

# Closing Plenary

## 2007 World Conference against A & H Bombs-Nagasaki (August 9)



### 62nd Anniversary Program -- Together with the Hibakusha:

#### **Taniguchi Sumiteru President, Nagasaki Council of A-Bomb Sufferers**

Thank you for your introduction. I am Taniguchi Sumiteru, president of the Nagasaki Council of A-bomb Sufferers. Dear friends, thank you for traveling all the way to Nagasaki from all over Japan and from all over the world to participate in the substantial debates and activities of this three-day conference on the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The results of your serious discussions will bring great encouragement to the Hibakusha and discouragement to the Japanese government, which has subordinately followed U.S. nuclear strategy and which has consistently maintained unjust policies against Hibakusha. For example, Prime Minister Abe declared on 5 August 2007, the day before Hiroshima Day, that he intended to revise the way the recognition of A-bomb diseases were handled. Of course, it really is a matter of course for the Japanese government to do this since it has lost every local lawsuit successively in Osaka, Hiroshima, Nagoya, Sendai, Tokyo, and Kumamoto. But Prime Minister Abe's statement included two points to which we cannot consent. One is the remark that he would invite experts to

give opinions in the reviewing process. The six local courts' rulings already represent expert opinions. From whom and for what is the Prime Minister seeking additional expert opinion? This obviously is a delaying tactic to avoid the rulings of the courts. Another is the remark that the revision would take place apart from the court cases, including the on-going high court cases. How is he going to bring a just resolution to the recognition of A-bomb diseases, while unjustly denying the causal relationship between the diseases of the plaintiffs and the radiation from the A-bombings recognized in court procedures? Again, it is obvious he has no intention to apply the revisions ordered by the courts.

We demand Prime Minister Abe drop the appeals, accept the six local court rulings, including the one from Kumamoto, and establish a just procedure for the recognition of A-bomb diseases based on these rulings. In order to realize these demands, we need to drop the so-called logic of accepting and enduring the damages of war, a logic supported by the government.

Dear friends who have gathered for the 2007 World Conference against A & H Bombs in Nagasaki, what we demand is the atonement by the national government for the suffering caused by the A-bombings, caused by war. That is our mission because we are the ones who resolved that we would never again be visited with the horrors of war through the actions of government. We

are the ones who firmly establish the Japanese Constitution.

It has been said that we Hibakusha are seventy-four years old on average, but we shall never give up despite our age. As a representative of Hibakusha, I close this speech with our pledge to make our best efforts for the cause of no more Hibakusha. Thank you.

**Cho Chang Kun**  
**Korean Atomic Bomb Casualty Association**  
**Republic of Korea**

I would like to introduce myself first. I was exposed to the atomic bombing together with all of my family members in the Fukushima district of Hiroshima City. Soon after the bombing, we went back to South Korea. Then, my younger brother and grandmother, despite their previous good health, suddenly fell ill and died from unknown cause. To make sure I would not suffer prejudice and could marry, my father chose not to register himself as an A-bomb victim, and he died of angina pectoris at the age of fifty-seven.

My retirement at the mandatory retirement age finally allowed me to do things other than work, and in the summer of 2002, after successfully applying for a Hibakusha certificate, I was officially registered as a Hibakusha. In 2005, I was chosen President of the Seoul Chapter of the Korean Atomic Bomb Casualty Association. Since then, I have worked for the cause of Korean Hibakusha.

In April 2006, I had surgery for rectal cancer at the Red Cross Hospital in Seoul. After that, I came to learn of the existence of official recognition for A-bomb-related diseases, which helps a recognized Hibakusha with additional medical support. I soon learned, however, there were some obstacles for Hibakusha in South Korea in having our diseases successfully recognized as A-bomb-induced.

This is how the process works. In applying, Hibakusha must have medical certificates for their illness issued by specified hospitals and must submit the application forms to a Japanese municipal office in person. I later learned that the medical certificate could be issued by a hospital in South Korea, but I was told that the application must be submitted in Japan, not to the Japanese embassy in my country as I had requested. More recently, the Japanese embassy has begun accepting applications for Hibakusha health certificates.

It might be easier for Hibakusha who live in Japan to submit application forms to their local government, but this is not the case for us. I had no other choice but to go to Japan in November last year. Local governments, however, are tasked

only to check if all the necessary documents are completed; only the Health Ministry has the power to issue recognition. Only five minutes was required to submit the completed forms. For those five minutes, we spend two nights and three days and about 100,000 yen.

This is obviously discriminatory against us. There must be some other difficulties overseas Hibakusha are facing. Such unreasonable approaches must be corrected. I have to wonder why we have to file lawsuits for fair and equitable assistance.

It may not be easy to immediately change laws and rules, yet a certain degree of revision should be possible if only the Japanese government would respect the principle that Hibakusha are Hibakusha no matter where they live. A good example is in the application process for the health certificate, which can now be applied for at Japanese embassies abroad as a result of the ruling in 2005.

I would like to discuss with you ways and means to overcome the general atmosphere that is making us believe the impossibility of changing the present regulations without resorting to legal remedies.

The reality is that aged Korean Hibakusha cannot afford the time and money to go through all the legal processes.

I would like to conclude my remarks by wishing good health and every happiness to all Hibakusha, to those of you working against war and for peace, and to your family members.

**Actions and Solidarity for a Nuclear  
Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just  
World:**

**Greetings by Overseas Delegates:**

**Francois Gagnaire**  
**French Peace Movement**

Dear peaceful friends,

At first, on behalf of the French Peace Movement, I would like to express the deep emotion we have felt by hearing of tragic death of Mr. Ito. We offer our sincere condolences to his family. Peaceful people have lost a man of bravery and convictions.

It's with sadness that we come once again to Hiroshima and Nagasaki to participate in the World Conference against A & H bombs because it means that a handful of leaders have not yet understood the recklessness of their actions and the deadlock in which they manage the world. But most of all, by persevering on the way of nuclear barbarity, they continue turning a deaf ear to exhortations to people scared by such

relentlessness, and continue looking down on the Hibakusha. Moreover, I would like to tell these innocent victims that by stirring remembrance up, they prevent the world from falling asleep and concealing the horror of human stupidity.

For a long time nuclear States have ruled absolutely over the Olympus of power by burying one's head in the sand about the real troubles of humanity: illiteracy, global warming, drinking water access. This incoherence brings me to ask me the following question: what's the use of wanting to wipe out the world to govern over a cemetery?

Mankind is worth more than that. But what can we do? We definitely should not sink into fatalism. All the more because we have a mean to reverse the trend and to participate in an historic movement: Peace Culture as a foundation of international relationships is the only future for humanity.

Today just like always, hope flourishes in eyes of the ones who refuse to crawl until old age. Young people embody revival. They have to show this strong hope. Ask you the time of the shadow of memories, the time of a breath of a sigh, why and how we got to that stage. And you will understand the necessity of the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Everybody has the duty to be against politics which glorify nuclear weapons, and to direct our efforts towards justice.

