, and communicate to future generations the A-bomb experience and the facts of the bombing, Hiroshima has been working since FY 1992 to gather and organize information related to A-bomb damage, peace research, peace activities, and other peace-related subjects, and to build a systematic peace database. The system was upgraded in August 1999 and is now accessible over the Internet.
- (8) Preservation and display of paper cranes:
To convey the desire for peace manifested in the paper cranes that have been folded by people around the world, we held a Sadako Exhibition in FY 2001. The displays presented episodes in

the life of Sadako Sasaki as a starting point for introducing peace activities in Japan and other countries. Based on those displays, we created a 26-poster set which is now available for loaning. Also, we built a roof over the cranes sent to the Children's Peace Monument to shelter them from the elements and continue to record in the Paper Crane Database the names of donors and their messages.

Furthermore, in FY 2002, we began a trial exhibition of donated paper cranes in the former Bank of Japan Hiroshima Branch.

(9) Preserving A-bombed buildings for future generations:

In order to preserve and utilize A-bombed buildings still remaining in the city today as valuable materials telling us about the A-bombed experience, we have compiled a register of such buildings and are working to cultivate awareness of the importance of their preservation. We also grant subsidies of up to ¥ 30 million per building for private-sector preservation construction projects.

Furthermore, in FY 2000 we started a new project to heal A-bombed trees and since then have been drawing up record cards and prescriptions for the trees as well as taking measures necessary to ensure their recovery.

[Registered cases] (As of April 2006)

Category	Registered cases
Buildings	93
Bridge girders	6
Trees	53
Total	152

(10) A-bomb damage explanation boards:

To prevent erosion and fading of the A-bomb experience, we are installing A-bomb damage explanation boards with pictures of each building immediately following the bombing.

[Number installed] 45 (as of April 2006)

(11) Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum management:

The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum opened in 1955 to “convey to people throughout the world the magnitude of damage inflicted by the atomic bomb and to spread the spirit of Hiroshima which seeks to realize abolition of nuclear weapons and lasting world peace.” 1) Gathering, preserving, displaying, and making available materials related to peace and the atomic bomb disaster, 2) conducting research regarding the atomic bomb disaster, and 3) providing a setting that encourages contemplation of peace through programs of peace studies and forums for conveying the A-bomb experience. Moreover, as the passage of time increases the danger that important A-bomb artifacts will disappear, we see the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombing as the last opportunity, so we have a three-year plan starting in FY 2004 for a nation-wide solicitation of A-bomb artifacts and for a survey of A-bomb artifacts overseas.

We are further planning a renovation of the museum to deal with the problems of building deterioration, fortification against earthquakes and display-related issues, and to make the reality of the atomic bombing more comprehensible to visitors. Each year, upwards of one million people from around the world, including Japanese students on school excursions, visit the museum.

2) Promote Efforts to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

(1) Arouse international public opinion toward the abolition of nuclear weapons

a. Action to demand the abolition of nuclear weapons

The mayor and other delegate members go to the nuclear-weapon states, visit their governments, and make lectures at peace meetings and other occasions in order to convey the A-bomb experience and to appeal for realization of the abolition of nuclear weapons by the year 2020.

As for the nuclear-weapon states in particular, we promoted Action 21 "Messages of Peace to Nuclear-Weapon States" from FY 2001 to FY 2005, and made direct appeals to government officials, representatives to national legislative bodies, presidents of universities and others who have a strong impact on government policy and public opinion. We asked them to demand that their governments abolish nuclear weapons.

In FY 2001, Hiroshima delegates visited France and the U.K. In FY 2002, we visited Russia and the U.S. In FY 2003, we visited India and Pakistan. In FY 2004, we visited China. In FY 2005, we visited the U.S. and France. In FY 2006 we will visit New Zealand (Wellington), Norway (Oslo and Tromse) and Finland (Helsinki) to appeal for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

b. Program to assist in the establishment and dissemination of Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Courses

To communicate the A-bomb experience to future generations at an academic level, we feel the need to establish and popularize Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Courses at colleges and universities around the world. To that end, we have created a website to promote the program and also we send lecturers and materials to universities and colleges that are enthusiastic about establishing such courses.

URL: http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/jp/hnpc/hnpc_top.html

c. Developing the Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons

With imminent danger of collapse of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) regime, which is the key international framework for abolishing nuclear weapons, Mayors for Peace is cooperating with international NGOs in developing the Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons with the purpose of eliminating nuclear weapons by the year 2020.

