Recollections of the post-war generation

Hiroshi Momose

I was courteously requested by your esteemed editorial department to submit some lines on the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings. Although I have always had a certain degree of interest in the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, I feel somewhat awkward speaking in public about my interest in this subject in your fine city, and had decided to instead maintain my silence. To be honest, I felt rather uncomfortable, as someone who was in Tokyo until Japan’s defeat in the war, to talk publicly in Hiroshima as if I had some kind of firsthand knowledge about what happened.

I was in my second year of junior high school at the time, and the day after the bombing of Hiroshima I remember hearing an Imperial General Headquarters announcement on a radio news broadcast (or “hodo” news was called back then) at 3:30 PM stating that an attack by a small number of B29 bombers had caused a considerable amount of damage, and I remember instinctively feeling that I didn’t feel like doing anything at all. I think the citizens of Tokyo became acutely interested in what had happened in Hiroshima City for about ten days before the end of war. And (or perhaps I should say “however”) after August 15 Hiroshima wasn’t a topic of discussion at all. There was however, a female student in our neighborhood community association who had been evacuated to Hiroshima and who had returned to the house of her father, who was a local policechief, and we were unable to forget the sight of the painful-looking burn scar on her right arm every time she appeared at the gatherings where relief supplies were handed out.

In summer of the following year I accompanied my father when he returned to his hometown in Miyazaki Prefecture on account of some business and the train we were on got stuck at Hiroshima Station overnight because of a typhoon that was moving over the Chugoku Region. When the train finally started off early the following morning and we were passing by Yokogawa Station I remember seeing a series of unbelievable sights from the window of our slow-moving train, including seeing an elderly person leading their young granddaughter by the hand amidst a tranquil pastoral landscape and I remember suddenly realizing with a start that it had once been a street in a busy shopping area. The next time I visited Hiroshima City was after I had taken up my post at Tsuda College in Tokyo after having left Hokkaido University where I had worked in the Slavic Research Center for 10 years. I had been invited to the wedding reception of a graduate who had been a student of mine. I heard from city councilors attending the reception about Hiroshima City’s struggle to recover from the bombing, and, curbing my desire to stay on longer in Hiroshima, I rushed back to Tsuda College for my classes the following day. I used to work, a column in which I, with great difficulty, admitted having been conscripted into military and had participated in the relief operations in Hiroshima City, and then he asked me “Where were you at that time?” Before asking me that question he had reminisced about how he had witnessed the bombing of Tokyo on March 10, 1945 and I’m sure that our conversation after he asked that question was deep and involved, but that question resounded in my ears independently of what came before and after it in our conversation that day.

Having said that however, I didn’t entirely give up on the idea of attempting to communicate my thoughts on the topic. After retiring from your esteemed university, I submitted to the bulletin of the Institute of International & Cultural Studies at Tsuda College where I used to work, a column in which I, with great difficulty, admitted that I was unable to summon forth the will to pull out my chest and presume to talk about the bombing of Hiroshima. This is what I wrote in the column: “When I hear the word ‘Hiroshima’ the thing I immediately remember is the following dry and dull line from an old textbook which is related to Japan’s Strat War.—‘His Majesty shifted the Imperial General Headquarters to Hiroshima.’ I am now filled with remorse when I think that, based on that information and a bird’s-eye view photograph of the city, the textbook instilled in me the impression that Hiroshima was just ‘another boring city.’ It wasn’t until several decades later that I became acquainted with the writing of Tamiki Hara in which he depicted the exotic townscape and people of Meiji-Taisho-era Hiroshima.”

Incidentally, just a month ago, I met up with one of my old students who is now active in her academic field both overseas and in Japan, and while we were talking she suddenly mentioned that her father had been sent to Hiroshima on the orders of the army to participate in the relief operations and had died a few years ago after a long struggle with radiation sickness. She also revealed that after his death she had visited Hiroshima City for the first time to reminisce about her father and that tears had streamed down her face. She had never mentioned this before in class or in conversation, and if there had been a reason for her to tell me about it, I feel it may have been related to the old column I had written.