By justice, I notably mean the NPT, the real keystone of nuclear disarmament. The NPT Preparatory Committee was held last May. The French Peace Movement has questioned a vast number of ambassadors and brought out four important points from these meetings in order to make the 2010 NTP Review a success:

Firstly, to universalize the NPT and to enforce Article VI;

Secondly, that all States sign and ratify the CTBT;

Thirdly, the implementation of the Fissile Materials Cut Off Treaty;

Lastly, the implementation of a nuclear weapons free zone in the Near East.

The States Parties have agreed on the emergency containment of proliferation. Yet, in France our new President of the Republic follows the opposite way. Indeed, with the presentation of the Improved-Medium-Range-Air-to-Surface missile, after the test of the M-51 missile, Nicolas Sarkozy has strengthened the nuclear military aggressiveness of France. Last June 19th, some French peaceful people have prevented the second test of the M-51 missile by carrying out a citizen inspection, kept secret until the last moment. Finally, the test took place on June 21st.

The presidential campaign was marked by a strong demand of citizens which is auspicious for

democracy. But to conceive peace as a culture between peoples, Peace as an essential vehicle of societal changes, we have a long way to go in conscience and acts. During this campaign the French Peace Movement has gambled on enabling citizens to be informed in order to make real choices.

In this way, we have written ten forms corresponding to ten important themes (Europe, military expenditures, nuclear disarmament...): and each theme is associated with a fact of the situation, proposals and three questions. Consequently, we have brought out thirty emergencies to build a Peace Culture which were given to the candidates. Some of them - in favour of nuclear disarmament - have taken time to answer us in a detailed and argued way, announcing precise commitments. Others - in favour of nuclear deterrence - made courtesy answers. Lastly, others like Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy, did not answer. Although the result was not equal to our expectations in terms of media coverage, our approach has had the virtue of introducing nuclear weapons little by little into the debate.

In this same dynamic, with European elections getting close and the debate of a European Defence growing considerably - with the idea that British and French nuclear weapons be at the European Union's disposal, we will appeal to candidates by means of these thirty emergencies, updated if necessary.

Always in the European scale, the US statement to establish in Europe a part of their National Missile Defence system harms seriously the creation of a Europe nuclear weapons-free zone. It would lead us to believe that a wind of a multipolarized Cold War is blowing. European pacifists met them last May to call for giving up this project immediately.

To conclude, Einstein said, "This weapon has changed all but our way of thinking". That is not wrong. The worldwide situation offers us such a disorder show, such an unrest that it is impossible to base one's argument on the present balances to augur a better future when we could be able to wander in peace over earth's gardens which are so pretty when we don't make war on them.

Admittedly, doves are in a bad way. But freedom listens to us, reason appeals to us. Peace reaches out to us. Stop nuclear weapons, stop the race to nothingness.

**Jeong Jong Kweon**  
**Democratic Labor Party**  
**Republic of Korea**

My name is Jeong Jong Kwon, and I am Chairperson of the Seoul Office of the Democratic

Labor Party, a political party for peace and progress in South Korea. It is a great honor and pleasure to extend greetings of solidarity on behalf of the Korean peace movement to all of you gathered here. Although the relationship between South Korea and Japan is said to be “both distant and close”, the South Koreans and the Japanese who are struggling jointly across the borders for a new world without aggression, war and nuclear weapons are actually “close and close” neighbors. I reconfirmed this fact during the three days of the World Conference held in Nagasaki.

The Hibakusha who spoke at the International Youth Rally two days ago said: “If past history is forgotten, disasters will be repeated”. Three days ago, we talked about the pain and sorrow of 62 years ago. And we will continue to talk about them in future. However, even now, aggression and occupation continue in Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine. Unjust State violence is making people suffer in many places around the world. War victims are always the weak, mostly children, women and the elderly. Their sacrifice and pain cannot heal naturally with time. The pain and sorrow that the Hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have endured have not yet been healed. It is our duty and our task to assume responsibility to relay their message to the next generation. So long as nuclear weapons that can annihilate humankind are not totally abolished, we will remain “Hiroshima citizens” or “Nagasaki citizens” who share the sufferings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The pain that Hibakusha experienced 62 year ago –Japanese and Koreans alike—will be our reality.

As you know, in Afghanistan, already 2 of the Korean hostages taken by the Taliban have been killed, and at this time 21 are remain captive. We denounce the Taliban for the killing of innocent Korean citizens, but at the same time, we denounce our government and politicians that dispatched Korean troops to Iraq, Afghanistan and Lebanon. They are violating and blaspheming the Korean Constitution that disallows wars of aggression. We also denounce the U.S. for carrying out wars of aggression in different parts of the world and for refusing to stop occupation. So long as the U.S. refuses to abandon its hegemonic and imperialistic strategy, world peace cannot prevail. We are determined to develop actions to urge the Taliban and the governments of South Korea and the U.S. to achieve a safe return of these Korean citizens.

Last year, North Korea’s nuclear test threw the South Korean peace movement and the Democratic Labor Party into extreme confusion and a welter of controversy. One opinion was that North Korea’s nuclear test was intended to counter the hostile and oppressive policy of the U.S. Though it was an extreme reaction, this opinion

calls the test a self-defense measure, and claims that criticism against the U.S. should precede that against North Korea. Another opinion was that no matter what the reason, nuclear testing as such runs counter to the wish of the people and peace movements for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and North Korea should be denounced and it should abandon its nuclear weapons. This argument criticizes nuclear testing by North Korea because it raises military tension on the Korean Peninsula and in East Asia, inviting the vicious cycle of an arms race. Such differences of opinion have not been resolved within the peace movement and Democratic Labor Party. But there is a consensus on one point: all the factions agree that nuclear issues on the Korean Peninsula must be resolved not by military action, but through peaceful processes.

Yesterday, in a workshop on Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, one speaker said, “Peace cannot be achieved only by praying or making wishes. Peace will prevail only when we take action for peace.” We are all brothers and sisters, sharing the same ambition. In each of our countries and in our day-to-day life, let us organize our resistance resolutely against the forces that undermine and destroy peace. Let us promote peace to achieve a world set free from nuclear weapons.

### **Tomas Magnusson International Peace Bureau**

Thank you for inviting me to this important conference, and letting me meet all young activist, as well as veterans in the work for abolition of nuclear weapons. All of us foreign delegates have got not only inspiration here in Nagasaki, but also new ideas. Together with you we will be able to bring the struggle for nuclear abolition further.

We need to be courageous, we need to be persistent, and we need to be inspired. The things that inspire me most are to hear about the victories of our movement, the result of our work, what we have achieved.

One of our victories in the work against nuclear weapons is about the illegality of nuclear weapons. The illegality of nuclear weapons was an early issue for International Peace Bureau. Some 20 years ago we started the campaigning of bringing the issue of the illegality of nuclear weapons to the International Court of Justice. The World Court project was a campaign run by International Peace Bureau together with its member organisations and some other organisations. The International Peace Bureau has 278 member organisations in 70 different countries. One of our most prominent members is the Gensuikyo of Japan. The ruling of the

International Court was very clear – the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons is illegal under international law!

Another victory of the peace movement is the Ban the landmine convention - which from the origin was an initiative by the peace movement: The ban the landmine campaign.

