



Mayors for Peace
平和首長会議

REPORT

Hiroshima and Peace Program 2016

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The aim of this summer course "HIROSHIMA and PEACE" is to provide students with a general understanding of the nature and attributes of war and peace by illuminating various aspects of wartime experiences, including the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, and, at the same time, to explore contemporary issues related to world peace in the era of globalization.

At the Executive Conference in November 2015, Mayors for Peace designated "conveying the A-bomb experience to future generations through youth exchanges" as one of its intensified activities to promote nuclear weapons abolition for the next few years. In connection, Mayors for Peace has started a program to provide financial and other support to selected youth from member cities who would like to participate in the course, "HIROSHIMA and PEACE", at Hiroshima City University.

As a French student interesting in nuclear disarmament and as French citizen who has been working with Mayors for Peace French chapter, I apply to this program. Fortunately, my application has been accepted.

My report includes information about what I learned through this program, my own plans for peace activities, and concrete proposals for Mayors for Peace nuclear abolition activities.

1 – Learning from Hiroshima and Peace program 2016

From August 2 to August 10, I had the most incredible experience in my life. Applying for the Hiroshima and Peace Program 2016 was the best decision I have ever made.

During those 8 days, I could reinforce my knowledge about peacebuilding, legacy of Hiroshima, nuclear weapons in the world, Japan's capitulation, role of the media in peace building, Hibakusha testimonies, humanitarian laws... I really appreciated that the speakers were open minded and tried to give an interactive lecture.

Workshops were also organized. Divided in small groups, we had the opportunity to know each other better, share our thoughts and confront our points of view. From different backgrounds, I enriched myself with each other's experiences.

Another way of learning, and without question the most effective, was our meeting with two hibakushas. A total of three hours of harrowing testimonies. I am sure that in 10, 20 or even 30 years I'll remember their stories. That program section remains the most important for me.

Being part of this program made me realize that peace can have different meanings for each person and must be respected, youth can share the same interest in achieving a peaceful world but may have their own activities or ways to do it.

I encourage every person who is interested by peace issues to apply for the Hiroshima and Peace program.

2 – Peace activities proposals

I'll talk to the Mayor of my hometown about Mayors for Peace. I'll try to make him join the campaign. This year he supported few peace projects. So I think he can be interested.

I'll share my experience in Hiroshima with my classmate next January during my lecture on disarmament issues in my University. I will also try to encourage students to apply to the Hiroshima and Peace program 2017.

I would like to screen an hibakusha testimony in my University.

I would like the Hiroshima Junior Marimba Ensemble coming in Grenoble city. Mainly to approach primary school in order to make teachers talk about bombing attack in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and create awareness.

I hope I will be able to organize those four events.

3 – Proposals for Mayors for Peace nuclear abolition activities

Involving young people is the key. Mayors for peace has to create awareness during children education. From my point of view creating a program for primary school teacher on peace education can be the most effective way of creating awareness about nuclear weapons uses.

I also encourage Mayors for Peace to work with young students through University. For example, Amnesty or Unesco have their offices in Universities.