My only involvement in your esteemed research institute was related to internal administration-related affairs so I have neither the capacity nor the right to behave as if I can talk about peace research. However, looking at the topic from a wider perspective, since peace is considered to be an eternal challenge for all of humanity, it is my earnest desire that large numbers of people get involved in peace research to facilitate continuous progress in the field. At the same time, I am also quite obsessed with the dream: that your esteemed institute in Hiroshima will continue to hold as its core-mission the passing on the history about where it all began.

(Professor Emeritus at Tsuda College and Hiroshima City University)
The HPI started three research projects in April 2013, when Gen Kikkawa was assigned to new HPI president. Namely, they are project on (1) Nuclear Weapon and Disarmament, (2) Human Security, and (3) Confidence and Security Building Measures.

Regarding the Nuclear Weapon and Disarmament project, we organized a total of 17 research meetings in the three years – almost every two months – in which we had a total of 26 presentations: 10 times by HPI researchers, 2 times by researchers of Hiroshima City University, 2 times by researchers of Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (RECNA) at Nagasaki University, 3 times by researchers of other local universities, 5 times by researchers from Metropolitan area, 2 times by journalists, and 2 times by oversea researcher and practitioner.

As for the topic, there were 18 reports on nuclear issues, 2 reports on conventional weapons, 1 report on chemical weapon, 2 reports on export control, 1 report each on the role of civil society, the issue of nuclear power plant, and the issue of Afghanistan.

The 7 meetings from September 2014 to March 2015 were related to the publication of a book entitled “Why We Can’t Eliminate Nuclear Weapons II,” which is to be published by mid-July 2016.

Here is the table of 17 research meetings with dates, presenters, and topics.

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(Professor at Hiroshima Peace Institute)
My motive to think about education

In Hiroshima, many people are working hard to abolish nuclear weapons. My high school, Hiroshima Jogakuin High School, also works towards this goal by doing peace education. This is because more than 352 students and teachers were killed instantly when Hiroshima was attacked by the A-bomb. I took part in some peace activities at my school; the petition drive to abolish nuclear weapons, guiding visitors in the Peace Memorial Park, and recording A-bomb survivors testimonies. Marie Louise Towari, came to my school, she survived the genocide in Rwanda in 1994. She is now the chairperson of an NPO called, “Think About Education Rwanda.” Meeting her made my mind change about how to realize a peaceful world. She told me about her experiences in 1994 and emphasized the importance of education. In her book, she also said, “people who have no chance for education and can only follow an unreasonable leader, lost their dear family and friends in the civil war which was made by the colonial powers of Belgium.” In other words, the lack of education caused an incredible situation that pitted brother against brother. In the end, about nine hundred thousand people died in just three months.

My experience to realize the importance of education

In April 2015 I was fortunate enough to be chosen to go to the United Nations Headquarters in New York as a Youth Communicator for a World without Nuclear Weapons. We submitted about 60,000 signatures that we collected that year to the United Nations. During our stay in NY, we observed the 2015 NPT Review Conference, visited Stuyvesant High School, and made a presentation at the United Nations. The topic of our presentation was passing down war memories. After our presentation, the mayor of Fulon, Norway said, young people who realize their task to carry on the hopes of A-bomb survivors and receive good education will become leaders who conduct peace activities all over the world.

At Stuyvesant High School, we discussed nuclear weapons. I had a little fear that there are still opinions that we can finish the war earlier by using A-bombs or the possession of nuclear weapons is necessary to obtain power. In reality, American students believed these opinions before they learned about the effects of the A-bomb. However, they said that they changed their way of thinking after they realized how disastrous the use of nuclear weapons can be. Through this discussion, I came to realize how important it is to know the facts of a situation.

How to make a peaceful world

How can we give people the chance to know the tragedy of Hiroshima?

From the viewpoint of the conveying what it was like to be in Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, Hiroshima Archive is a very good tool. Hiroshima Archive is a digital record of A-bomb survivors’ on the Internet. It was started by Hidenori Watanabe, an associate professor at Tokyo Metropolitan University. We help with this project and collect hibakusha’s testimonies. With the use of Hiroshima Archive, we can understand the awfulness of the A-bomb.

Many hibakushas hope to save future generations from the same tragedy, so their experiences have a great value as a legacy in the future.

The 2015 NPT Review Conference ended without a final agreement due to a conflict of interests. As before, we can only regret the situation that many still believe in the myth of nuclear deterrence.