Finally - the last victory of the peace movement that I would like to tell you about is from my home country, Sweden. The campaign against atomic weapon in Sweden.

After the Second World War Sweden had the same type of military and scientists, that like in many other countries, were impressed by the atomic bombs, and interested to get every new type of weapon that was possible to get without thinking of the illegality or the inhumanity of those weapons of mass destruction. And Sweden was a very wealthy country directly after the Second World War, because we had been able to stay out of the war.

Shortly after the war a scientific military program started in Sweden to develop its own atomic bomb program. This was kept as a secret from the Swedish Public, no one should know, other than a number of scientists and a number of military, and a few politicians in the Swedish government.

But the secret plans were disclosed, and the opposition started. From the beginning it was small, the peace movement together with some women organisation together with some artists and writers started the campaign against Swedish Atomic Weapon.

In 1957, when the plans for atomic bomb became publicly known, the general public was in favour, so strange was the situation at that time. Gallup was made, that showed that the plans for atomic bomb had about 80 percent support in the general public of Sweden. The women, the peace movement, the artists and writers managed to change the public opinion completely within three years - and the support went down to under 20 percent. For a few years more the secret plans continued, before they were dropped completely. And Sweden became a country without atomic bomb.

This was before my time in the peace movement, but I once met with the Swedish prime minister from that time, after he had left his office and become old and a little bit wise, I invited him to speak at a peace movement meeting like this one we have here today - and he spoke, and he said: "I want to thank the peace movement that you managed to stop the plans for a Swedish atomic bomb. Now I know that you were right and I was wrong."

Dear Japanese friends, I wish that you one day will have your prime minister Abe to come to a meeting and say, "Thank you for all your work,

thank you for defending the article nine in the Japanese constitution, thank you for your work against United States bases in Japan, thank you for your hard work for nuclear abolition! I was wrong and you were right!"

## **Corazon Valdez Fabros Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition**

Friends,

I bring solidarity greetings from the Nuclear Free Philippines and from the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific movement. Thank you for the privilege of always joining you during these special moments in your struggle. I wish to salute the Hibakushas for their continuing determination to reveal the hidden truth (as Taniguchi-san very appropriately call it). The truth about the bomb and the crime have to be revealed.

It is always an inspiration to come back to Nagasaki and be constantly reminded of the urgent and important task of building an effective movement for nuclear abolition.

The youth rally has given us that spirit of renewal and hope as we listened to the strong and powerful voices of the future generation. Two things strike me as very significant in their calls: One: Their strong condemnation of the disgraced Minister of Defense over his pathetic statement that dropping the bomb in Japan could not be helped (Shikata-ga nakatta!). And Two: Their strong determination to pressure the Japanese government to withdraw their appeals on the favorable rulings on the Hibakusha class action suits. These are very concrete expression of the young people's solidarity and maturity in their work for peace and justice for the Hibakusha.

Friends, I also bring greetings from the International Network for the Abolition of Foreign Military Bases. The Network calls for the total abolition of all foreign military bases and all other infrastructures used for wars of aggression, including military operations, maneuvers, trainings, exercises, agreements, weapons in space, and other forms of military interventions, and full and just compensation for social and environmental damages caused by these bases. I want to make special mention of the current critical situation in Okinawa and commend in a very special way the courage, determination and commitment of the people in the communities that continue to wage their struggles in a peaceful way. At the same time, we also remember the struggles and victories in other parts of Japan where the strength and power of the communities are aptly demonstrated.

We draw inspiration and hope from our victories that may be rare and far between yet we continue to set our hearts and minds on what is meaningful and necessary. We draw strength

from our continuing information sharing and solidarity whether it be in our local mass actions or our regional responsibilities. In the heart of all these struggles is the significant participation of the youth who are important players if our movement is to succeed.

Let us learn all that we can from each other and especially from those who have in their lifetime experienced the pain and horror of military occupation and war. Someday, our elders will no longer be with us physically. But their searing memories, prophetic warnings and profound sense of urgency should keep us focused in our continuing work for peace and justice. Let us always be inspired by their passion for life and their will to live!

**Mohamed Ezzeldine Abdel-Moneim  
Special Advisor on Disarmament and  
Strategic Affairs, League of Arab States**

It is with great respect and profound esteem that we address the people of Nagasaki. Our position is as follows: Point No. 1: We all Arabs never accepted any justification whatsoever of the nuclear attacks against Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We shall never accept it.

Point No. 2: We admire you for having turned the suffering from the nuclear attacks into a great momentum for peace in Asia and all over the world. We hope that others shall follow your example.

Point No. 3: The nuclear attacks against Hiroshima and Nagasaki started an era of nuclear terrorism. We shall continue to combat all terrorism, nuclear and non-nuclear.

Point No. 4: We call upon the nuclear industry all over the world to conform with the rules of safety. Human safety should not be sacrificed for profits and business interests.

Point No. 5: We call upon all nuclear research centres to divert their research for the benefit of all mankind, not for political purposes. Human beings are not specimen for laboratory. The dignity of the victims of the nuclear attacks, dead or alive, the Hibakusha, is our dignity.

Point No. 6: The peace movement is now at the cross-roads: either lose forever or win forever. Our choice is to win. To win, we have to continue to explore the past. The lessons of history should enlighten the path of our struggle. To win, we need not confine ourselves to narrow options and not lose our force of imagination. To win, the dream of a world free from nuclear weapons should not be isolated from all our dreams: no discrimination; no exploitation; no pollution; no suppression; no injustice; no occupation; no foreign domination.

Point No. 7: The dream of nuclear

disarmament and non-proliferation cannot be fulfilled by speeches. Great goals can only be achieved by great actions.

Let us chart innovative approaches; let us mobilize world opinion to our side; let us soon have a treaty banning all nuclear weapons, forever and not for a while, in reality and not on paper.

Let us set deadlines and define programs; let us work hard after the World Conference, even harder than we do during the World Conference. Let Nagasaki be the start of all that.

Peace militants of the world: UNITE, UNITE, UNITE, and never disband!

**Greetings by Guests:**

**Honda Toru  
President, Japan Seinendan Council**

Hello, everyone. I am Toru Honda, President of the Japan Seinendan Council, and I am from Hokkaido. Our organization has, just as you have, gathered again this year in Nagasaki, the place turned into an A-bombed site sixty-two years ago. Of course, we are working here in hopes of building a truly peaceful society free from nuclear weapons and war. But to our strong indignation, Japan and the World continue to move in the opposite direction. As we see another 9 August, we renew our determination to strengthen our struggle. With such a sentiment, I would like to extend a greeting of solidarity on behalf of local Seinendan Councils.

The Japan Seinendan Council had the bitter experience of sending youth to the battlefields during WWII. Regretting our militarism, the council reformed after WWII under the spirit, "Youth will never take up guns again," and we have consistently devoted ourselves to the peace movement ever since. We, as youth living in local communities, have worked steadily, particularly listening to the stories of suffering told by Hibakusha who received agonizing mental and physical trauma in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and learning about the inhuman terror of nuclear weapons and about the global holocaust caused by nuclear testing.

