

Devotion of Hiroshima to the Cause of Peace

Peace Promotion Division
International Peace Promotion Department
The City of Hiroshima

1. Profile of A-bomb Damage

(1) What is an Atomic Bomb?

The atom is the basic unit of all matter. When the nuclei atoms are artificially split, an enormous amount of energy is released as radiation, heat and blast. An atomic bomb uses that energy to inflict massive destruction.

(2) Characteristics of A-bomb Damage

Atomic bomb damage is massive and instantaneous. The slaughter is indiscriminate, and the aftereffects of radiation are enduring and unpredictable.

1) Damage from Heat Rays

When the A-bomb exploded, the temperature at the epicenter soared to over one million degrees centigrade, creating a fireball 280 meters in diameter. The heat rays emitted by the fireball instantly charred anyone exposed outdoors near the hypocenter. Fires breaking out simultaneously throughout the city eventually consumed all combustible material within a 2-km radius. Hiroshima was reduced to a plain of burnt rubble.

2) Damage from Blast

Super-high air pressure at the epicenter created a powerful shock wave that moved outward and bounced off the ground and buildings to produce compound effects that inflicted tremendous damage. A powerful wind blowing 440 m/sec (about 1,000 mph) near the hypocenter followed the shock wave. The blast hurled people through the air, destroyed nearly all wooden buildings within 2 km of the hypocenter, and broke windows as far away as 27 km.

3) Damage from Radiation

A massive amount of radiation was released, and most people exposed in the open within a kilometer of the hypocenter received a lethal dose. Many who managed to survive the acute effects died later or are still suffering due to aftereffects. Though not directly exposed to the blast, many who approached the hypocenter to help with rescue and relief were harmed by residual radiation.

4) Aftereffects

Most acute injuries took their toll or healed in 4 to 5 months, but radiation aftereffects emerged as a serious problem. An obvious increase in leukemia occurred 5 or 6 years after the bombing. Other common aftereffects include keloids (abnormally thick scars) and cataracts, as well as thyroid, breast, lung, and other cancers. Radiation caused some in-utero survivors to be born with microcephaly, with its attendant mental and developmental disorders.

More than 60 years later, we still have much to learn about the effects of internal radiation, and many survivors continue to suffer from radiation aftereffects.

2. Current Status of Nuclear Weapons in the World

Following World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union led a nuclear arms race based on the theory of nuclear deterrence. In amassing sufficient nuclear capacity to destroy each other, these countries created the potential for an all-out nuclear war that could extinguish the entire human race.

The nuclear arms race seemed destined to last forever, but the Cold War did end, and in 1994, the US and Russia signed the first Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START-I). A 1996 International Court of Justice advisory opinion stated: “The threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law,” and a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) was concluded in the same year. In the final document that emerged from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in May 2000, the nuclear-weapon states promised an “unequivocal undertaking” to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. The international community appeared to be making substantive progress toward nuclear disarmament.

On the other hand, despite the CTBT, the US and Russia have repeatedly conducted subcritical nuclear tests. In May 1998, India’s first nuclear test in 24 years was followed by Pakistan’s first-ever nuclear test. In 2003, the US invaded and occupied Iraq ostensibly to protect itself from Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. In 2005, the NPT review conference failed to produce a final document, and in October 2006, North Korea conducted its first nuclear test. The non-proliferation regime is on the brink of collapse.

The human family stands at an extremely perilous crossroads. Will we eliminate nuclear weapons or let everyone have them? There is only one safe answer.

3. Main Projects of the City of Hiroshima

(1) Convey the A-bomb Experience

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it”

- By George Santayana, US philosopher, in *“The Life of Reason”, Volume 1, 1905*

1) 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.

In addition to testimonies of the A-bomb experience held on an as-needed basis when applications are received, from FY2007, testimonies have been held regularly for those from home and abroad who visit Peace Memorial Park around August 6.

[Testimonies to Field trips in FY2007] 2,000 groups; 165,342 people

2) 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” and perform 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.

Each year, upwards of one million people from around the world, including Japanese students on school excursions, visit the museum.