[Actions]

(1) Attending the World Urban Forum and World Peace Forum (Vancouver, Canada)

(2) Participating in the commemorative events for the 10th Anniversary of the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (The Hague, Netherlands / Brussels, Belgium)

(3) Demand to set the Ad Hoc Committee for the First Committee of the UN General Assembly

URL: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/jp/ecbn/index.html>

d. International peace conferences

At the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, focusing on raising public awareness, disseminating information internationally from Hiroshima, and conveying the survivors' experiences, an international peace conference is held as a part of activities for the "Year of Inheritance, Awakening and Commitment" advocated in the Peace Declaration in 2005.

e. A-bomb exhibitions overseas

The Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum planned a special exhibit that would have displayed A-bomb materials on the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing (1995). However, because this A-bomb exhibition was canceled, we held a Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Exhibition in July that year at American University in Washington D.C. Thereafter,

we have continued to hold A-bomb exhibitions to further convey the A-bomb experience overseas. We plan to hold exhibits in the U.S. and Canada in FY 2006.

The cities in which A-bomb exhibitions have been held are as follows: [U.S.] Columbia, New York, Boston, Santa Barbara, Murfreesboro, Oberlin, Atlanta, Compton and Saint Paul; [Italy] Perugia, Assisi, and Como; [India] Mumbai (formerly Bombay) and New Delhi; [U.K.] Leeds, and Coventry; [Republic of Kazakhstan] Semipalatinsk and Almatoi; [Switzerland] Geneva; [Austria] Vienna; [Russia] Volgograd; [Canada] Ottawa; [New Zealand] Wellington; and [France] Aubagne, Nantes and Paris.

The Hiroshima Exhibit in Barcelona, Spain (May to August 1997) supplemented the usual photo panels and A-bombed artifacts conveying the reality of the damage, with paintings, sculptures, and posters carrying messages of peace. This exhibit has since traveled to Valencia in Spain and Aosta in Italy. In FY 2000, we held the Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Exhibition during the G8 Summit in Nago City, Okinawa.

f. Providing materials for A-bomb photo exhibitions in other countries

To groups and cities in other countries, we provide A-bomb photo posters and A-bomb documentary videos.

[Materials provided in 2005] 140 materials sets to 54 countries

g. Attendance at international conferences regarding peace

Hiroshima sends city staff to international conferences related to peace. There they represent Hiroshima's desire for the abolition of nuclear weapons and lasting world peace. They also seek to arouse international public opinion in favor of nuclear abolition and, through discussion with participants, work to reinforce cooperative relationships and keep track of developments in the international peace movement.

In FY 1999, the mayor of Hiroshima attended The Hague Appeal for Peace 1999 held in The Hague, Netherlands. In 2000, we sent a delegation from Mayors for Peace to the NPT Review Conference held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. In 2005, the mayor of Hiroshima attended the NPT Review Conference, held at U.N. Headquarters in New York, with a delegation of about 200 members from Mayors for Peace in order to call on governmental representatives from each country for the abolition of nuclear weapons. They also participated in the Conference of State Parties to Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty held in Mexico City, Mexico and gave a lecture to strengthen the cooperation amongst the countries that wish the abolition of nuclear weapons.

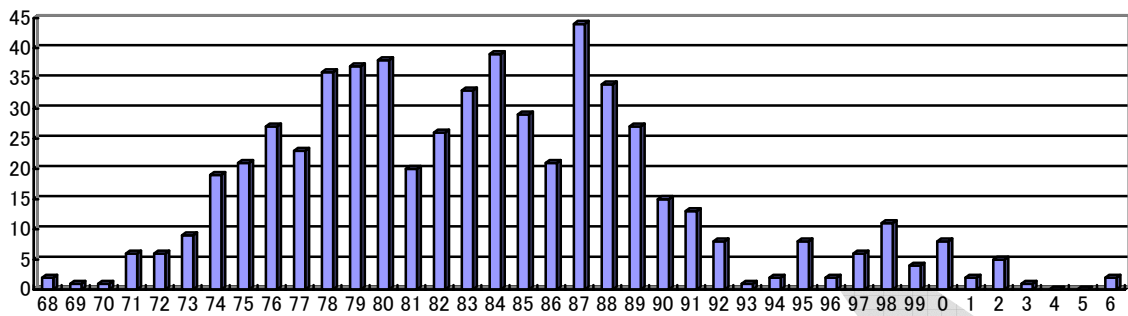
h. Protests against nuclear testing

Since 1968, the mayors of Hiroshima have sent letters of protest to countries responsible whenever nuclear tests were conducted.