To begin with, we visit Hibakusha and listen to their experiences. Then, to take our turn to send out their messages, we organize photo exhibits and workshops to convey their messages in our own words. We also participate in signature campaigns. Some members visited Mr. Oishi, one of the crew of the Fifth Lucky Dragon who was exposed to another nuclear explosion in Bikini, and listened to his experiences. Some make efforts by learning what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki as well as by visiting nursing-homes, schools, and public halls to make paper cranes with

children and senior citizens. The Japan Seinendan Council itself, in its efforts to enhance solidarity not only in Japan but among our many friends in East Asia, called upon the young people in Korea this year, and fifty Korean youth have joined us in Nagasaki.

Our motivation for our work is nothing different from the strong belief of those who have gathered here today. We all have the strong wish for the realization of a world free from nuclear weapons and war at the earliest possible time for the sake of ourselves and for the future of our children.

But what is the recent situation in Japan? I was really surprised by the remark made by a minister who should be more sensitive about the threat of nuclear weapons. His comment could only be understood as justifying the dropping of the A-bombs. The statements by many Japanese politicians, including ministers, that discussion of nuclear armament is necessary or that nations have the right to possess nuclear arms are paving the way to a future of Japanese nuclear weapons. These politicians have not learned from history.

The lawsuits over A-bomb disease certification, in which many Hibakusha continue their struggle against the Japanese government, also demonstrate the ignorance of politicians. While there has been some political maneuvering, the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare has shown no sign of changing its policies regardless of multiple defeats in court rulings. The government is still desperate to minimize its responsibility for the horrible effects of the A-bombs and of radiation. Politicians could never do this if they sincerely listened to the appeals of Hibakusha, keeping in mind the devastating and inhuman A-bombs.

Similarly, many politicians move to deny the military's policy of collective suicide in Okinawa. In addition, these politicians make statements that pay no respect to the feelings of the victims who were forced to become comfort women. We must question what lies behind such moves to ignore historical facts and to minimize catastrophic facts.

The Japan Seinendan Council, as it has for more than half a century, is as determined as ever to continue its struggle for the abolition of nuclear weapons. We also seek to preserve Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution.

Our struggle cannot succeed unless individual efforts are united. Now, we seek to work in solidarity, overcoming different ideologies, to unite the voices of many people for one common purpose. I would like to appeal to all of you to bring about a society in which the children and youth of the next generation can hope.

I would like to close my greeting on behalf of the Japan Seinendan Councils by confirming our determination with you here in Nagasaki to widely spread the history of the of A-bombings and to

generate public opinion for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

**Ven. Kizu Hiromitsu  
Nihonzan Myohoji**

Namo-saddharma-pundarika-sutra. Greetings to all participants in the 2007 World Conference!

I commend you for the enormous contribution you have made to the world with your consistent efforts against war, and for your work for the abolition of nuclear weapons and peace.

This year you have taken part in the 50th Nationwide Peace March for the abolition of nuclear weapons. And I am deeply encouraged and grateful to see the faces of so many young people, who are succeeding to the work for peace into the future. I join my hands in prayer for the success of the journey you will be making toward peace.

On the contrary, how shameful those government officials are in saying that the atomic bombing was inevitable, which is unmistakably a reflection of the thinking that permeates the current regime. This was soon followed by the abusive remark of a U.S. official in charge of nuclear nonproliferation issues, Robert Joseph, who said, the atomic bombing saved the lives of millions of people. What a shame for Prime Minister Abe to do nothing to hold his officials and counterparts in other countries accountable, but assume his irresponsible attitude.

Instead he has allowed open debate on the possibility of Japan owning nuclear weapons. He has done this by exploiting the purported North Korean threat, and making appreciative remarks about the US "nuclear umbrella". During his regime he has strengthened Japan's commitment to using the Self Defense Forces for peacekeeping missions, and is working to destroy Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, aiming to destroy the article which could become the foundation of world peace, and to turn this country into one which is capable of waging war.

Let us multiply our efforts to stop such atrocious attempts, for the sake of Hibakusha, and for all the people now living in the world and for future generations.

Once again this year, some of us from Nihonzan Myohoji Temple took part in the Peace Walk from Tokyo to Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Let me share with you a peace message we received as we walked along the way. It is from the mayor of Maibara city, Shiga prefecture. Officials generally are comfortable criticizing North Korea for its nuclear armament, but Maibara city is different in this regard.

The message says, "We have written to all nuclear weapons states, criticizing North Korea for

its nuclear weapons program and the United States for the Bush Administration's new nuclear strategy. We have called on all of them to work for the abolition of nuclear weapons and peace."

The war in Iraq, and all other conflicts in the world right now, show clearly that peace cannot be achieved by force.

People's opinions, and actions taken by people of conscience for the sake of life, have forced Tony Blair from office, and they are now driving President Bush and Prime Minister Abe into a corner.

I believe that world peace means to practice non-killing and non-violence no matter how difficult it may be; not to take from but to support one another, and proceed together regardless of whatever differences we may have.

Let us be indomitable in our resolve and never lose our unity in carrying through this work of building a nuclear weapon-free, war-free, peaceful and just world, no matter what challenges may come.

## **For a Nuclear-Free Japan with Article 9 Shining:**

### **Special Lecture:**

### **Ikeda Kayoko, The Committee of Seven for World Peace Appeal/ Co-Convener of the "Declaration of a Nuclear Weapon-Free Japan" Campaign**

I extend greetings to the 7,000 participants in the 2007 World Conference against A & H Bombs in Nagasaki. Thank you for your hard work, and I am sure that your efforts here will bear fruits aplenty in your homes across Japan and across the world. I would like to take this opportunity to offer my heartfelt prayer for the peaceful repose of each and every victim of the atomic bombings, the victims who lost their lives in a hell on earth and the victims who managed to survive but later died after going through tremendous physical and mental pain. I would also like to offer my deepest condolences on the death of Ito Iccho, the former mayor of Nagasaki and a leading advocate for the abolition of nuclear weapons who was shot down trying to achieve this goal. I would also like to pay my respects for their tireless efforts to all those people who call on the international community to abolish nuclear weapons. I would especially like to pay my respects to and acknowledge the Hibakusha for their efforts to tell others about the devastation of the atomic bombings with words, in drawings, and even by publicly exposing their physical scars despite the pain such acts bring. Because of their noble will and courage, those of

us who do not know of the tragedy firsthand can share their experiences, firmly convinced that humanity can never co-exist with nuclear weapons.

The people of the world, however, are ever more confounded by difficulties in our efforts for achieving the abolition of nuclear weapons. The Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is dysfunctional. One example is the deal India recently reached with the United States to acquire nuclear technology assistance despite not being a signatory to the NPT and actually possessing nuclear weapons. Last year, the Japanese Diet responded to the Indian prime minister's speech with applause. I wonder why the Diet and the media of this country never gave a thought to voicing concern on the nuclear weapons possessed by this newly emerging economic power. I heard that on 6 August and today on August 9 India's parliament offers a moment of silence for the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The people of Japan failed in our great responsibility to convey our concern to India, a nuclear-weapons possessing state, on the occasion of the prime minister's visit. Another example is the likelihood of tacit acceptance of the possession of nuclear weapons by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Still another example is the possession of hundreds of nuclear weapons by Israel, a fact revealed to the world by the courageous act of a whistle blower, Mordicai Vanunu. All of these examples are countries whose possession of nuclear weapons is tolerated by the United States just because it is in the American interest to do so. Pakistan is yet another example of a nation which has developed nuclear weapons in connection with U.S. interests.