I participated in the 25th United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues which was held in Hiroshima in 2015. I discussed disarmament issues with students from Japan, Germany, and China. These students visited the Peace Memorial Park and the museum. Finally, we had the same view toward A-bombs, that they should never be used again. This is a normal idea, I believe, that people come to when they realize the true destructive power of nuclear weapons.

Now, I am a student at the University of Tokyo. I will major in education in order to spread peace and citizenship education. Taking advantage of past experiences, I will enrich my study from now on to create a better future.
The 70 postwar years: Issues and challenges

The public lecture series for the 2nd semester of 2015 was held from November 6 to December 11 at the "Gojinsha Wendy Hit-Machi Plaza". 2015 was the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The two previous lecture series covered the topics of World War I (2nd semester, 2014) and World War II (1st semester, 2015) and examined their historical significance. This latest series incorporated awareness of the issues covered in the previous two series while looking at the course of postwar history over the last 70 years with regard to Japan and international society, as well as related issues and points of contention.

Lecture details

(1) November 6 (Friday), Takeshi Yuasa (Professor, Hiroshima Peace Institute): “A Correlative History of Japan and International Society, 1945-2015”

Professor Yuasa’s lecture took a fresh, comprehensive look at Japan’s foreign policies and security policies over a span of 70 years based on the understanding that these policies correlate with the changes in international politics over the seven decades since WWII. Within this context he examined the shift from a bipolar world in which the United States and the Soviet Union stood in opposition to each other, to the dissolution of the Soviet Union—the global power shift that has become increasingly pronounced in recent years.

(2) November 13 (Friday), Akihiro Kawakami (Associate Professor, Hiroshima Peace Institute): “The Structure of Peace in Postwar Japan”

This lecture looked at the history of Japan’s postwar constitution while also examining at ① the global structure of the Cold War, ② regional U.S.-Japan security structures, ③ national Liberal Democratic Party administrations and the “1955 System,” and ④ the “four-tiered structure” (Tetsuro Kato) of the social-corporate society upon which Japan’s postwar political and economic structure is said to have been based. The lecture also looked at the degree to which these are currently experiencing any changes, and examined the structure of Japan’s postwar peace from the perspective of constitutional sociology.

(3) November 20 (Friday), Makiko Takemoto (Assistant Professor, Hiroshima Peace Institute): “The 70 Postwar Years: The Case of Germany”

Assistant Professor Takemoto’s lecture dealt with the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany/unified Germany), a country that has found itself at the center of the discussion regarding the two world wars and subsequent war and peace. The lecture focused on how German people view the world wars and how they discuss them, as well as looking at examples of the “overcoming the past” denazification initiative (Vergangenheitsbewältigung), and the antinuclear and pacifist movements. The lecture also presented issues surrounding peace in the 70 years since WWII while revealing the differences between discussions in Japan and Germany relating to issues such as historical perception and war responsibility.

(4) December 4 (Friday), Yasuhiro Fukui (Associate Professor, Hiroshima Peace Institute): “Disarmament and International Law after WWII: From the Viewpoint of Treaty Negotiation Frameworks”

Associate Professor Fukui’s lecture explored frameworks for negotiations on multilateral treaties in the field of disarmament and provided an outlook for future disarmament treaty negotiations. Starting with an overview of the current state of disarmament initiatives including efforts to revitalize the work of the Conference on Disarmament, which has been stalled now for close to 20 years, he provided examples of cases of the use of negotiation frameworks other than the Conference on Disarmament in order to carry out negotiations on treaties relating to cluster bombs and the prohibition of antipersonnel land mines, as well as the use of negotiating mandate based on a U.N. General Assembly resolution to negotiate the Arms Trade Treaty.

(5) December 11 (Friday), Kazumi Mizumoto, (Vice-President and Professor, Hiroshima Peace Institute) “Nuclear Disarmament in the Postwar Era and Atomic Bomb Survivors’ Accounts of the Atrocities: The Role of the Atomic Bombed City”

Professor Mizumoto’s lecture dealt with ① the course of the nuclear arms race from the United States’ development of nuclear bombs to postwar proliferation, ② nuclear disarmament initiatives, and ③ appeals regarding the risks and inhumaneness of nuclear weapons based on firsthand experiences of atomic bombing, and based on this the lecture looked at the tasks and roles set for the international community, Japan (as a country having been subjected to atomic bombing), and Hiroshima (as a city having been subjected to atomic bombing) in order to move toward the complete restriction/elimination of nuclear weapons.

