In 2020, Hiroshima commemorated the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing. In an odd twist of fate, in the same year, the novel coronavirus began to spread all over the world. At the Hiroshima Peace Institute (HPI) of Hiroshima City University (HCU), we were forced to cancel a large part of our research activities, and HCU’s Graduate School of Peace Studies also had to place its educational activities under a variety of restrictions. It was in this context that we decided to publish the book *Hiroshima-hatsu no Heiwa-gaku (A Hiroshima Approach to Peace Studies)* as a 75th anniversary commemorative project, with the entire 2020 HPI faculty participating as co-authors.

The purpose of this publication is to incorporate research on hibaku, the experience of being exposed to atomic bombing, into the theoretical and conceptual framework of Peace Studies in order to universalize it, against the backdrop of the aging of surviving hibakusha, or persons exposed to the atomic bombing—a situation that has turned the preservation and transmission of firsthand memories of hibaku into a pressing challenge. The significance of the book also lies in this purpose.

To be sure, there is no organized academic discipline called “A Hiroshima Approach to Peace Studies.” Rather, our book is an attempt to begin the process of establishing such approach. To this end, we have identified three foundational themes of A Hiroshima Approach to Peace Studies.

First of all, what does “Hiroshima” stand for when we say A Hiroshima Approach to Peace Studies? Is Hiroshima’s “self-image,” so to speak, identical to the image of the city generally held in other countries? If Hiroshima’s self-image differs from its image held elsewhere, what should the dialogue be like between the two sides? We examine this question in Part I of the book.

Secondly, in Peace Studies, we must demonstrate non-violent ways of achieving and maintaining peace. What arguments can we develop in this regard without resorting to the logic of “peace through force”? We look into this question in Part II of the book from various perspectives, including those of international law, international politics, area studies, and constitutional studies.

Thirdly, in Peace Studies, we must examine problems relating to nuclear power, as one of the global issues. The nuclear arms race during the Cold War produced new victims through exposures to radiation through nuclear power, and we know that nuclear power generation cannot be treated merely as an energy issue but must be discussed in connection with global environmental issues. Therefore, in the book, we examine this theme with reference to environmental problems and through analysis of views of Hiroshima held in the United States and Germany.

These three themes of A Hiroshima Approach to Peace Studies encompass wide-ranging issues, necessitating analysis from local to global levels. The themes call for interdisciplinary approach, and I am proud to say that, with the diverse research areas and approaches characteristically represented at the HPI, we are well equipped to work on these questions.

In North America, graduate schools of Political Science, which is my specialization, can be roughly divided into two types: one type comprises those schools that aim to be the best in a specific research area or with a specific approach by concentrating a large number of researchers specializing in that area or approach, while the other type comprises schools with researchers representing diverse research themes and approaches, thus forming a well-balanced research and educational system. The HPI and the Graduate School of Peace Studies belong to the latter type, and our staff members share the consciousness of those working there: of being an institution of research and education based in atomic-bombed Hiroshima.

Drawing on these characteristics, we are determined to continue and to enhance our research and educational activities, building a Hiroshima Approach to Peace Studies.

*(Director at HPI)*

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**A Hiroshima Approach to Peace Studies: Its Main Points and Significance of the Chapters in Part I**

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- Vol.24 No.1 September 2021

Visit HPI’s website at https://www.peace.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp/
Chapter One: “Peace” and “Studies” in Hiroshima (author: Kazumi Mizumoto)
In this chapter, the peace education that has been conducted in Hiroshima under the name of “hibaku education” is presented as a success story. Today, however, Hiroshima is confronted with the challenge of having to figure out how to teach about contemporary international issues that continue to grow in complexity, now that it is becoming increasingly clear that simply teaching about the hibaku experience no longer suffices as peace education. The greatest difficulty of this challenge derives from the near absence of cases to which a simple good-party-versus-evil-party scenario can be applied. This is also true about questions surrounding the atomic bombing.

Chapter Two: The Impact of the Hiroshima Nuclear Attack on U.S. Policy, Culture and Ecology (author: Robert Jacobs)
The dropping of the atomic bomb heralded the beginning of the United States’ enthusiasm for nuclear weapons, which has continued to the present. Behind this enthusiasm, the United States has spent colossal sums of public funds on nuclear development and military affairs for national security, while neglecting social security and infrastructure development, such as the roads and power supply networks needed to protect the American people. As a result, the United States is today the only advanced country in the world without universal health insurance. At the same time, the nuclear development over many years has seriously contaminated swathes of American soil with radioactivity, producing many American hibakusha.