In September 1996, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), which banned nuclear tests accompanied by nuclear explosions. However, the US and Russia have repeatedly conducted sub-critical nuclear tests, which they claim do not violate the CTBT because the tests involve no nuclear explosions. Each time, the mayor sends a letter of protest and demands a halt to such testing.

The mayor sends protests and requests expressing his views on other situations related to nuclear weapons, such as the international community's suspicion that Iraq and North Korea aim to possess nuclear weapons.

Number of Protest letters by year [Total protest number] 590 (as of April 2006)



(2) Promote inter-city solidarity for world peace

Mayors for Peace

To promote closer relations among cities, to strive effectively for nuclear abolition and lasting world peace, and to arouse international opinion in support of those causes, Hiroshima and Nagasaki have, since 1982, called on cities around the world to support the program of inter-city solidarity.

The Mayors for Peace is an association of cities that support the program to promote inter-city solidarity for peace and is an international NGO as stipulated in the UN charter. To facilitate exchanges of opinion among member cities with regard to activities for inter-city solidarity, Mayors for Peace holds a general conference every four years. The first general conference was held in August 1985. In August 2005, the 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace was held in Hiroshima and in order to realize the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020, new activities under the “Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons” were decided. Since FY 2000, we have been working to strengthen Mayors for Peace activities by using the Internet for the routine exchange of opinion beyond the general conferences.

[Member cities] 1,430 cities in 120 countries and regions (As of October 6, 2006)

URL : <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/index.html>

(3) Strengthen cooperative relations with the UN

a. United Nations conferences on disarmament in Hiroshima:

Hiroshima City has held the United Nations-sponsored conferences on disarmament three times - in 1992, 1994 and 1996. At the conference in July 1996, much of the debate focused on the nuclear disarmament issues to take up after the conclusion of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). A public symposium was held in connection with this conference.

b. Hospitality for UN Disarmament Fellows

UN Disarmament Fellowships are given to mid-level diplomats from developing nations that are members of the UN. These fellows are hosted by Japan to give them an awareness of disarmament issues. The A-bombed cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki have regularly hosted these fellows since 1983. The city offers tours of the Peace Memorial Museum, A-bomb documentary films, and A-bomb survivors’ testimonies to convey the facts of the A-bombing.

3) Create Peace

(1) International cooperation and international contributions

Using interest income from the Hiroshima International Cooperation Fund, established as a “peace creation project” for the fiftieth anniversary of the atomic bombing, we carry out international cooperation projects designed to help projects designed to help solve urban problems faced by various areas of Asia.

In addition, Hiroshima City, Hiroshima Prefecture and related organizations established the Hiroshima International Council for Medical Care of Radiation-exposed. This group works to make treatment available to *hibakusha* (people exposed to radiation) around the world based on Hiroshima’s unique accumulation of research findings and practical experience regarding radiation damage and the treatment of A-bomb survivors.

(2) Peace research

Establishment of the Hiroshima Peace Institute:

In April 1998, Hiroshima established the Hiroshima Peace Institute (HPI), as a research unit of the Hiroshima City University. The HPI engages in a variety of research activities relating to peace and explores ways to abolish nuclear weapons, inspired by the city's historical experience as the first city in the world to experience devastation by a nuclear weapon. The HPI aims to serve as an international organization for peace research by contributing to finding solutions to regional problems, creating and maintaining world peace, and contributing to the development of the regional community.

Research areas

- (a) Theory of peace and methodology of peace research;
- (b) The nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki;
- (c) The development, production, deployment, proliferation, disarmament and abolition of both nuclear and conventional weapons;
- (d) International and domestic war, peace and conflict resolution in the Asia-Pacific region;
- (e) Pacifistic ideas, culture, and movements in the Asia-Pacific region

(3) Clearing house for peace information

a. Peace information over the Internet:

Since FY 1995, Hiroshima’s peace declarations, letters of protest against nuclear testing, and other peace-related information have been available on the Internet. In FY 1998, the *Hiroshima Peace Site* web site was opened to disseminate information more widely. In FY 2000, a special homepage for children called *Kids Peace Station* was established to facilitate peace education, and in FY 2001, a site called the *Hiroshima Peace Memorial Virtual Museum* came on line. All of these sites help to convey the facts of the atomic bombing at home and abroad.