All five lectures were very well attended with approximately 100 people attending each, and a large number of questions were asked at each session making it a very lively series. We also received a large amount of feedback from the questionnaires that were handed out. We intend to make good use of this valuable information in future.

Akihiro Kawakami
(Associate Professor at Hiroshima Peace Institute)
At the HPI Research Forum held at Hiroshima City University’s Satellite Campus on November 17 last year, two researchers delivered talks to a receptive audience of 50 on the common theme of “A Thousand Hills’ Rwanda: Challenges to Building Symbiotic Societies after Genocide.”

Situated in central Africa, Rwanda is 1.5 times the size of Japan’s Shikoku Island and has a population of approximately 12.1 million. Banana trees can be seen throughout the country, which due to its hilly terrain is referred to as “the land of a thousand hills.”: its rapid economic growth in recent years has been garnering attention. However, Rwanda is also a country with a painful past with an ethnic genocide that took place at the end of the 20th century. The last three decades have seen significant political and societal developments, and today the country’s (fatalities are said to have numbered between 800,000 and one million) that began following the assassination of the president in April 1994, lasting until July of the same year, and also looked at subsequent developments in the country.

The first of the talks, given by Dr. Aya Tsuruta, lecturer at the School of International Liberal Studies of Chukyo University, was titled “Ethnicity in Rwanda: Understanding the Historical Background of Genocide.” The genocide in Rwanda was the result of conflict between the Tutsi and Hutu ethnic groups, and Dr. Tsuruta suggested that these ethnicities themselves were a politico-historical product of the era in which the country was colonized by Germany and Belgium from the end of the 19th century. She also pointed out that even after gaining independence in 1962, policymakers continued to exploit this situation in an arbitrary manner and this, coupled with other domestic and international factors, worked to exacerbate interethnic hostility and violence. She also talked about the importance of understanding the process and function of the formation of these ethnic groups, and addressing how past events that led up to the genocide are remembered and discussed in order to prevent a future recurrence of violence.

The next to take the stage after Dr. Tsuruta was Dr. Kazuyuki Sasaki, an associate professor at the Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences (PIASS) in the district of Huye in southern Rwanda. His talk was titled “Lights and Shadows of Rwanda: National Unity and Reconciliation after Genocide.” Dr. Sasaki also serves as Head of the PIASS Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, which was founded in 2011. Mr. Serge Muvunyi, a PIASS employee who also happened to be a member of the first batch of students to study in the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, also attended the forum. Dr. Sasaki explained the efforts that are being made to repair the damaged relationships between the victims and perpetrators, between family members, and between ethnic groups within Rwanda, as well as providing an overview of the role that NGOs and international organizations are playing in this process. The forum was conducted in the city of Huye, which was the site of the 1994 genocide, and the audience was able to witness the vestiges of the destruction that took place there, as well as the current efforts to rebuild the country.

The research forum was co-hosted with the Chugoku-Shikoku Branch of the Japan Association for African Studies (JAAS), and was coordinated by Dr. Gen Tagawa, Associate Professor of the Department of International Studies, Hiroshima City University, and Dr. Hitoshi Nagai, Professor of Hiroshima Peace Institute (HPI), Hiroshima City University.

At the HPI Research Forum held at Hiroshima City University’s Satellite Campus on December 11 last year, Shin Yongwoon, Director General of Unification Policy Advisory Bureau of the National Unification Advisory Council’s Secretariat, a constitutional institution of South Korea, was invited to give a lecture at the Hiroshima Peace Institute Research Forum held on December 11, 2015.

Mr. Shin has worked for many years within the South Korean government drafting policies on North Korea-related issues and Korean unification and is an advisor to the South Korean president on such issues. Utilizing his experience, he focused his lecture on South Korean policies relating to North Korea and Korean Peninsula issues, explaining that while Korean peninsula issues were internal issues for the Korean people they are at the same time international in nature. That is—the peninsula was divided as a result of the occupation by Germany and Belgium from the end of the 19th century. On the one hand, he also pointed out problem areas and the limitations of government policy such as the government’s interference in the judiciary, the curbing of citizens’ political rights, and the emphasis on Tutsi victimhood at memorial events indicating divergence in the thinking of the Hutus and Tutsis.