Chapter Three: Korean Gaze on Hiroshima (author: Kyungjin Ha)
In Chapter Three, Hiroshima City’s self-image as an “international city of peace and culture” is compared with the images of Hiroshima held by South Koreans, and discrepancies between the Hiroshima and Korean perceptions are examined. A keyword search for academic papers written by Korean researchers with “Hiroshima” as the keyword reveals that, in many of these papers, Hiroshima is discussed in connection with historical issues such as colonial rule, forced labor, and comfort women. The word “Hiroshima” appeared in the South Korean media most frequently during the 1994 Asian Games held in Hiroshima and during President Obama’s visit to Hiroshima in 2016. On the latter occasion, the predominant tone of media reporting was that of apprehension that Japan and the United States might decide to settle all their differences over historical issues bilaterally while excluding South Korea. Meanwhile, the number of Korean tourists to Hiroshima continues to increase, but their main interests are said to focus on Japanese food and culture, and not the atomic bombing or peace issues.

Chapter Four: China’s Perceptions of Hiroshima (author: Xianfen Xu)
In Chapter Four, Hiroshima viewed from China is analyzed based on Renmin Ribao (People’s Daily) articles from different periods. From the mid-1950s to mid-1960s, when the anti-atomic and hydrogen bomb movement was particularly active in Japan, China attached great importance to Hiroshima as a theater of diplomatic struggle with Japan, with which China did not have diplomatic ties at that time. China sent a delegation or a telegraphed congratulatory message to the World Convention against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs almost every year. From the 1980s to the first half of the 1990s, the People’s Daily calmly reported the details of events held in Hiroshima, such as the World Convention against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs and the annual Peace Memorial Ceremony, presenting Hiroshima as one of major overseas cities and introducing its people’s daily lives to its readers. The tone of reporting changed in around 1995, when a significant increase was noted in articles insisting that the damage wrought on Hiroshima should be examined in light of the damage wrought by Japan to China and other Asian countries.

Chapter Five: The Japanese Occupation of Southeast Asia and Its Impact on Post-WWII Developments (author: Narayan Ganesan)
The cruel Japanese occupation of Southeast Asian countries during World War II resulted in strong anti-Japanese sentiments, nationalism, and anti-colonial, independence movements in the region in the post-war years. Chapter Five provides a detailed discussion of the country-by-country processes by which these movements emerged. On the other hand, these countries were only barely aware of what had happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In general, the atomic bombings are viewed in the region as events that were “necessary to force Japan to capitulate” within a context heavily tainted with anti-Japanese hostility due to Japan’s war atrocities. This understanding has not given rise to a solid debate backed by detailed knowledge about Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Chapter Six: Hiroshima and Manila (author: Hitoshi Nagai)
Following Chapter Five, which describes the Japanese army’s war atrocities in Southeast Asia and strong anti-Japanese sentiment in the region, Chapter Six takes up the Philippines as a typical example. What is particularly noteworthy is how Japanese society responded when the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers (SCAP, generally known in Japan as “GHQ”) and the U.S. forces informed the Japanese general public of the Japanese military atrocities via mass media immediately following the war. While many Japanese were shocked, some gave a whataboutist response: “The American forces also wrought tremendous damage with the atomic bombs.” The logic of this response is identical in structure to that of the justification that defenders of the atomic bombings would give to their critics, “The Japanese Army also committed atrocities,” with the logic proceeding in a diametrically opposite direction.

Chapter Seven: How the World Learned about Hiroshima (author: Makiko Takemoto)
Studying how Hiroshima’s experience of hibaku is perceived in Germany can provide Japan with ideas as to how to interact with other countries about a negative legacy, in that Germany is an advanced European country that was not Japan’s enemy during World War II and where images of Hiroshima expressed in cultural productions, such as literature, music, film and other visual arts, have a powerful influence. Furthermore, Japan should learn from the way Germany, a country similarly defeated in World War II, is taking a logical approach toward the dangers of nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants, while carefully considering its relationships with its neighboring countries.
In the introductory chapter of the book _A Hiroshima Approach to Peace Studies_, HPI Director Oshiba defines the three foundational themes of Peace Studies originating from Hiroshima: 1) understanding differences between Hiroshima’s self-image and images of Hiroshima held in other countries; 2) demonstrating non-violent ways to achieving and maintaining peace; and 3) examining issues relating to nuclear power from a global perspective encompassing global environmental problems. Part II of the book, “Means to Create a Peaceful World,” concerns themes 2) and 3).