Today, the U.S. argues that there exists the threat of nuclear weapons getting into the hands of terrorists, and it prioritizes the prevention of nuclear-weapons acquisition by terrorists in its so-called war on terror. As we have seen, however, what has enabled the arbitrary proliferation of nuclear weapons is U.S. recalcitrance to nuclear abolition because of its own self-serving interests. And when the threat of nuclear weapons becomes a reality, when a nuclear attack takes place, it is not U.S. leaders who will bear the brunt of it but the ordinary citizens of the world who aspire for the abolition of such weapons. I think that the United States, a country that has a huge nuclear arsenal and that has even resumed research and development of tactical nuclear weapons, is aware that its very policies are not only compelling the other four NPT-member nuclear-weapons states into keeping their nuclear option but also causing non-nuclear states to pursue nuclear weapons. Thus continues a vicious cycle of relying on nuclear weapons.

Now then, do Americans think that the use of nuclear weapons should be tolerated as a necessity



of war? I think not, and I will tell you why I think they do not. Recently, Robert Joseph, the U.S. official in charge of nuclear non-proliferation said that the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki brought an end to World War II and saved the lives of millions of Japanese people. Some people have argued that the atomic bombings also saved the lives of a million U.S. soldiers. It seems that even today there are still a number of Americans who believe this. But the explanation President Truman was initially given by the military was that there would be 65,500 U.S. military casualties if atomic bombs were not to be used. It is generally said that the number of actual deaths is from a fifth to a fourth of total casualties, meaning that the U.S. military had predicted the death of 13,100 to 16,375 U.S. soldiers in the event of a ground invasion of Japan. When the war ended, however, Truman claimed the estimated deaths were 65,500, thus generating a new casualty figure of 262,000. The casualty figure of 262,000 was again misrepresented as the number of dead, further raising the number of casualties up to over one million. This exaggerated figure soon took on a life of its own. Some political historians see the figure manipulation as an unconscious act by Truman and by ordinary American citizens who were so appalled and horrified by the sheer destruction the atomic bombings had caused that they could not help but inflate the life-saving effects of the bombings in order to rationalize them.

This summer, a documentary film directed by a Japanese-American entitled "White Light / Black Rain" was released. Taniguchi Sumiteru, a Nagasaki Hibakusha who just spoke from this podium, is also featured in the film. In the film, a former U.S. serviceman, who was involved in the bombings, said that the bombs were used to end the war as soon as possible and that he had no sympathy or regret. I think that if he believed otherwise, he would break down in face of the results of his mission. To me, the apparent relaxed look of his face seemed, in fact, masked a fear of sympathizing with the victims and regretting his act. The film also featured a clip from a television program in which the copilot of the Enola Gay appeared. His tense and painful look struck me. Then, I was startled by what Sasamori Shigeiko said in the film. She is an A-bomb maiden who had seen the television program when it was first broadcast. Sasamori, who has undergone all sorts of hardship as a Hibakusha, said that she cried for the copilot, feeling his suffering. The documentary film will be broadcast by a U.S. television station every day for one month this summer and will be watched by an estimated fifty million Americans. I will carefully follow how the documentary affects the people of the United States. The conscience

of many Americans is dormant, trembling even sixty-two years after the end of World War II. Americans are trembling when considering the crimes of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This is why they cling to the myth of the A-bombs having saved the lives of one million U.S. soldiers and to the false understanding that the bombings brought the war to an early end. This is why they resisted the exhibition on the atomic bombings at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, and even began to insist that the bombings saved the lives of millions of Japanese people because Americans are frightened with guilt.

But no matter how many people gloss over the issue, the atomic bombings were a crime against humanity. They were nothing but a prime example of premeditated murder against civilian populations, a mass-killing, and an inhuman act aimed at annihilation. Americans must come to see the atomic bombings and the indiscriminate bombings of cities as war crimes. Of course, it goes without saying that Japanese should also admit to war crimes: the war crimes of enslaving the comfort women for sexual gratification, of abducting foreign nationals and forcing them to labor for the Japanese war effort, and of many other acts committed in Japan's wartime invasion, occupation, and annexation of foreign nations. This is the true meaning of breaking away from the post-war regime. The post-war regime has been an extremely immoral system that has betrayed Japan's peace constitution, one that has tolerated diplomacy that neglects the suffering Japan inflicted upon the people of Asia so as not to displease the United States. Internationally, post-war Japan is a fox acting under the shelter of a powerful tiger's influence, to refer to an old saying. The Japanese government is a regime without morals to the degree that it has even pushed aside the suffering of its own people by saying that the atomic bombings were inevitable, a comment made out of subservient deference to the United States.

If Americans had admitted the criminality of the atomic bombings and of the indiscriminate bombings directed against civilians, they may not have permitted their government to commit the many war crimes it has committed over the past sixty-two years. If Americans had admitted their war crimes, the peoples of Vietnam, of Afghanistan, of Iraq, and of many other countries that have suffered U.S. military strikes would be looking at completely different skies today. If Japanese had accepted their war crimes, they may not have permitted their government to cooperate with the United States for the past sixty-two years. The people of Japan, as the people of an A-bombed country, have significant responsibility in light of the grave situation we are facing today in the world. It is the responsibility to create a

government in Japan that respects the moral lessons of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and that never ceases to oppose the war crimes the United States committed during and since World War II. Our failure fills us with deep remorse but also hope that we may draw lessons from our failure for future success. Let us renew our will to build a world without nuclear weapons and without war, walking hand in hand regardless of our differences, speaking out until the day we achieve a peaceful world as stipulated in the Japanese Constitution. Thank you.

## **Reports on Grass-roots Activities in Japan:**

### **Signature Campaigns:**

#### **Tominaga Junko, Aichi Chapter, New Japan Women's Association**

Having taken part in the World Conference against Atomic & Hydrogen Bombs in Nagasaki for the first time, I have had a chance to listen to the stories of a Hibakusha in a workshop. He had to leave his four-year-old brother behind, who was badly burned and was desperate for water. It wrung my heart to hear his story, thinking of my own son who just became four years old on 4 August. My eyes filled with tears. I became convinced that we must stop allowing such tragedies to continue to be repeated.

We have to defend peace for ourselves, for our children, and for our families, empathizing with the Hibakusha. Such a feeling may be a driving force for our activities.

Today in Aichi, young mothers have started to collect signatures for defending Article 9 of the Constitution of Japan. They were motivated after hearing the stories of people who experienced war. They do not want their children going to war. Mothers who take part in NJWA's eurythmics groups with their children also collect signatures for both nuclear abolition and defense of Article 9 of the Constitution. They converse with their neighbors and work to increase membership in our association.

