

Japanese Communist Party Secretariat Head Akira Koike delivered a speech in solidarity to the Nagasaki Day rally of the World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs 2019 on August 9.

Good afternoon. I am Akira Koike of the Japanese Communist Party.

I extend my greetings of passionate solidarity to all delegates attending the 2019 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs.

I'm glad that representatives from the Civil Alliance for Peace and Constitutionalism and the Federation of Promotion of Zero-Nuclear Power and Renewable Energy participated in the conference for the first time. In addition, Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan deputy leader Sasaki Takahiro sent a message to the conference, clearly showing that the joint efforts between concerned citizens and opposition parties is gradually expanding.

In the House of Councillors election, the joint struggle between concerned citizens and opposition parties entered a new stage.

Our united opposition candidates won in 10 single-seat constituencies nationwide, and the Liberal Democratic Party failed to achieve a single majority. We prevented the constitutional revisionists from obtaining a two-thirds majority, which is procedurally required to formally propose constitutional revision.

Public movements working for peace and the elimination of nuclear weapons and calling for defending Article 9 created the momentum of resistance needed to reach this election result. I would like to share in the joy of the election result that concerned citizens and opposition parties worked together and jointly won.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on the day after the election, "The public handed down a verdict that we should at least start discussions." However, that is clearly "delusion" on his part.

Since the constitutional revisionists failed to maintain two-thirds of the seats required to initiate constitutional revision in the Diet, the verdict of the public is that "there is no need for an immediate discussion to amend the constitution."

Let us block Abe's constitutional revision plans and create a peaceful Japan that makes full use of the peace Constitution!

Earlier, I attended the annual Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremony held by Nagasaki City.

Prime Minister Abe did not even mention the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, even though the mayor of Nagasaki City called for the Japanese government to join in the UN treaty banning nuclear weapons. It's really a shame.

Bolivia ratified the treaty banning nuclear weapons, and the treaty reached the halfway point of 50 countries for the treaty to come into force. While the world is steadily advancing toward the abolition of nuclear weapons, the Japanese government representing the only nation that experienced the horrors of atomic bombs, is turning its back on signing and ratifying the treaty. This position is unacceptable.

Prime Minister Abe, what country do you represent?

We must change the unacceptable position our country has taken to not oppose nuclear weapons.

There are great concerns regarding a renewed U.S.-Russia nuclear arms race, however, if Japan takes a stand for peace, the world will change.

Let us establish a Japanese government as early as possible which signs and ratifies the UN treaty banning nuclear weapons!

In 2020, Japan will mark 75 years since the U.S. atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

I was moved when I heard about a plan to hold a world conference against A and H bombs in New York City.

It will be amazing to have the world conference against A and H bombs in the heart of the U.S., the world's major nuclear power.

The Conference called for a further growth in antinuke grassroots movements to change the direction of the world before 2020.

Of course, we are in favour of this proposal.

Let the "Nagasaki's bells" resound over the world!

Let us bring about the early entry into force of the nuclear weapons ban treaty and drive the forces clinging to nuclear arms into the corner!

The A-bomb survivors are elderly.

Before I became a Diet member, I worked at a hospital in Tokyo, conducting medical checkups and delivering medical care for Hibakusha. I have heard first-hand the acutely painful experience of Hibakusha over and over again.

An atomic bomb leaves a scar that can never heal, not only on the body but also deep in hidden emotions and in life itself.

Nuclear weapons cannot coexist with human beings.

Friends, let us share the Hibakusha's aspiration for peace that we heard in Nagasaki and let us together send a message of peace!

The International Signature Campaign in Support of the Appeal of the Hibakusha for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons reflects the earnest wishes of A-bomb survivors who have long aspired to witness a world free of nuclear weapons.

Many young people empathize with the feelings of A-bomb victims.

The Japanese Communist Party is determined to exert its utmost efforts to realize a world free of nuclear weapons by working together with the A-bomb survivors and the younger generations.

Let us work together to spread the Hibakusha signature campaign around the world in order to bring the N-ban treaty into effect!

By calling for these commitments, I'd like to conclude my speech in solidarity on behalf of the Japanese Communist Party.

No more Hiroshimas! No more Nagasakis! No more Hibakusha!

Let's work together for peace!