

## **PEACE PROGRAM REPORT:**

### **SDO Muntinlupa City Celebrates Peace Consciousness Month 2018**

The Schools Division Office of Muntinlupa City through its partnership with the City Government of Muntinlupa recently launched the celebration of the National Peace Consciousness Month for the whole month of September with the issuance of the Unnumbered Memorandum which is pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 675 entitled “Declaring the Month of September 2004 and Every Year Thereafter as the National Peace Consciousness Month”, with the theme: “The Right to Peace - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70”.

Activities for the celebration are as follows: On-the-Spot Poster Making Contest; The Peace Crane Project; Demonstration Teaching using the TPP Teaching Exemplar; Berso Kapayapaan (A Spoken Poetry Composition and Recital Contest) and the Building Blocks for Peace Film Festival. The Division also launched a Facebook Page named “SDO Muntinlupa is for PEACE” which can be viewed via <https://www.facebook.com/APSHINESWithPEACE> highlighting its campaign for peace awareness and consciousness through its integration in the Araling Panlipunan classes in the Junior and Senior High Schools.

The month-long activities were launched through a lecture – forum entitled “Surviving Bombing in Japan” held last September 3, 2018 at the SDO Conference Room with Mr. Takaaki Morikawa, a certified atomic bomb survivor who have lived in Hiroshima, Japan when World War II happened.

Mr. Morikawa delivered his life story on the atomic bombing incident in Hiroshima 73 years ago and when he was 6 and calling himself as a “Hibakusha” or atomic bomb victim. The testimonial speech is advocating a full understanding on the Hiroshima tragedy of A-bombing 1945 and on how to have a nuclear weapon free planet. While being in a healthy-being, he is travelling the world to appeal for inhumanity of nuclear weapons and its abolition. In doing this he came to know peace organizations “ICAN”, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and “Peace Boat”, voyaging around the world in appealing nuclear ban to the politicians and people in the world.

As a legacy to his audience who can directly listen to a Hibakusha like Mr. Morikawa, he described the number of the A-bomb certification holders is at present 154,859 and the number of deaths in last 12 months is approximately 10 thousand. From these figures and considering the average age of Hibakusha over 82 years it is quite sure that Hibakusha will be lost to history in sometime near future. He even called himself as an “endangered species” and calls out on the following points to the Araling Panlipunan teachers and student-leaders for the elimination of nuclear weapons, as follows: convey the past events of 73 years ago and the events of the anticipative nuclear-war in future; be educated rightly why we need to have anti-nuclear movement and anti-war movement; strengthen the social power of citizen until the day nuclear weapons be abolished; participate petition for the “Hibakusha Appeal” to submit to United Nations; and keep working with the Government to adopt the “Nuclear Ban Treaty”.

The event was attended by an audience composed of teachers and student-leaders from the secondary level where the “Teach Peace for PEACE (Peace Education for the Advancement of Cooperation and Empowerment) Program” is implemented. Representatives from the City Government through the International Relations Office headed by Mr. Jerome James Arriola, Soka Gakkai Foundation President Hisako H. Alcantara and Mr. Just Mark Figuracion, SDO Officials headed by Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Mauro C. De Gulan, Asst. Schools Division Superintendent Noel D. Bagano, CID Chief Mrs. Madeline Ann C. Diaz and TPP Program Director Mariel Eugene L. Luna graced the event.

The yearly observance aims to “instill greater consciousness and understanding among the Filipino people on the comprehensive peace process to strengthen and sustain institutional and popular support for and participation in this effort, as well as in the global movement spearheaded by the United Nations to promote a culture of peace based on nonviolence, respect for fundamental rights and freedoms, tolerance, understanding and solidarity.”