In Chapter Eight, the author analyzes nuclear arms development and the denuclearization process of North Korea. The division of the Korean Peninsula is explained with the historical developments of Japanese colonial rule, divided occupation by the United States and the Soviet Union, and the Korean War, presenting a clear description of the background against which North Korea has come to demand a peace treaty. With reference to this background, the author then analyzes the situation on the Korean Peninsula since 2018, and the issue of the denuclearization of North Korea. The significance of this chapter lies in examination of the steps to denuclearize North Korea, one of the most pressing challenges for security in Northeast Asia today. For a comprehensive consensus to be formed on building a strong and sustainable system for peace in Northeast Asia, major components are: the total denuclearization of North Korea as desired by the international community, and security guarantees for the Pyongyang regime as desired by North Korea. The author emphasizes that this consensus-forming process include the construction of a framework for regional confidence-building measures, for restoring mutual confidence among the related countries, to create a peaceful world.

Chapter Nine: Reconsideration of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) Process (author: Gen Kikikawa)

In this chapter, the author analyzes the process by which confidence-building measures in Europe contributed to the revolutions in Eastern Europe and the end of the Cold War. He argues that the principle of respect for human rights gradually became the norm in international relations, as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) repeatedly held international meetings amidst the East-West confrontation in Cold War-era Europe. The author also argues that this international norm led to the development of social confidence-building measures, constructing a regional governance system through the application of the measures. The author finally concludes that the norms and systems demonstrated their peace-creating power, facilitating developments leading up to the revolutions in Eastern Europe and the end of the Cold War. The significance of this chapter is its analysis that attributes the peaceful conversion of the socialist regimes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe to international norms and systems, and the attitude of East European nations that used them for their own reforms. The role played by the CSCE is a highly useful model for peace building in East Asia, where security dialogues and confidence-building measures are not yet well developed.

Chapter Ten: International Regimes to Overcome Climate Crisis (author: Tadashi Okimura)

While the two preceding chapters examine means of creating a peaceful world at the regional level, Chapter Ten takes up the same at the international level. In analyzing international climate regimes, this chapter is an attempt to tackle the third foundational theme of this book: the examination of global issues. Noting that the international community is currently experiencing an intensified sense of danger regarding climate change to the extent that it is referred to as a “climate crisis,” the author presents the viewpoint that has become established thus far with regard to the connection between climate change and conflict, climate change being a constant threat to human security. Furthermore, the chapter summarizes the international instruments that have been put in place over the last quarter-century, along with a description of their evolution and an evaluation of the practical effectiveness of each of these instruments. This chapter is significant in that it indicates the degrees of achievement of international regimes, highlighting necessary global perspectives and the necessity of international cooperation.

Chapter Eleven: Transformation of the International Legal Order and Challenges for the Prohibition of the Use of Force (author: Tetsuo Sato)

In this chapter, the principle of banning the use of armed force under international law is analyzed as a means of creating a peaceful world at the international level. Presenting his argument from a perspective that focuses on the decentralized structure and practical effectiveness of international law for world order, the author draws an overall picture of the principle of banning the use of armed force with its details and exemptions, as well as its impact and related problems to be solved. This chapter is significant in that it discusses the principle of banning the use of armed force, not only as embodied in the United Nations Charter but also by examining how it is related to society and order by the rule of law. For example, exemptions from banning the use of armed force and justifications therefore are examined by taking into account the processes by which specific cases have been handled around the world. Based on such an examination, the author argues that a ban on the use of armed force solely through the illegalization of war is not enough, and that it is essential to eliminate the need to resort to force by building a pacifist and practically effective mechanism for conflict resolution, emphasizing the need to view this challenge as one concerning the entire international community.