In addition to highlighting the depth of the wounds of genocide that Rwanda still suffers, both of the talks indicated the importance of, and difficulty in, rebuilding the country following the genocide and overcoming the barriers that still remain between the divided ethnic groups.

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The Hiroshima Peace Institute held its first English Language Lecture Series in January/February 2016 at the Satellite Campus of Hiroshima City University. The series featured four HPI professors offering lectures on their research to the community. The lectures were well attended by a variety of people including students, teachers, journalists, members of the peace and hibakusha communities and other citizens of Hiroshima. Each lecture was followed by a spirited and engaged discussion between the lecturer and the audience members.

The four lecturers in the series were Professors Narayanan Ganesan, Yasuhito Fukui, Mikyoung Kim and Robert Jacobs. A synopsis of each lecture follows below:

Lecture 1
January 15, 2016
Democracy and Peace in Myanmar since the 2010 Elections
Lecturer:
Narayanan Ganesan, Professor, HPI

The lecture focussed on the developments that have taken place in Myanmar during the period of democratic transition between 2010 and 2015 led by the semi-civilian government of President Thein Sein. The talk began with a brief historical introduction and then divided issues into political and socio-economic ones before examining the challenges that lie ahead for the National League for Democracy (NLD) government led by Aung San Suu Kyi that took power after an overwhelming electoral victory in late 2015.

During the introductory remarks the speaker focussed on the origins of the military government going back to the coup against the elected government by U Ne Win in 1962. Afterwards he referred to the collapse of that Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) government in 1989 and the resulting transition that witnessed widespread demonstrations against the government. Owing to the political violence during that transition and its refusal to hand over power to the NLD that won the previous election in 1990, the military government became widely hated, paving the way for the NLD’s victory.

The greatest political achievements of the Then Sein government were the expansion of the bilateral ceasefire agreements signed between the government and the ethnic insurgent armies. Three major groups came into the fold in March 2012 that eventually led to the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) in October 2015 although only 8 out of the 16 groups signed it. Other changes included the freeing of political prisoners, amnesty for exiles, easier registration for political parties and NGOs and a more liberal political environment that included greater press freedom.

Important socio-economic issues include the merging of the black market exchange rate with the official rate and the negotiation of debt settlements. Bank licensing was liberalized and there was better control of the country’s currency. Socially the government worked on more public housing projects and sought to subsidize essential items.

Going forward the greatest problems would be bringing the remaining insurgent groups into the dialogue process and negotiating a ceasefire in Kachin state where there has been renewed fighting since 2011. Also, the extremely polarized relationship between Muslims and Buddhists requires moderation. Finally he hoped that the military which retains power in many areas will cooperate with the new government.

Lecture 2
January 22, 2016
Highlighting the G7 Lübeck Statement on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament
Lecturer:
Yasuhiro Fukui, Associate Professor, HPI

In April 2016, the G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting was held in Hiroshima and key topics for discussion included pressing issues faced by the international community, such as terrorism and violent extremism, the refugee issue, disarmament and non-proliferation, maritime security, as well as regional situations such as North Korea, the Middle East, and Ukraine. As for the non-proliferation and disarmament statement, the basis for its diplomatic process, known as “NPDG (Non-Proliferation Directors Group).” is the statement adopted last year in Lübeck. This lecture focused on the substantial issues in the Lübeck statement and the forward-looking aspects to be contained in the statement which will be agreed to in Hiroshima.

Fukui gave an overview of G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting documents (standard set from precedent case) from Lübeck and the heightened issues in the G7 Statement on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. The non-proliferation and disarmament statements deal with the major issues in this field and are a good bird’s-eye-view of its status quo.

Fukui proposed a series of items to be included in the final document to be agreed upon by the participating States in the G7 foreign ministers’ meeting. First: issues related to the NPT; current issues and new trends such as the humanitarian approach. Second: positive and forward looking tones to be included in the document which may catalyze the stagnation. Third: strong messages in quest for international peace and stability. Forth: appropriate issues for the document to be adopted in Hiroshima.