Once when I inserted a letter in a door slot of a neighboring apartment, a young mother in her twenties opened the door, carrying a crying baby in her arms. She seemed to be interested, perhaps because I looked like I was of the same generation as her, and she asked me why I was doing such an activity. I told her that now the Constitution is on the verge of being changed for the worse and that I would not like to send our children to war. I told her this with the feeling of my whole heart. Then, she agreed to sign the petition.

Elderly people often give me an encouraging word, telling me that I am great and that they are thankful for my hard work. It inspires me a lot.

One of the goals of our activities in Aichi is to

connect movement work with pleasure. For example, we enjoy chatting in coffee shops after signature drives. We produce peace goods and constitution goods, making the best use of our members' handicraft skills. Here, I have brought some samples. Please buy them as souvenirs.

The New Japan Women's Association is now promoting the 10-10-1 Campaign. Each of our members is encouraged to collect ten signatures for each of the two campaigns and to increase the membership of our association by one. In Aichi, 250 of our members have already achieved this target, and fifteen groups have collected Article 9 signatures from 20% of women voters in their respective areas. We hope to increase the number of such groups to fifty by the end of August.

As a delegate of the New Japan Women's Association to the World Conference and as one who has listened to stories of the experiences of the Hibakusha, I am now thinking seriously about how I should inform other people of what I have learned and about what I can do in the future. Let us work together.

### **6th & 9th Day Actions:**

#### **Tsugawa Tomohisa, President, Hyogo Federation of Trade Unions**

I'd like to propose that we promote the 6th and 9th Day Actions in Japan and widely develop them around the world. Do you know what the 6th and 9th Day Actions are? Have you ever joined the Actions? The 6th and 9th Day Actions are an activity to appeal for the abolition of nuclear weapons and for relief and support of Hibakusha on every 6th and 9th day of the month in respect of Hiroshima day and Nagasaki day.

This campaign is understood as the basis of the anti A and H bomb movement. In Hyogo prefecture, we carry out signature campaigns at 17 locations every month. Himeji City has the longest record of all such actions with more than 40 years of continuous effort. Likewise, this record is shared by Akashi City. All the more, at Kobe Port, union comrades have carried out the Actions for 40 years, in over 1000 demonstrations. Over the years, they have collected more than 10 million yen, a surprising amount, as donations for Hibakusha. In addition, we have comrades, such as Thomson Corporation's Workers Union, who organize this activity not only in communities but also at the main entrance of their company.

Friends, these activities helped to widely develop the anti-nuclear public opinion and resulted in the anti-nuclear Kobe Formula which denies the entry of warships loaded with nuclear weapons. Thanks to this Kobe Formula, no single US warship has made a call at Kobe Port for the last 32 years!

Friends, let us organize the 6th and 9th Days Actions on every 6th and 9th of the month

nationwide and around the world to call upon all citizens to sign the petition “For the Swift Abolition of Nuclear Weapons” and making donations to support Hibakusha. Let us firmly defend the anti-nuclear “Kobe Formula” and Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, and spread them to the world. Let us get active.

### **No to realignment and strengthening of military bases!**

#### **Komatsu Naoyuki, Okinawa Prefectural Committee, Democratic Youth League of Japan**

Listening to Hibakusha testimonies at the International Youth Rally yesterday, I truly understood that the issue of the atomic bombs is a thing of the present, not of the past, and that it's also linked to issues of Okinawa where I live. The Japanese government is turning its back on Hibakusha who seek official recognition as Hibakusha with diseases caused by A-bomb radiation, and also trying to distort history textbooks by insisting that the Japanese military had not forced Okinawans to commit “mass suicide.” No doubt that the hellish event in which parents had to kill their children or the other way around wouldn't have occurred without the military involvement.

Against such a government response, survivors of the “mass suicide,” who had not been able to tell their bitter experiences so far, began speaking out shaking with anger. Okinawans' anger is now reaching the boiling point as shown in a series of moves in which the prefectural government and all other Okinawan municipal assemblies adopted a written statement calling for the retraction of the assertion that the Japanese military had not forced Okinawans to commit “mass suicide.” An Okinawa citizens' rally will also take place in September.

On the other hand, in regard to the issue of the new base construction, preliminary surveys were forcibly carried out with a Self-Defense Forces' warship in the Henoko District. In Higashison-Takae, a U.S. helipad has been under construction in an inordinate manner in which the workers come to the site at three o'clock in the morning. In either case, it is a violation of the Environment Assessment Act destroying nature that has been designated as a World Heritage site. Local residents together with other Okinawans persistently continue to take part in the opposition movement. Authorities have tried to resort to tough measures by using a lot of money and power, but as a matter of fact, they are the ones who have been driven into a corner. Concerning such an outrageous act taken by the government, Okinawans in the latest Upper House election brought about a massive victory to a candidate who was opposing the historical distortion and the

construction of a new base.

Okinawa has been at a historical crossroad. Our ancestors launched a struggle involving the entire Okinawa Island calling for the “return of Okinawa to Japan with its peace Constitution” under the U.S. occupation, and had cheerfully kept bearing up under various adverse circumstances and pressures. As a result, on May 15, 1972, Okinawa won its return to Japan although it had been said it would be impossible. Inheriting their history and the spirit and sharing the same sentiment with our ancestors, we young people make a firm determination to move history towards the creation of an Okinawa and a Japan without U.S. bases.

Okinawa will host the Japan Peace Conference scheduled for November 22-25. We want this Conference to be an opportunity for young people to learn and exchange ideas under the theme of “continuation of history and the movement.” We welcome your visiting Okinawa. Please come and learn and, at the same time, have a good time! Let's take a step in history together!

### **Campaign for the Declaration of a Nuclear Weapon-Free Japan:**

#### **Shinseki Yoshiaki, Vice-President, All Japan Teachers and Staff Union**

My name is Shinseki Yoshiaki of the All Japan Teachers and Staff Union (Zenkyo). Referring to yesterday's workshop III entitled, “Declaration of a Nuclear Weapon-Free Japan movement and future of Japan,” I'd like to express my firm determination on behalf of teachers and school staff to keep struggling against nuclear weapons, for peace, and for defending Article 9 of the Constitution.

In the first half of the workshop, we had a panel discussion on whether or not Japan is seriously committed to its “Renewed Determination” for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons as well as if the “Three Non-Nuclear Principles” are observed. Our magnificent lineup of panelists consisted of Nakajima Tokunosuke, Niihara Shoji, and Takada Kumiko. Anzai Ikuro played the role of coordinator.

Prof. Anzai announced beforehand that this workshop would be a “beneficial event.” Based on detailed historical facts, as he predicted, it contained profound theories and was so fruitful that everyone was encouraged in pushing forward their movement. In response to a question on how to fight back against the logic of using North Korea's nuclear threat, Prof. Anzai clearly showed that North Korea's economic strength is fatigued as proved in the facts that it is the same as the strength of Fukui Prefecture alone and that South Korean people visiting North Korea carry rucksacks full of daily necessities in order to bring them to the North. He also told us that the

United States had analyzed that soldiers marching in front of Kim Jong Il are no longer high-stepping, and that both Japanese and U.S. leaders know well that North Korea does not have the power to attack Japan. He emphasized the danger of attempts to strengthen military forces by using the logic of North Korea being a threat as an excuse.