[Number of visitors to the museum in FY2007]: 1,339,400

(including 174,815 non-Japanese)

3) A-bomb exhibitions overseas

We held a Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Exhibition in July 1995, the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombings, 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 held exhibits in Brazil in FY2008.

[The cities in which A-bomb exhibitions have been held]

[U.S.] Washington, D.C., Columbia, New York, Boston, Santa Barbara, Murfreesboro, Oberlin, Atlanta, Compton, Saint Paul, Portland and Chicago; [Italy] Perugia, Assisi, and Como; [India] Mumbai (formerly Bombay) and New Delhi; [U.K.] Leeds, Coventry, and Manchester; [Republic of Kazakhstan] Semipalatinsk and Almaty; [Switzerland] Geneva; [Austria] Vienna; [Russia] Volgograd; [Canada] Ottawa and Vancouver; [New Zealand] Christchurch, Wellington, and Oakland; [France] Aubagne, Nantes, and Paris; and [Germany] Hanover.

4) A-bomb exhibitions in the U.S.

To convey what the atomic bombs did, and obtain the consensus for the abolition of nuclear weapons in the U.S., A-bomb photo poster exhibitions, and A-bomb poster exhibitions with the testimonies of survivors have been held throughout FY2007 and FY2008 in a total of 101 cities in the U.S., including 100 cities in 50 states (two cities per state), and Washington, D.C.

5) 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.

[Material provided in FY2007] 242 sets to 37 countries

6) Peace information over the Internet

Since FY1995, Hiroshima's peace declarations, letters of protest against nuclear testing, and other peace-related information have been available on the Internet. In FY1998, the *Hiroshima Peace Site* web site was opened to disseminate information more widely.

In FY2000, a special homepage for children called *Kids Peace Station* was established to facilitate peace education, and in FY2001, a site called the *Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Virtual Museum* came on line. All of these sites help to convey the facts of the atomic bombing at home and abroad.

<http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/>

7) 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.

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/hnpc/hnpc_top.htm

(2) Promote Efforts to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

1) Mayors for Peace

< What is Mayors for Peace? >

On June 24, 1982, at the 2nd UN Special Session on Disarmament held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, the mayor of Hiroshima announced a program of transnational solidarity among cities to facilitate collective efforts toward the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Mayors for Peace is a body made up of more than 2,000 cities in about 130 countries & regions that have expressed their support for the program described above. In March 1990, the Conference was registered as an NGO with the United Nations Department of Public Information; it was registered as a Category II NGO (currently called an NGO in Special Consultative Status) with the United Nations Economic and Social Council in May 1991.

<Purpose>

Mayors for Peace, through close cooperation among the cities, strives to raise international public awareness regarding the need to abolish nuclear weapons and contributes to the realization of genuine and lasting world peace by working to eliminate starvation and poverty, assist refugees fleeing local conflict, support human rights, protect the environment, and solve the many other problems that threaten peaceful coexistence within the human family.

<Activities>

- Calls worldwide for solidarity among cities
- Holds a general conference once every four years to facilitate efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons and solve the other problems that obstruct peace
- Presents appeals to the United Nations and other authorities regarding the total elimination of nuclear weapons, promotion of disarmament, alleviation of starvation and poverty, solutions to refugee problems and human rights, and protection of the environment
- Since November 2003 has been conducting a 2020 Vision Campaign to eliminate nuclear weapons by the year 2020

[The number of member cities] 2,422 cities in 131 countries & regions
(As of October 1, 2008)

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

2) Development of the 2020 Vision Campaign

<Background>

Today, the human family faces a growing threat because nuclear-weapon states have refused to make serious efforts toward nuclear disarmament. Some have even made known their intentions to develop “useable” nuclear weapons. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) teeters on the verge of collapse.

In response to the mounting peril, Mayors for Peace launched in autumn 2003 an “Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons” to promote its “2020 Vision,” a program to eliminate all nuclear weapons by the year 2020, the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Mayors for Peace, other global associations of local authorities, NGOs and private individuals are now working together to promote this campaign.