After the G7 foreign ministers’ meeting, in addition to the traditional “G7 Statement on Non-proliferation and Disarmament,” the G7 Foreign Ministers’ Hiroshima Declaration on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation was also adopted. Unfortunately, in these documents the humanitarian approach, which is an important catalyzer, is not mentioned. As for nuclear disarmament, the traditional stance expressed as “a determined, realistic and incremental approach” was maintained.

Lecture 3
January 29, 2016
Japanese Perceptions of Territorial Disputes: Opinion Poll Surveys in the Southwestern Part of Japan
Lecturer:
Mikyoung Kim, Associate Professor, HPI

Public opinion fluctuates per contextual tides. One area in need of further exploration is the relationship between public opinion and government behavior where public opinion functions as intervening variable. The recent watershed moments in East Asian territorial disputes, for example, suggest limited validity of procedural cycle
theorem of conflict resolution. The process instead is more dynamic and interactive where a national government has multiple behavioral options which also entails multitude of choices from the counterpart. One state has one set of 3 policy options which induces another set of 3 behavioral responses from its counterpart. When two states interact with each other, 9 types of policy options become available.

When the Korean President Lee decided to visit the Dokdo/Takeshima in August 2012, he was aware of the ardent Korean conviction of the islet ownership. With the strong popular backing, he opted to raise the tension level vis-a-vis Japan. This, in turn, aggravated Japanese public opinion which was translated into Japan’s nationalization of the Daioyudao/Senkaku in the following month. The public support for nationalization, in turn, was instigated by an unexpected collision incident committed by the drunken Chinese fishing boat captain: a hard to predict and difficult to control type of contingency which can destabilize East Asian regional dynamics. With the sweeping victories of Abe Shinzo’s Liberal Democratic Party in December 2012 elections, Tokyo’s stance demonstrates a clear difference from the previous Democratic Party of Japan. The central government, for instance, dispatched a high ranking official to the Takeshima Day ceremony on February 22, 2013 and 2014. The rising tide of nationalism in China and Korea would lead to tit-for-tat type of tension escalation.

This lecture demonstrates a weak causality between socio-psychological measurements and territorial perceptions. The public sentiment on territorial claims stay relatively unchanged and independent of socio-economic conditions. This lecture calls for alternative explanatory model which can encompass increasingly interactive and simultaneous nature of intra-state behavior.

The Global Hibakusha Project: Connecting Young People in Radiation AFFECTed Communities

Lecturer: Robert Jacobs, Associate Professor, HPI

Jacobs spoke about the work of the Global Hibakusha Project and its research outcomes. The talk began with a discussion about the issues surrounding the use of the term “global” and “hibakusha” together. Scholars and activists have begun to use this term as a means of inclusion for the millions of people who have been exposed to ionizing radiation and who live in radiologically contaminated areas.

A primary cause is the more than 2,000 nuclear weapon tests and the nuclear fuel cycle. The Global Hibakusha Project, designed and carried out by Jacobs and Dr. Mick Broderick of Murdoch University in Australia, conducts field research in these radiation affected communities, collecting oral history testimonies, artwork and historical records. The project seeks to establish communalities in the experiences of people in these radiation affected communities and to begin to establish linkages between members of these communities to facilitate information sharing and community building.

From the beginning Jacobs and Broderick were aware that such academic inquiry risks becoming a form of academic colonialism in which researchers extract stories from nuclear test site communities and return to their wealthy home countries and build careers with little change affected in the communities. The project was designed with consciousness of this risk and worked to overcome its structural barriers. One outcome of these efforts was to begin a series of workshops for third generation hibakusha (people whose grandparents experienced either nuclear attack or nuclear testing) and to train them in oral history techniques. There were two goals to these workshops: first, to facilitate the collection and maintenance of historical memories within communities rather than in academic institutions, and second, to build bonds between these communities among young people who had the capacity to sustain these links via Web 2.0 technologies, and perhaps build long-term relationships between radiation affected communities. The first of these workshops was held in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the second in Hiroshima, and the third this year in the Yalata community of South Australia.