Chapter Twelve: Nuclear Weapons and the Constitution of Japan, Article 9 (author: Akhiro Kawakami)

In this Chapter, the author examines the relationship between nuclear weapons and the pacifism expressed in Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, as a means of creating a peaceful world at Japan’s initiative. The author looks into the Japanese government’s historical stances on the use and possession of nuclear weapons, mainly based on comments and replies by governmental representatives at Diet sessions, clarifying that the government has basically maintained that nuclear weapons should be permitted for self-defense within a minimum necessary range. The author further examines the relationship between the use, provision and other forms of handling of nuclear weapons and the three requirements for Japan’s use of armed force as an exercise of the right of collective self-defense under international law, that is, the conditions newly defined following the government’s decision to permit a limited exercise of collective self-defense right by Japan. The significance of this chapter is its demonstration that, despite Japan’s ban on the possession of nuclear weapons in legal and policy terms as stipulated under the Atomic Energy Basic Act and in the Three Non-Nuclear Principles, the new governmental interpretation of Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution leaves room for Japan to be allowed to possess or use nuclear weapons. The author’s suggestion that the government’s argument might be falsely structured in the first place is all the more significant since it is backed by carefully analyzed case studies.

As summarized above, Part II examines multiple aspects of peace at the national, regional, and international levels (concerning nuclear development, the Cold War, conflict, the use of armed force, nuclear weapons, and so forth) and means of achieving peace (international negotiations, international organizations, international instruments, international law, and Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution) from the perspectives of International Law, International Politics, International Relations, and Constitutional Studies. In doing so, Part II exhibits the research results obtained by the HPI thus far, so as to fulfill its objective of helping the development of Peace Studies.
South Korea Forum Hiroshima 2020

Peace in East Asia and the Future of the South Korea-Japan Relationship

Hyun Jin Son

On October 16, 2020, the South Korea Forum Hiroshima 2020 was organized by the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Hiroshima at the Rihga Royal Hotel Hiroshima. From the HPI, Specially Appointed Professor Gen Kikkawa and Associate Professor Hyun Jin Son participated in the Forum. The event was composed of Part I “Review of and Prospects for the South Korea-Japan Relationship,” Part II “Exploring Paths to Peace in East Asia,” and a panel discussion.

As discord overlaps in each of the bilateral relationships in East Asia comprising Japan, South Korea, North Korea, and China, the nuclear development by North Korea is further aggravating international relations within the region. The Japan-South Korea relationship is rapidly deteriorating. However, East Asia has no regional organization of arbitration that intervenes in international conflicts, and no supranational security mechanism designed to achieve common security goals. What will the future hold for East Asia’s fragile peace, which is currently maintained on a system of balance of forces?

Against this background, the objectives of the South Korea Forum Hiroshima 2020 were to clarify the structure of crisis in East Asian international relations that we are currently facing, and to explore challenges to tackle for peace in East Asia and measures to improve the confused Japan-South Korea relationship.

In Part I, Mr. Tetsuya Hakoda, an editorial writer for the Asahi Shimbun, spoke on the theme of, “Evaluation of the Japan-South Korea Relationship during Shinzo Abe’s Administration.” Abe’s tenure as Prime Minister, the longest in the country’s history of constitutional government, turned out to be long and difficult for the Japan-South Korea relationship. As political leaders who were oriented in opposite directions yet each insisting on a specific understanding of history fell out of power, the most difficult problem between the two countries came to the fore: wartime forced labor. If the assets of Japanese corporations already confiscated based on the 2018 ruling by the Supreme Court of Korea were paid out, Japan and South Korea would enter into an unprecedented and severe confrontation. Although the Abe administration came to an end, during its long governing period it succeeded in highlighting future challenges for regional diplomacy and for the Japan-South Korea relationship with its traumatic past of colonial rule.

As the second speaker in Part I, Professor Yuji Fukuhara of the Faculty of Policy Studies at the University of Shimane talked on the theme of, “Prospects for the Japan-South Korea Relationship in the Post-Abe Era.” To understand the current status of the Japan-South Korea relationship in general, it is necessary to know how people in the two societies understand each other. For this reason, Prof. Fukuhara suggested that Japanese and Koreans discuss with each other, deepen exchanges, and broaden their circles of alliance and sympathy in civil society. He was followed by Professor Bungo Osawa of the Department of Risk and Crisis Management at Chiba Institute of Science, who spoke on the theme, “The Possibility of Japan-South Korea Cooperation over North Korea-Related Issues.” Prof. Osawa cited cultural assets originating from the Korean Peninsula as a new issue that would probably confront the Japanese government in the future. He stated that as mutual trust develops in the bilateral relationships the issue of cultural assets could facilitate solving the problem of forced labor between Japan and South Korea, and the problem of abductions between Japan and North Korea. He also pointed out that Japan and South Korea, working in collaboration, could make a strong appeal to North Korea for the renunciation of nuclear missile development by North Korea and the reform and opening of North Korea’s closed regime.