<Objectives>

a) Immediately de-alert all nuclear weapons

With around 3500 nuclear warheads deployed and ready to launch on warning, we still face an unconscionable nuclear threat. To prevent an accidental third use of nuclear weapons, we call for the immediate termination of all launch-on-warning policies.

b) Immediately start substantive negotiations toward a universal nuclear weapons convention

On July 8, 1996, the International Court of Justice found nuclear weapons illegal and all nations under an obligation to negotiate *in good faith* to eliminate them. The nuclear-weapon states promised to do so when they signed the NPT in 1969, and strengthened that promise at the review conference in 2000. We demand that every government act constructively now to bring about an immediate start to substantive nuclear disarmament negotiations.

c) Conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention by 2010

We call for governments to conclude by the end of 2010, the year the next NPT review conference to be held, a nuclear weapons convention that prohibits production, possession and use of nuclear weapons.

d) Physical destruction of all nuclear weapons by 2020

The weapons can be destroyed. Fissile materials can be rendered unusable. Strict international control is technically feasible. A nuclear-weapon-free world by 2020, the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings, is possible. We call for all possible measures to realize it.

<History>

Phase I

The 2020 Vision Campaign initially focused on the 2005 NPT Review Conference. In 2005, we took a delegation of 167, including 80 mayors, vice mayors, councilors, and city representatives, from 16 countries, to the Review Conference itself. They attended numerous peace-related events and communicated their citizens' desire for good-faith efforts toward nuclear weapons abolition.

Phase II

In 1996, the International Court of Justice agreed unanimously that: *"There exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control."*

Phase II of 2020 Vision Campaign was launched globally in July 2006. This phase comprises two major programs. One is our Good Faith Challenge, calling on nuclear-weapon states to immediately start good faith negotiations toward the abolition of nuclear weapons. As a concrete city-oriented contribution to this campaign, we also launched a Cities Are Not Targets (CANT) project, demanding assurances from nuclear-weapon states that cities are not and will not be targeted for nuclear attack. The goal is to intensify public opposition to nuclear weapons and, thereby, change nuclear-weapon state nuclear policy.

Phase III

At the NPT Preparatory Committee in Geneva in April 2008, we announced the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol, a roadmap to a nuclear-weapon-free world by 2020.

We will continue to make every effort to foster public demand for the abolition of nuclear weapons through peace events, petition drives, Mayors for Peace gatherings, including our 7th General Conference, and cooperation with allied organizations. Through the concentrated efforts of member cities, we will issue a powerful call to the

nuclear-weapon states and other governments to act in good faith by adopting the Hiroshima Nagasaki Protocol at the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

3) Attendance at international conferences regarding peace

In order to convey “the Spirit of Hiroshima”, the City of Hiroshima sends city staff to international conferences on peace where we call for the abolition of nuclear weapons to realize lasting world peace. We 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 FY2007, the mayor of Hiroshima presented speeches at the following events: the Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference in Vienna, Austria; the 70th anniversary of the aerial bombing of Guernica in Gernika-Lumo, Spain; the 50th anniversary of the Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs in Pugwash, Canada; the Nuclear-Free Future Award ceremony in Salzburg, Austria; the AFS World Peace Forum in New York, U.S.A.; the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) World Congress in Jeju, South Korea; and the Mayors for Peace Mediterranean City Summit in Florence, Italy.

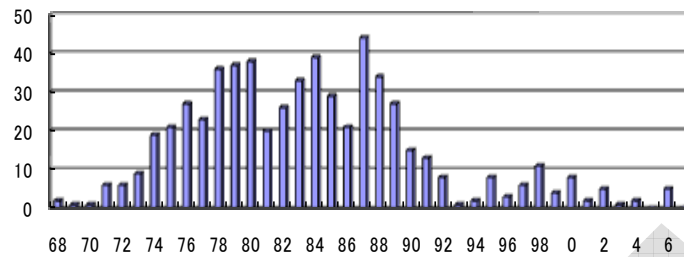
4) Protests against nuclear testing

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 U.S., Russia, and U.K. 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 U.S. movement of improving its nuclear weapons production system, and nuclear development in North Korea.

[Number of Protest letters by year]

Total protest number: 593 (As of April 2008)



5) 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 the UN 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.