The success of this first series has led us to begin planning for a 2nd English Language Lecture Series to be held next year.

Encyclopedia for Peace and Security Released

The Hiroshima Peace Institute published the Encyclopedia for Peace and Security in March 2016 through the publishing company Horitsu Bunka Sha. The encyclopedia has 1,300 entries covering the ten fields of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, armaments and nuclear weapons, international politics and security, the history of international politics and warfare, conflict theory and war theory, the peace movement and pacifism, peacebuilding, law and human rights, nuclear power issues, and the environment and development with explanations of basic terms, theories, concepts, incidents, treaties, and international organizations. It is an interdisciplinary encyclopedia that reflects the substantial changes in peace and security theories and international politics since the conclusion of the Cold War.

The preparation and editing work in the lead up to the publication of the encyclopedia was carried out over a period of roughly three years beginning in April 2013, and was based on the research topic “A Basic Study for the Purpose of Creating a Peace Encyclopedia to Promote Peace Studies from Hiroshima,” supported by a Hiroshima City University peace-related research grant. A total of 46 specialists from around Japan participated as editing committee members, including Hiroshima Peace Institute researchers and academic staff members from Hiroshima City University’s Faculty of International Studies. 227 writers were involved including two international researchers, one from China and one from South Korea, as well as the abovementioned editing committee members. The encyclopedia was certified by Hiroshima City as a project marking the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings, and is a work that examines the results of Japanese peace research from a Hiroshima-based perspective.

Entries in the encyclopedia are listed in the order of the Japanese syllabary and most also include English headings. Related Entries and a Bibliography are also included as well as two columns written in English at the end of the encyclopedia. These characteristics encourage users to not only look up single entries but to engage in further learning.

Thanks to the financial assistance from Hiroshima City University and the support from the NPO “Music bring Peace,” the price of the new encyclopedia (3,888JPY) has been kept low enough to make it relatively accessible. It is our hope that a large number of people working in related fields as well as those interested in peace, security, and international issues will make good use of the encyclopedia as a resource.

Makiko Takemoto
Assistant Professor at Hiroshima Peace Institute

Oct. 3  Kazumi Mizumoto attends as panelist the symposium of 10th National Training Assembly in Hiroshima, organized by the NHK Gakuen Community School Network, held at JMS Aster Plaza in Hiroshima City.

Oct. 5  Mizumoto serves as vice-chair at the 19th meeting of the of the Exhibition Review Committee of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, held at the Museum.

Oct. 7–27  Yasuhito Fukui conducts joint research on disarmament treaties with the WMD team of International Law and Policy Institute, Oslo.

Oct. 15  Fukui gives lecture on ATT at the Pluricourt Project Seminar, at Faculty of Law, Osu University.

Oct. 16  Gen Kikkawa gives presentation, “What is International Peace?: the Paradox of Peace Order as a Threat to Human Security” at a lecture meeting organized by and held at the International Relations Program, Graduate School of Global Studies, Sophia University in Tokyo.  Akihiro Kawakami serves as group leader and discussant of the Interest Group on “Peace Constitution” at the bi-annual Research Meeting of Japan Association for Studies of Constitutional Law, held at Kyoto Sangyo University.

Oct. 19  Mizumoto gives lecture, “Hiroshima and Peace: Atomic Bombing Experience and Reconstruction” at the training program on “Educational Reform for Sustainable Social Construction in Cambodia” for the staff of Cambodian Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, co-organized by Hiroshima Prefecture and JICA, held at the Hiroshima Prefectural Office.

Oct. 22  Mizumoto gives lecture, “The Atomic Bomb Experience of Hiroshima and the Danger of the Nuclear Weapon” at the program “JENESYS 2015 for graduate and undergraduate students of Laos on Non-proliferation and Peace Building” organized by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, held at HPI.

Nov. 6  Mizumoto gives lecture, “Contribution to International Peace” at a training program for Level III Certified Nursing Administrators organized by and held at the Hiroshima Nursing Association.

Nov. 21  Kikkawa gives lecture, “Ethnicity and Nation in East Europe” at the lecture series “War and Peace in 21st Century World held at Waseda University.

Nov. 22–27  Kikkawa visits Beijing, Nanking, and Shanghai as leader of the 13th Hiroshima Citizens Delegation for Peace and Friendship with China.