URL (top page): <http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/>

b. Disseminating the Peace Declaration

To widely disseminate the Peace Declaration presented by the mayor of Hiroshima at the Peace Memorial Ceremony, we have made available over the Internet a video file of his presentation. The Peace Declaration is sent to schools, libraries, and local governments. The English version is sent to all foreign embassies in Japan, the UN delegations of each country, and to the cities that support Mayors for Peace. The declaration is translated into eight languages and distributed at the Peace Memorial Museum and elsewhere.

Since FY 1994, the city has published a pamphlet entitled Reading the Peace Declaration, which presents the annual Peace Declaration along with explanatory notes. The pamphlet is aimed at junior high and high school students and is distributed to schools throughout the city.

c. Domestic journalist training

In FY 2002, we established a program for young Japanese journalists that convey basic information about the atomic bombing and issues faced by the A-bombed city Hiroshima. This systematic and comprehensive training program is offered in conjunction with domestic news organizations. The results of the training are communicated widely to the Japanese public in the form of news and editorials. Thus, the program contributes significantly to communication of the A-bomb experience and the spirit of Hiroshima.

(4) Promoting peace culture

Every second year since FY 1985, Hiroshima has hosted its own International Animation Festival, an effort to promote peace culture, that is, arts, music, and other forms of expression imbued with the desire for peace. In FY 2005, we held a variety of programs commemorating the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombing in order to express through art culture the tragedy of war, the preciousness of peace, and the importance of efforts toward peace.

-Hiroshima Peace Concert 2005: performances by musicians from both Japan and abroad and local chorus groups

-Hiroshima Art Prize Special Exhibitions: the “Shirin Neshat Exhibition,” a commemorative exhibition of works by the winner of the 6th Hiroshima Art Prize, and the “A-bomb 60th Anniversary Special Exhibition,” consisting of pieces from previous Hiroshima Art Prize recipients, at the Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art

-Citizen Art Festival: citizen-led art and culture events at the former Bank of Japan Hiroshima Branch

In FY 2003 we began holding a dramatic reading of “The Summer of Those Children — 1945 Hiroshima, Nagasaki” on the eve of the International Peace Symposium.

4) Promote Peace Consciousness among City Residents

(1) Raising peace consciousness among youth

a. Kids Peace School

Since FY 1994, Kids Peace School program offers elementary school students of grades 4 to 6 the chance to learn about the tragedy of war and the importance of peace during their summer vacation.

b. Peace Club (for junior high and high school students)

Since FY 2002, Peace Club program offers junior high and high school students the opportunity to study the reality of the atomic bombings and to make group study reports.

c. Hiroshima Peace Forum

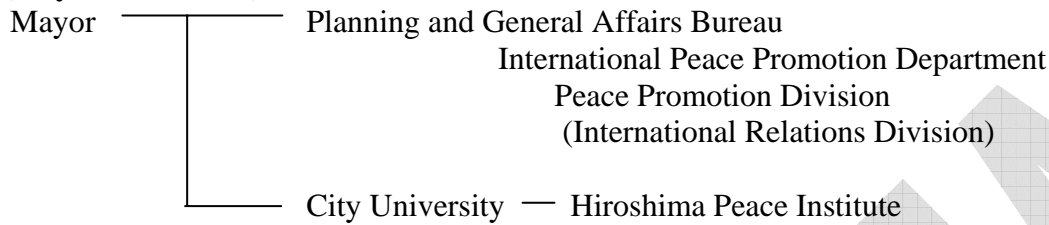
In FY 2002, we established the Hiroshima Peace Forum to encourage the sort of wide-ranging discussion that leads to deeper understanding of the meaning of the A-bomb experience and inspires more enthusiastic and self-motivated participation in peace activities. Anyone 18 and older who lives in Hiroshima or works or attends school in Hiroshima is eligible to attend the lectures by knowledgeable and experienced persons and discussion groups.

d. Peace Appeal Grassroots Support Project

This project started in FY 1999 to support peace activities and efforts by citizens to bring about world peace by surmounting the language barrier. Our volunteer group translates messages to be sent to other countries to convey hopes for nuclear abolition.

We also hold the *Children's Peace Drawing Competition* for elementary and junior high school students. The Hiroshima Municipal Board of Education holds *the Children's Peace Summit* and provides opportunities for children to learn about the atomic bombing and war from local persons who have experienced them.

**4. Organization
(City Government)**



(Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation)