In Part II, this author (Associate Professor Hyun Jin Son of the HPI, Hiroshima City University), talked on the theme of, “Evaluation of the North Korea-South Korea Relationship in Moon Jae-in’s Presidency.” Stating that the Panmunjeom Declaration and the Pyongyang Joint Declaration, both made in 2018, modified the bilateral relationship, the speaker praised the North Korea-United States Summits for taking significant first steps toward resolving North Korean nuclear issues, including the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The speaker also emphasized the necessity of confidence building among the parties, considering existing issues such as debate about concrete denuclearization processes and the lifting of sanctions on North Korea.

This was followed by Specially Appointed Professor Gen Kikkawa of the HPI, who spoke on the theme, “Toward the Construction of an East Asian Community: Searching for Light in the Depths of Despair.” Prof. Kikkawa stated that international conflict in East Asia is a zero-sum conflict with no room for compromise or concession, particular to a system of balance of forces. He then proposed that to build peace in East Asia, structural reform is necessary in the international political system that maintains this power balance. That is to say, the construction of relationships founded on confidence requires not only the expression of the intention to keep one’s promises and act on one’s decisions, but actually following through on these commitments. The speaker pointed out that the verification of acting out can solidify mutual trust.

Finally, Professor Jeong-Pyo Hong of the School of International Liberal Arts, Miyazaki International College, spoke on the theme of, “Struggle for A New World Order: The US-China Relationship and the Korean Peninsula.” The gist of Professor Hong’s presentation is as follows: the post-World War II world order, founded on liberal democracy and the order of the market economy which has been led by the United States on the basis of power balance, is now facing the threat of the rise of China. China is audaciously challenging the existing world order on the strength of its tradition of centralized government cultivated throughout its long history, and its current economic power. Under such circumstances, South Korea must work on non-traditional security issues to build a strategic confidence-based relationship with Japan and the United States, while South Korea, Japan and the United States must publicly affirm the importance of their tripartite cooperation to gain support both within their respective countries and outside.

In the panel discussion, which was moderated by Associate Professor Atsushi Yasutomi of the School of International Liberal Arts, Miyazaki International College, the speakers actively exchanged opinions. In response to questions from the floor regarding support for hibakusha from the Korean Peninsula and the movement in South Korea to boycott Japanese products, the specialists pointed to the importance of objective and unbiased media reporting, learning about damage caused by exposure to radioactivity in Hiroshima, and the willingness to personally visit the other country.
A Soaring Dove of Peace: The HPI Has a New Symbol and Tagline

Kyungjin Ha

The Hiroshima Peace Institute (HPI) of Hiroshima City University (HCU) has recently adopted a new symbol: golden rays of light, together forming a dove.

A dove is universally recognized as a symbol of peace, but do you know its origin? It comes from the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible). In the Biblical passage that recounts the story of Noah’s Ark, Noah learns that the flood waters have subsided thanks to the dove he released from the Ark returning with an olive leaf in its beak. The messenger of this joyful news—the end of the devastating flood and the return of peace on earth—has thus become a symbol of peace.

This biblical symbol of peace was utilized as a modern image and design to symbolize peace in 1949. A drawing of a dove by Pablo Picasso was used for the poster of the First World Congress of Partisans of Peace held in the same year. The Dove of Peace by Picasso has since come to be known as a symbol of peace all over the world.

In Japan, the popularization of the association between peace and the dove has another, somewhat unusual origin. In 1946, soon after the end of the war, Japan Tobacco and Salt Public Corporation (today, Japan Tobacco Inc.) launched a new cigarette brand called “Peace,” and in 1952, the company began using a dove motif on the cigarette package. The name of the brand, Peace, had been selected from among suggestions openly solicited from the general public. This name is believed to have reflected people’s earnest desire for lasting peace in those post-war years.

In Hiroshima, which aspires to be an “international city of peace and culture,” designs featuring a dove motif can be seen almost everywhere. For example, in 2014 Hiroshima City began to issue license plates with an original design of a soaring white dove for motorized bicycles. This design was created by a Hiroshima City resident. The symbol of Naka Ward in Hiroshima City is a soaring dove, which also has the form of the kanji (Chinese ideogram) for “Naka.”