Nov. 28  Mizumoto gives report, “An Analysis of Recent Trends and Debates on Nuclear Weapons” at a public lecture meeting organized by the Advisory Research Committee of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, held at the museum.

Dec. 2  Mizumoto gives lecture, “Destruction by and Reconstruction from Atomic Bombing in Hiroshima: the Role of Local Government” at the training program of local government officials of Korea, held at Satellite Campus of HCU.

Dec. 4  Son Hyun Jin gives presentation, “New Security-Legislated Japan and the Takingashe Issue: from the View Point of International Law” at an academic meeting organized by the Institute of Border Studies, Keimyung University, held at Daegu, South Korea.

Dec. 9  Kikkawa, Mizumoto and Son attend a joint research meeting organized by the Sejong Institute and HPI held in Seoul. Mizumoto gives report, “Issues of Pre-war Japan’s Policy toward the Korean Peninsula and China” and Son gives report on “Japan’s Security-related Legislation and the Korean Peninsula.”

Dec. 10  Kikkawa, Mizumoto and Son visit the Institute for Peace and Unification Studies, Seoul National University to discuss the possibilities of future joint research.

Dec. 15  Mizumoto attends as judge at the graduate essay contest for Super Global High School held at Hiroshima Jogakuen Senior High School.

Dec. 23  Kikkawa gives lecture, “Peace and Democracy” for the special lecture series “Peace and Democracy” organized by the Center of Liberal Arts Education, Ristumeikan University, held in Kyoto.

Jan. 15, 2016  Mizumoto attends as committee member the Hiroshima Prefecture’s “Hiroshima Report Drafting Project” meeting organized by and held at the Center for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, Japan Institute of International Affairs.

Feb. 1  Mizumoto serves as vice-chair at the 20th meeting of the of the Exhibition Review Committee of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, held at the Museum.

Feb. 4–5  Narayanan Ganesan conducts a training session for the Myanmar civil service in Naypyitaw, Myanmar.

Feb. 19  Mizumoto attends as reviewer the second research meeting for Super Global High School, organized by and held at Hiroshima Jogakuen Senior High School.


March 7  Kikkawa, Mizumoto and Son attend the meeting for research exchange at Institute of Japan Studies, Liaoning University, held in Shenyang, China.

March 14–18  Ganesan conducts a training session for the Myanmar civil service in Pagoh Division, Myanmar.

March 16  Mizumoto serves as vice-chair for the annual meeting of the Advisory Research Group of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

March 24  Mizumoto gives lecture, “The Experience of Atomic Bombing and the danger of the Nuclear Weapon” at the second peace research seminar of “Conveying Hiroshima Project” organized by the Hiroshima Support Center for International Students, held at Hiroshima International Center.

March 25  Son gives report on “The Present State of Judicial Scrivener System in Japan and the Cases following the Opening of Judicial Markets” at the seminar organized by the Judicial Scriveners Association of Republic of Korea, held in Seoul.

March 27  Mizumoto attends as moderator the panel discussion of the Hiroshima Forum of Former Youth Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, held at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

March 28  Mizumoto attends the preparation meeting of the “Global Mirai Juku in Hiroshima” a training program for high school students organized by and held at the Hiroshima Prefecture government.

April 2  Fukui gives presentation of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWs) of CCW at international law study group of Kyoto University.

April 5  Mizumoto attends the 1st & founding meeting of the executive committee of the 2013 Hiroshima International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future, organized by the Hiroshima Municipal Board of Education, held in Hiroshima.

April 9  Fukui participates in the annual academic conference of the Japan Association of Disarmament Studies as a discussant in the CBTB session.

April 11–15  Fukui participates in the informal meeting of experts on LAWS held in United Nations Office in Geneva.

April 20  Jacobs presents a paper at the “Visions of War: Experience, Imagination and Predictions of War in the Past and the Present” conference hosted by the Estonian War Museum in Tallinn, Estonia.

April 21  Kikkawa gives lecture, “Japan’s Pacificism at a Crossroads” for the students of Carleton College, US, at the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation.

April 24  Mizumoto attends the 1st meeting on Peace Declaration organized by the City of Hiroshima, held at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.