During the discussion, there was a report that the movement for declaration of nuclear-free municipalities is making some achievements even under the ongoing municipal merger, and a proposal that special efforts are required to get more support for the Declaration of a Nuclear-Free Japan.

Zenkyo proposed that a campaign be launched to gain support for the appeal for a declaration of a nuclear-free Japan, and has already collected signatures from 56 chairs of all prefectural organizations, including the president of the union's Naha Branch and various Zenkyo-affiliated organizations. The head of the union's Aichi Prefectural division stated that the reason why the union succeeded in collecting signatures from more than 70 heads of affiliated groups is that because the campaign timing was so good that it could receive favorable reactions. He expressed his fresh determination to continue working to spread the campaign around all teachers and staff.

Putting up high our slogan, "Never again send our students to battlefields," even under the circumstance that the Fundamental Law on Education is adversely revised, Zenkyo will work even harder with the best conscience of teachers and staff thriving on "the power of the Constitution," in order to create education taking good care of each child, to abolish nuclear weapons, and to hand down intact-Article 9 of the Constitution to children. "Our united efforts and solidarity will win!" Thank you.

### **A Nuclear-Free Future - Youth and Students:**

**Moderator:** Good afternoon, my name is Kobayashi Shuichi, chairman of the preparatory committee of the International Youth Rally, "Let Us Get Rid of Nuclear Weapons." Young people will now give us a report on their movement activities this year in each locality. Our first report will be about the 10,000-signature-collection campaign launched by high school students.

**A high school student:** Good afternoon. We are the members of the organizing committee of a campaign to collect 10,000 signatures from high school students, calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons and for the establishment of a peaceful world. This campaign has been conducted for seven years and we as the seventh-generation of those who had been involved in the campaign set two main goals. The first one

was to make an opportunity for high school students of our generation to know more about peace, and the other was to pursue continuous activities both in Japan and abroad aiming at further development of the campaign. To this end, we worked hard in the last year. We sent a letter seeking peace and the elimination of nuclear weapons to world leaders of 194 countries and regions and received a reply from more than 25 countries.

We also conducted a so-called "10,000 pencils campaign" in which we collected pencils and stationery and sent them to Asian children, along with a campaign called "funds of high school students for Asian children." As part of these campaigns, some members went to the Philippines in January this year, some visited Korean Hibakusha and collected signatures in Korea in March, or some went to Brazil last month to visit Hibakusha and collect signatures there. Such activities are spreading not only around Nagasaki but also other parts of Japan and the world.

**Another high school student:** We carry out the signature-collection-campaign on every Sunday. Some people, however, cast harsh words at us such as, "You know nothing about the atomic bombs. What do you know about them?" or "What will it be to collect signatures!" We have been involved in this campaign because we believe that we can hand down what we learnt from the past. We will keep on working hard and further develop our activities, and will appreciate your cooperation. Lastly, we will sing our theme song, "Until the world becomes united."

(Song)

**Moderator:** Next, I'd like to invite a young teacher who has called for peace on his bicycle all the way from Hiroshima to Nagasaki.

**A teacher:** Hello, my name is Chuji, teaching at an elementary school in Tokyo. My nick name is Chu-chan. Let's not talk formally. In seeking ways to appeal for the preservation of Article 9 of the Constitution, the youth group of the All Japan Teachers and Staff Union (Zenkyo) launched the "project to give a toast to Article 9." We created a chick-like character named "Kyu-chan," and printed it on T-shirts to circulate in Tokyo. Towards the World Conference against A and H Bombs, we decided to conduct a challenge to travel from Hiroshima to Nagasaki by bicycle, and during this journey we promoted the "Kyu-chan" character.

Just riding bikes cannot send out any message. So, we told children about the atomic bombing of Hiroshima as well as the war of 62 years ago, and called on them to be involved in something peaceful during their summer holiday like we were doing. Children wrote peace messages on a banner and T-shirts. I came here from Hiroshima by bike wearing a swimming cap and a sash with

message on given by teachers and members of the Zenkyo youth group. A teacher in Yamaguchi, whose nick name is "Thomas-kun," played a role as my escort. He helped me drink water as I was riding and update my PC blog. This is my report that I succeed in making an opportunity for children and their parents to think about wars and peace in this August. Thank you.

**Moderator:** Next, we will hear a report from the preparatory committee of the International Youth Rally.

**A member of the committee:** Hello, I am Nishimura Misaki of the preparatory committee of the International Youth Rally, "Let Us Get Rid of Nuclear Weapons." About 200 young people in Hiroshima and 2000 in Nagasaki participated in the youth rally. In yesterday's youth forum, about 100 young people discussed Hibakusha's concerted lawsuits seeking official recognition as Hibakusha with diseases caused by the A-bomb radiation, and 500 young people visited more than 30 Hibakusha at their homes to listen to their experiences while receiving warm hospitality. Some Hibakusha served us Japanese fine noodles. We, in this year's youth rally, discussed on the theme of "Succession into Action" to retain Hibakusha's messages etched into our memories and further spread these messages around our friends.

Young participants expressed "Succession into Action" in their own ways. Some sang songs, some performed a dance, and some drew pictures. I myself want to describe in a language and in words. Every month, with a small number of my friends, I visit Hibakusha who live in my community to sit down and listen to their experiences. In doing so, what was engraved in my heart is Hibakusha's wish for the abolition of nuclear weapons. I came to understand that our attempt of "Succession into Action" is an activity to realize this Hibakusha's wish and at the same time it is an activity on my own behalf.

Through the International Youth Rally, I knew that many young people across the world are participating in the anti-nuclear weapons movement. As one form of actions, we gave young overseas delegates a set of photo-panels describing tragedies of the A-bombs, hoping that a photo exhibition would be held throughout the world. Towards the World Conference against A and H Bombs, we launched the "210,000 paper cranes project." In response to this project, irrespective of age or sex, paper-cranes from throughout the country were sent to us. The number of folded-paper cranes has reached 500,000. Many people must have been involved in folding a paper crane. Some were from Kanagawa where young and old folded paper cranes in each community. Let me invite them to give a report.

**A Kanagawa youth:** With a firm determination

to actively participate, we young people took to the street to collect signatures calling for a public referendum ordinance on the pros-and-cons of making Yokosuka Port a homeport of a U.S. atomic-powered aircraft carrier and at the same time think of the issue of atomic-powered aircraft carriers coming into our town. I cannot tell how many times we were in front of the station to take part in the signature drive in one month between November 10 and December 10. We took action every night after work for one week. On Sunday, we were at the station from morning till night, collecting signatures. In friendly rivalry with high school students, we somewhat older young people also did our best. Thank you.

**Another Kanagawa youth:** My name is Sakamoto, staff member of an after-school care center for children in Kanagawa. We participated in the project, increasing our efforts together with children and their families. Some practiced how to fold a paper crane at home because they thought that wars cannot stop with a poorly made crane. I will bring home what I learnt from this Conference and make efforts to further increase activities for peace together with children. Thank you.

