

Hiroshima and Peace 2016 Report

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(Akita City, JAPAN)
2016 September 30th

【What I considered throughout the program】

I participated Hiroshima and Peace 2016 as one of the two representatives of Japan. This program was a wonderful opportunity for me to interact with international youths who are willing to take an action as peace activists, and to review what I need to do in the future as one of the global citizens who consider the abolishment of nuclear weapons to be one of the significant international issues.

During Hiroshima and Peace program, there was an opportunity to listen hibakusha testimony at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. Although I was quietly listening to the testimony, as hibakusha's story went on, I was suddenly attacked by terrible regrets and fears. "I should have listened hibakusha testimony earlier." "What if all hibakushas passed away? How can I, as one of the youths, convey such a miserable and terrifying lessons to the future generations without the existence of those who actually experienced?" After the testimony, I could not help running into female presenter and bursted into crying in front of her. Although she looked very surprised and anxious when noticing my big tears, she gradually understood what I was anxious about and what I felt inside of my heart. She said to me that "Yes. It is your generation who need to convey the threat of nuclear power from now on". Now I strongly feel that I would like to take an individual action, even it is small, so that I do not forget her message to us.

【Activity plans and suggestions to the cities of Mayors for Peace】

① Film Screening in local cities

Whereas survivor testimony plays a significant role to convey the voice of survivors to those who have never experienced war and atomic bombs, it is sometimes difficult for the audience to imagine the situation. As a solution, I would suggest that cities of Mayors for Peace constantly hold a film screening on the atomic bomb and nuclear powers such as *Black Rain* by *Shohei Imamura* and *Hiroshima mon amour* by *Alain Resnais*. As one of influential visual materials, film screening events make it possible for many people to relatively easily imagine the destruction of nuclear weapons, which contributes to the awareness of the abolishment of nuclear weapons.

As a personal activity, I would also hold a film screening in my university, Akita

International University. This university accepts a large number of exchange students from abroad compared to other universities in the same city. I highly expect that the film screening in my school is a wonderful opportunity not only for Japanese students but also for exchange students from abroad who are not familiar with the issue of nuclear weapons so that they can learn about the tragedy in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

② Panel Exhibition: “nuclear power abolishment: the future and the present”

I would hold a panel exhibition on the theme of “nuclear power abolishment: the future and present”. As far as my experience, panel exhibition on peace issues has a tendency to too much focus on the historical facts on the atomic bombs and victimization of two world wars. Although it is essential to emphasize the tragedy of miserable war and the use of nuclear weapons, this is just one aspect of peace because we need to highlight not only the past but also the present and the future when considering what peace means. As one of the suggestions to focusing on present and the future, I would like to suggest holding a panel exhibition based on the theme of contemporary social issues such as the existence of nuclear power plants. Especially in Japan, there was an accident of nuclear power plants due to the devastating influence of Great East Earthquake in 2011. It is said that unexpected amount of radiations leaked from some nuclear power plants. However, current Abe administration insists that it is willing to re-work as many nuclear power plants as possible in Japan within a few years even though there are uncountable numbers of evacuees in Tohoku regions. In addition, there are still no clear safety criteria of the influence of nuclear radiations to human body.

Considering these situations, it is necessary to make an opportunity to learn about the connection among past, present and the future regarding with nuclear powers.

③ Increase the numbers of youth participants to peace memorial ceremony

After back to Akita city, I participated to Memorial Ceremony for Akita city’s war victims on August 29th in 2016. The ceremony was worth visiting because there was a beautiful speech of the representative of the war victim family, and peace messages from the representative of one elementary school and one junior high school student was positive and courageous. However, I noticed that neither children nor students attended the ceremony except for me. I was very disappointed because it should be future youth generation who consider what peace means to them.

Thus, I would propose to increase the number of youth participants to peace memorial ceremony. As for concrete proposal for Akita city where I am currently living, I would suggest that the city establishes children poster competition. The city selects one excellent poster as an official advertisement poster for peace memorial ceremony in Akita city. This plan makes it possible for children to obtain motivation to consider

what peace means to them by creating poster. Also, children are able to consider how essential it is to attend peace memorial ceremony as one of the progresses toward peace achievement.

I believe that I have a responsibility to convey peace messages I obtained from Hiroshima and Peace program in 2016. As one of peace activists, I would like to contribute to peace achievement by doing what I can do from now on.