Now, following this long introduction, I would like to present to you the HPI’s new logo, featuring a dove motif, which has evoked peace in people’s minds through the ages, and is a fitting for the institution that promotes the academic discipline of Peace Studies originating from Hiroshima.

There is something else new that expresses the HPI’s unique identity and characteristics: the tagline above the HPI’s name. An entity’s tagline is a phrase that communicates its vision, philosophy or most championed value. The HPI’s new tagline, composed to match the new symbol, is “kokoro o tsunagu chi no kyoten” or “the hub of wisdom that links hearts.”

Prof. Kazumi Mizumoto of the HPI, one of the people who proposed the tagline, mentioned two aspects of peace building. The HPI has been required to serve as an academic organization that researches peace within the historical context up to the present, supporting domestic and international networks of researchers and creating a worldwide base of knowledge and wisdom. However, this alone would be insufficient to build true peace because there is another important aspect of peace building, which is the role of an intermediary. It strives to achieve person-to-person or heart-to-heart communication between hostile parties, and then to help shift them from opposition to reconciliation. Since its founding, the HPI has worked to play the role of such an intermediary, linking academia with civil society and actively interacting with various other actors.

The part of the tagline about linking hearts expresses these two functions expected of the HPI. All of us at the HPI would be delighted if you could sense in the new tagline, alongside the dove of peace soaring through the vast skies of the world, our commitment to peace through our work.

Looking back on the inception of the HPI’s new symbol and tagline, I feel that our new symbol, a contemporary interpretation of the symbolism of the dove motif, has inevitably been combined with the phrase expressing the HPI’s raison d’être as the organization that promotes Peace Studies originating from Hiroshima. As a faculty member of the HPI, I am delighted that with this new design we have reached this milestone, at which we look forward to our future path while cherishing the HPI’s tradition and past achievements. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to all those who have contributed to the completion of the new symbol and tagline.

(Associate Professor/PR Committee at HPI)

Visit HPI’s website at https://www.peace.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp/
In 2001, I resigned from a private company for which I had worked for eight years to serve as an Overseas Cooperation Volunteer of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Papua New Guinea in the South Pacific. For the following 20 years, I have been stationed in a total of eight countries in connection with the JICA's activities, and now live in Ghana, in West Africa.

Looking back on my career thus far, I notice that I have almost always been in some way related to countries that had undergone, were undergoing, or would later experience fierce armed conflict, such as Syria, Yemen, the Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, and Laos. Syria and Yemen have both been in the midst of an intense civil war for over a decade. The Solomon Islands experienced armed inter-ethnic conflict for five years from 1998. In Sri Lanka, the civil war between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the government forces continued for as long as 26 years until 2009. During the Vietnam War, Laos was subjected to relentless American air raids because the Ho Chi Minh trail passed through the country’s eastern mountainous region; the per-capita bomb tonnage dropped during the Vietnam War was the greatest on Laos, far surpassing that on Vietnam.

Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands were sites of particularly fierce battles during the Second World War. While visiting Wewak in Papua New Guinea, where the late famous manga artist Shigeru Mizuki had been sent to fight, I was able to talk to local people, asking them directly how the Pacific War was experienced on their side, and how the Imperial Japanese Army acted and behaved there. In those days (about 20 years ago), Japanese were usually welcomed anywhere around the world simply for being Japanese. There, however, I was harshly abused for the first time simply for being Japanese. An old man who had been assaulted, captured, and taken into forced labor by Japanese soldiers during the war railed at me as if to pour out the anger he had accumulated over 55 years. All I could do was nod and remain silent.

During my assignment in the Solomon Islands (2009–2012), the JICA office was located on the site of a former Japanese Army camp, with gun batteries and machine guns abandoned on the premises. On Guadalcanal, where the Guadalcanal campaign was waged during WWII, climbing slightly deeper into the mountains, you could still find fragments of steel helmets, water bottles and guns left by Japanese soldiers and human remains here and there, while bomber planes and troopships had turned into underwater reefs gathering fish in the ocean. I learned for the first time then and there that unexploded bombs from the Pacific War were still harming local people in the 21st century.

The same can be said about Laos, where local residents continue to suffer due to the dropping of over 500,000 tons of unexploded ordnance (UXO) during the Vietnam War. JICA has been sending personnel to UXO Lao, the governmental organization charged with UXO clearance, and I was also involved in this operation. UXO clearance has been continuing in collaboration with other aid organizations from the EU and the United States, and international NGOs. Nevertheless, it is said that total UXO elimination would take at least 100 years.