**Moderator:** Thank you very much. I'd like to conclude the young people's reports by saying let's expand this wave of the movement and meet again in the next World Conference! Thank you.

## **Proposal for Future Actions:**

**Hiroshi Taka**

**Japan Council against A & H Bombs/  
Co-Chair of the Steering Committee, World  
Conference Organizing Committee**

Hello, friends, I apologize to the participants who are taking part in this Closing Plenary through the video screens in the second and third halls. But our hearts are beating in unison.

The 2007 World Conference has been a successful conference.

Again this year, we have been able to explore a road to a nuclear weapon-free world through discussion for 7 days since the opening of the International Meeting, joined also by representatives of national governments. We have been able to learn from the delegates from Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe and the American Continents that people are working everywhere in solidarity to reach our common goal. The Korean peace marchers have filled us with vigor and hope.

Through the conference, I believe, you have felt that the abolition of nuclear weapons is really a major trend of our present world. I take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all

representatives from national governments, anti-nuclear weapons movements and nuclear victims' movements, as well as to Mayor Taue of Nagasaki and Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima, who came to address our conference in spite of their busy schedule.

The major focal point of the conference's discussion was to build momentum for worldwide actions demanding the implementation of the "unequivocal undertaking" to eliminate nuclear weapons, towards the NPT Review Conference that will take place 2 years and 9 months from now. To promote it, we must undertake three specific actions in this A-bombed country.

First, we must report back to friends around us of the deep emotions expressed and lessons we have learned in the conference, and develop the signature campaign for the "Swift Abolition" and other actions to build up public opinion in support of the abolition of nuclear weapons. We must add many proposals, new ideas and feelings from people around us to create new forms of action.

Our friend Mohamed Ezzeldine Abdel-Moneim said, "Great goals can only be achieved by great actions. Let Nagasaki be the start of all that." Let us keep these words with us as our motto.

Second: On the morning of August 6, the TV screen depicted the Hiroshima City Peace Ceremony. In front of Mayor Akiba, who admonished the Government to endeavor in good faith for the abolition of nuclear weapons and to abide by the Constitution as it is, was Prime Minister Abe, whose eyes were moving restlessly and vacuously. Now, there is almost nobody who still counts on his cabinet doing anything about nuclear weapons.

We must act to ensure that the next change to come will bring a Japan that will honor the

non-nuclear principles and Article 9 of the Constitution.

At a first step, we will urge all local governments and assemblies in Japan that will meet in their September sessions to support our common proposal for a "Nuclear Weapon-Free Japan Declaration", or to adopt a resolution to urge the Japanese Government to accept it. I want to call on each of you to join forces to have the call "Render Japan Nuclear Weapon-Free" and "Defend Article 9" be heard all over the country.

Third concerns our support of the Hibakusha. Prime Minister Abe finally moved to re-examine the present formula on certifying the A-bomb diseases. This is certainly one step forward. But if he is truly sincere, there are a number of things he can do without spending one year on it. He should abandon his intention to appeal the ruling of the Kumamoto District Court to an upper court, withdraw all the other appeals made thus far, and drastically improve the Hibakusha-Aid administration. Until this goal is reached, I call on you to develop our grassroots network in support of the Hibakusha everywhere around the country.

In the conference, there were a few things for which we felt sorry. One is that we did not have Yamaguchi Senji, a Hibakusha from Nagasaki, with us. Yet, he is okay. I talked with him by telephone. His message was as follows: "Please do not allow Nagasaki to be repeated anywhere on earth. Young people, your present efforts are valuable. Please keep them up."

As main actors of the 21st century, let us inherit the message of the Hibakusha, and with our own action let us open a door to a "Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World" without fail.

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## **2007 World Conference against Atomic & Hydrogen Bombs-Nagasaki August 9, 2007**

### **Call from Nagasaki**

On August 9, 1945, one atomic bomb turned Nagasaki, an international city of culture, into a hell. Heat rays, blasts and radiation took the lives of more than 70,000 people, leaving on those who barely survived deep scars that have never gone away 62 years since the bombing.

The tragedy of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, and the suffering of the Hibakusha teach us a lesson: Humans can never coexist with nuclear weapons. With his remarks that the dropping of the atomic bombs could not be helped, the former Defense Minister, whose constituency is Nagasaki, ignored that lesson, and virtually showed tolerance to the use of nuclear weapons. The Minister was forced to resign due to the strong will of the Hibakusha and the people of the atomic bombed country who

never accept the existence, let alone the use, of nuclear weapons.

The outcry of the Hibakusha for the abolition of nuclear weapons has now become a global call, shared by the people and an overwhelming majority of the governments across the world. Toward the NPT Review Conference in 2010, people are increasingly committed to pressing the nuclear weapons states to fulfill their “unequivocal undertaking” to accomplish the elimination of their nuclear arsenals, by strengthening solidarity between grass-roots movements, civil society and committed governments.

The U.S., having pushed ahead with its preemptive attack strategy, including the use of nuclear weapons, on the premise of preventing “terrorism and nuclear proliferation”, is now bogged down in the war in Iraq and faces severe criticism from home and abroad, becoming more and more isolated in the international community. In Japan, the people rendered a severe judgment on the Abe government in the recent House of Councilors Election, giving a major blow to its attempt to adversely revise Article 9 with a view to making Japan a “country that will wage war together with the U.S.”

Now is the time to raise our voices: “Abolish Nuclear Weapons!”, “Achieve a Nuclear-free, Peaceful Japan!”, and “Defend Article 9!”, and to powerfully develop nationwide actions. We extend our call from the atomic bombed city of Nagasaki:

- Toward the NPT Review Conference in 2010, let us widely develop public opinion and actions for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Let us urge the United Nations and the governments to start negotiating on an international treaty for a total ban on nuclear weapons.
- Let us take the opportunities of United Nations General Assembly and the NPT PrepCom to promote the signature campaign for the Swift Abolition of Nuclear Weapons. Let us strengthen our day-to-day efforts such as Monthly 6th & 9th Day Actions in communities, workplaces and schools.
- Let us develop the campaign for a “Declaration for a Nuclear Weapon-Free Japan” by lobbying all local assemblies in their upcoming sessions in September to urge the national government to declare its commitment to the abolition of nuclear weapons and to the strict observance of the Three Non-nuclear Principles.
- Let us further develop nationwide actions and cooperation to preserve Article 9.
- Let us expand the struggles in Okinawa and other places in Japan against the plan to realign and strengthen U.S. bases, and the struggle against the deployment of a nuclear aircraft carrier in Yokosuka. Let us bring the Japanese Self-Defense Forces back home from Iraq and the Indian Ocean.
- Let us urge the government to bring a total solution to the collective lawsuits for A-bomb disease recognition and carry out a fundamental improvement of the recognition system.
- Let us hold A-bomb photo exhibitions throughout the world, including the one now planned in Egypt this coming October. In solidarity with Hibakusha, let us further strengthen our effort to inherit Hibakusha’s experiences and aspirations to hand them down to the next generation and to the rest of the world.

A “nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world” is possible. Let us now join our forces together to stand up for action.

No More Nagasakis! No More Hiroshimas! No More Hibakusha!