

2018 Mayors for Peace Youth Exchange for Peace: Support Program for "HIROSHIMA and PEACE"

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The Support Program for HIROSHIMA and PEACE is an important and inestimable learning opportunity, and, to me, it was a great honor to take part in and that I will always be grateful for it. The HIROSHIMA and PEACE Summer Course provided a critical and multidisciplinary view on many topics related to the Hiroshima bombing and nuclear issue, addressing perspectives that are both present and historical, as well as political, sociological, cultural, scientific, educational, of the media, local and global and even emotional and personal. Watching all those classes along with classmates from all over the world made the debate a lot richer, enabling the drawing of new conclusions and asking new questions. Overall, it was clear in multiple manners how nuclear bombs are damaging and cruel and should be banned everywhere. The importance of a world free from nuclear weapons is beyond borders and generations.

The different aspects of the same event made it possible to have a greater comprehension of what August 6th and 9th of 1945 mean. Visiting the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, listening to the Hibakusha testimonies, meeting Mayor Matsui and attending the Hiroshima Peace Ceremony – all these first-hand experiences – were fundamental to further understand what happened, how it is perceived today and what it means for the future. Not only was this Program informative, it was also empowering, especially regarding the lectures on activism activities.

On that note, I would like to emphasize the relevance of the Mayors for Peace activities that were held for the support recipients: by requesting a dialogue with each city's city council on peace activities implemented and future actions to be taken in our own hometown made me pay attention to actions taken by my city and how I took them – and the fact that, as a citizen, I could actively participate on them – for granted. This self-reflection made me realize how I could work as a bridge between what I have learned in Hiroshima and Santos and contextualize better the whole experience. Hence, I strongly recommend the continuation of the scholarship and the related activities pertaining to it and I would like to suggest a visit to the Mayors for Peace office and a further explanation of its activities in a practical level, complementary to the presentation given about Mayors for Peace. On August 6th we had the opportunity to briefly visit it with Ms. Yasco Suehiro (unscheduled activity) and it was interesting and more relatable.

Translating what I have learned in Hiroshima into actions in Brazil is a challenge due to the different reality we live in where a nuclear threat is not that evident, however, the importance and need of a peaceful world is global and therefore Hiroshima's and Mayors for Peace message must be spread. Having that in mind, I plan to do the following activities:

- i. Give a lecture on what I have learned in Hiroshima at the Catholic University of Santos during the International Affairs Week (September 18th, 2018). My lecture will not only approach the nuclear disarmament importance, but also the work of Mayors for Peace and the city Santos promoting peace and how cities can join and participate. Also, I will make a copy of the petition available, so the participants can sign it.
- ii. Give a brief presentation on my experience in Hiroshima at Japanese Association of Santos in the "#Tunasaguasdapaz" photo exhibition opening night (September 13th, 2018), where photos, taken by professional and amateur photographers using mobile devices, will be displayed. The main theme of the exhibition is "Peace" and it will be hosted in other

locations around Santos. Lucas Alberto, previous Hiroshima and Peace participant, will also join me in the presentation. The main goal is to point out the importance each of us have when it comes to peacebuilding and take our experience in Hiroshima as an example of reflecting upon peace and solidarity among cities like the relationship Santos has with Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

- iii. Write academic papers and debate the issue on the research group I participate at the Catholic University of Santos on Global Governance and International Regimes. The objective will be studying the process of Santos joining Mayors for Peace and the actions that were taken afterwards on the view of global governance and paradiplomacy perspective and debate the issue in the academic field.
- iv. Give support to the Santos International Affairs Office regarding actions related to peace and encourage other cities to join Mayors for Peace by promoting peace events and making available the academic data if necessary, for example.

These actions are just the beginning, as I have learned during these two weeks in Hiroshima that peacebuilding as a never-ending process that requires a holistic approach to foster it.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the Mayors for Peace organization and its staff for this opportunity and support, as well as to everyone involved in the Hiroshima and Peace Summer Course and the Hiroshima City University. I also would like to thank my fellow colleagues participants of the Mayors for Peace program and hope that we can strengthen the peace network even further.