In Sri Lanka, following the end of the civil war with the government destroying the LTTE, the economic disparity between the northern and eastern regions on the one hand, which used to be under the LTTE’s control, and the other regions of the country have become a serious societal issue. In the former, there were large numbers of widows and physically disabled people due to the civil war. This was a major factor of poverty in the regions, alongside already delayed socioeconomic development. Upon the end of the civil war, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UNHABITAT), and other international organizations and NGOs began to support activities in the northern and eastern regions. The JICA was among such organizations from the early post-civil war years, and I was involved in support projects and frequently visited the impoverished regions. This experience taught me firsthand the difficulties involved in supporting post-conflict reconstruction and development.

In pre-civil war Syria, I witness the 2006 Lebanon War close at hand. Great discrepancies between the news reported by Western media organizations and what I actually saw and heard in the field struck me as totally incongruous. Not all supporters of Hezbollah, considered a terrorist group by the West, were religious fanatics; they encompassed a broad range of people from decent, ordinary citizens to intellectuals. The region’s unjust and complex historical developments and realities lay in the background to this situation. Once, with a special permit, I visited the Golan Heights, where the UN PKO was deployed, from the Syrian side. The verdurous hilly area beyond barbed wire entanglements was territory occupied by Israel, an act condemned as illegal under UN Security Council Resolution 242 and many others, and UN General Assembly resolutions.

In 1981, Israel unilaterally declared the annexation of the occupied land to Israeli territory, and in March 2019, the United States recognized Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights with President Trump signing a proclamation. When I visited a Kurdish area in the northeastern part of the country, I was astounded by the Kurds’ bravery, indomitable spirit, and unyielding attachment to their national unity. I was convinced that no force or oppression could make them surrender. Even before the civil war, northern and central Syria under the control of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), a radical armed militant group of Sunni Islam, was one of the poorest areas of the country. I was involved in a project for women’s empowerment jointly operated there with the UN Development Programme (UNDP). The project ended up isolating women after its excessive focus on women provoked dissatisfaction among men and throughout the entire village. I learned from this experience the importance of gaining a deep understanding of local culture and customs and of carrying out a project while spending plenty of time developing solid relationships with local people that would enable us to discover their honest views and feelings and fully take them into account when implementing project plans.

Engaging in support programs at eight Palestinian refugee camps in Syria and personally talking and working with Palestinians in the programs, I was able to gain a glimpse of the nature of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the difficulties faced by Palestinian refugees living in refugee camps for 60 long years. The kindness I found in the Palestinians and Syrians as they offered me tea with a smile, despite their extreme hardship and poverty, is unforgettable. I consider Syria, where I spent nearly three years, my second homeland. My wish to engage one day in peace building and reconstruction in Syria is, in fact, the primary reason for my enrollment in the Graduate School of Peace Studies.

In retrospect, I see that I learned so much through my JICA duties and overseas posts. What one learns firsthand in the field through embodied experience can never be learned from a textbook. My field experience has also helped me break away from stereotypical ideas that prevail in society. I hope to combine this experience and the abilities I have cultivated in the field with the knowledge I acquired in the graduate school, and utilize this amalgam from a broad perspective and through elaborate field practices in actual projects that support development and reconstruction.

(M.A. Program student, HCU Graduate School of Peace Studies)
The Graduate School of Peace Studies:
The Establishment of a Ph.D. Program

Following the establishment of a Master’s Program at the Graduate School of Peace Studies, Hiroshima City University, in April 2019, a Ph.D. Program was inaugurated in April 2021. As in the Master’s Program, the ultimate purpose of the Ph.D. Program is to train future professionals who will contribute to creating and maintaining peace. To this end, students will first be trained in the methodologies of analysis in Peace Studies and related specialized fields such as International Political Science, International Law, and International Relations. On this foundation, students will then acquire and further develop their ability to analyze real-world issues in a specialized and comprehensive manner. The graduates, as envisioned in the Program, will assume positions as: (1) researchers capable of deep analysis of connections between human security and global/regional governance structures, and of effective peace policy proposals for building systems for human security and international peace; (2) UN functionaries who engage, using highly advanced knowledge, in the planning and formulation of international public policies for peace creation/building, international NGO/NPO officials, and national/municipal government officials involved in public policy making and international relations; or (3) journalists and media experts capable of analyzing current international conflicts, global issues, and other phenomena in a scientific and multifaceted manner, and of effectively communicating with civil societies and the international community from a peace-creating perspective.

