

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

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The fruitful 10 days in Hiroshima

I'd like to express my deep gratitude to the greatest support for the program which taught me much more things than I had imagined.

Originally, I had mainly two purposes to participate this program.

Firstly, I wanted to know more stories of Hiroshima to deepen my understanding. It was quite meaningful that I learnt the tragedy on 6th August of Hiroshima through the fieldworks. Walking around the hypocenter, I came to understand well the reason Hiroshima was chosen as a target point to attack. More than once, the A-bomb Dome under the sunshine made me imagine the *normal* life of Hiroshima citizens on that day. Considering the thread of the inhuman power which destroyed the life in a moment and the amount of nuclear weapons all over the world, denuclearization is the global matter which should be continuously coped with. The opportunity to listen to A-bomb survivor's testimony was one of the best times for me because it corrected the wrong knowledge I had. I didn't know that the survivors were *not* necessarily willing to talk and confess about their stories at the beginning, either the fact there was a strong riptide in their heart when they decided to preserve the A-bomb Dome which is well-known today as a world heritage. In addition to that, we learnt how people suffered from the unreasonable discrimination and the condition of NO WAR doesn't directly describe PEACE. Their bravery is impressive and respectable so that we should sincerely perform the mission to succeed their stories to the next generation.

Secondly, I tried to encourage each other with the course participants who have different backgrounds, thoughts, and cultures. This course let me meet many associations and individuals who work with energy to realize denuclearization. The approach for peace can be various ways. I believe it is hard to replace that I was given important keys and ideas for my further activities for peace through the special lectures of Peace Study, presentations, and discussions. Above all, the indissoluble friendship I deepened during this program is unforgettable.

Peace Active Proposal to Taito City

Plan1: Multilingual Leaflet of Peace Memorial Sites (Heiwa-shiseki Map)

Taito City issues a guide map which introduces sites related with the war, including A-bomb trees, monuments for the remembrance of those killed in wartime and so on. I'd propose a plan to edit a multilingual version of this leaflet to share the history with people who is less familiar with it.

The plan is clearly based on what I learnt in Hiroshima. I visited Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum 4 times in total. (One as a fieldwork of the course, the others for my self-study) I paid my careful attention to the exhibitions translated to English and videos of testimonies with subtitles which make it possible to deepen foreign visitor's understanding. A person who was about to shed tears with reading stories relating to a victim's belonging sent to her surviving family, and passionate parents who were telling what happened in Hiroshima then to their kids were quite impressive. I believe such a great attitude of Hiroshima City should be followed as a member of Mayors for Peace.

Plan 2: Supports for Successors of the war memory

- i) Panel Exhibition
- ii) A lecture of A-bomb survivors

Taito City has an annual exhibition about the war in August. It mainly handles with the issue of Great Tokyo Air Raid. I'd propose a plan to add more Hiroshima to it. Also, no doubt the opportunity to listen to A-bomb survivors' stories is now quite precious because of the reality of their aging. According to them, the more Hiroshima is distant, the lesser knowledge about A-bomb weapon people have. If we visit them as a guest speaker, it'd help people in Tokyo understand it.