The Program’s first class of three students who entered the Program in April 2021 from within and outside Japan include persons with the experience of working in media and government. For admissions in October 2021, the Graduate School has received inquiries from persons working in overseas international organizations and overseas students who expect to obtain their master’s degrees shortly, as well as those students who have obtained their master’s degrees in Japan. With such students and applicants, it is likely that the Ph.D. Program, already in its inaugural year, will constitute an exciting environment where students of diverse backgrounds can intellectually stimulate one another. It is hoped that the Ph.D. Program will attract a great number of students, including mature students, international students, and Master’s degree holders from the Graduate School of Peace Studies and other Japanese graduate schools, who will one day become leaders of Peace Studies originating from Hiroshima.

(Teacher at HPI)
DIARY

June 1, 2020 — May 31, 2021

2020

◆ Jun. 10 Kyungjin Ha contributes an essay based on an interview with the Public Relations Society of Japan (PRSJ), “When a New Community is Needed, PR is Required,” to PR Yearbook 2020.
◆ Jul. 26 Tetsuo Sato attends the Board of Councilors of the Japanese Society of International Law, held online.
◆ Jul. 28 Kazumi Mizumoto gives a lecture to six reporters from local newspapers on, “Hiroshima and Peace,” at a training program for domestic journalists of local newspapers organized by the City of Hiroshima, held at the International Conference Center Hiroshima.
◆ Aug. 3–5 Narayanan Ganesan trains the Myanmar civil service in Naypyitaw online via Zoom on public policy formulation and research methodology.
◆ Aug. 8 Ryo Oshiba and Robert Jacobs participate as panel speakers in the webinar, “ZERO Project Round Table,” Webinar hosted by ZERO Project 2020, 8 August 2020.
◆ Aug. 11 Mizumoto attends a meeting for revising the peace education program, organized by the Hiroshima Municipal Board of Education, held in Hiroshima City.
◆ Sep. 21 Oshiba contributes an article, “Interview with HPI Director,” to the Chuugoku Shim bun.
◆ Sep. 28 Ha participates as a keynote speaker in the online conference titled, “PR Professionals Meeting 2020: Thinking About the Next Decade of PR Industry,” hosted by the Public Relations Society of Japan (PRSJ).
◆ Oct. 14 Xianfen Xu gives a lecture on, “Past-Present-Future of Sino-Japanese Relations,” to the School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences of Nagasaki University, via Zoom.
◆ Nov. 11 Kikkawa presents a lecture online via Zoom on, “International Security Community: Current State and Future Agenda,” for students at Dongseo University, South Korea.
◆ Nov. 14 Ganesan delivers a public lecture entitled, “Charting the New Landscape in Southeast Asian International Relations,” via Zoom at Yadabon University in Mandalay, Myanmar.
◆ Nov. 21 Son attends as a facilitator the, “Hiroshima Junior International Forum,” organized by Hiroshima Prefectural Government.
◆ Nov. 26 Tadashi Okimura presents a paper titled, “Climate Policy in Japan,” at the 9th Asia-Pacific International Conference, hosted by Korea Legislation Research Institute, via Zoom.

2021

◆ Mar. 7 Kawakami delivers a presentation on, “The Peace Suit and Scholars of Constitutional law in the postwar Japan,” at the closed online workshop supported by JSPS KAKENHI Grant Number JP 20K01283, via Zoom.
◆ Mar. 13 Sato attends the Board of Councilors of the Japanese Society of International Law held online. Xu presents a paper titled, “Japan Issues in China-US Reconciliation negotiations,” at an online international workshop “History and Reconciliation” hosted by the Institute of East Asian International Relations of Waseda University.
◆ May 15 Oshiba gives a Commemorative Lecture entitled, “Global Governance Theories,” as a winner of “Contemporary Political Science Award” at the Spring Convention of the Japanese Association of Political and Legal Studies of Japan.
◆ May 30 Son presents a lecture, “Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons from a Regional Perspective,” at the forum on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons hosted by the City of Hiroshima and supported by the HPI.

※For other entries of the DIARY, please visit our website.

HIROSHIMA RESEARCH NEWS

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