



International Symposium “Confronting the Danger of Nuclear War: Hiroshima, Nagasaki, G7 Summit and the Future”

Mihoko Kato

On December 10, 2023, the Hiroshima Peace Institute (HPI) at Hiroshima City University held an International Symposium titled, “Confronting the Danger of Nuclear War: Hiroshima, Nagasaki, G7 Summit and the Future,” in collaboration with the Chugoku Shimbun and the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (RECNA) at Nagasaki University. Since invading Ukraine, Russia has engaged in nuclear threats and deployed tactical nuclear weapons in neighboring Belarus. The threat of the use of nuclear weapons, which seemed to have receded with the end of the Cold War, has reignited. This symposium discussed the direction of nuclear disarmament outlined by the G7 Hiroshima Summit from various angles.

In his keynote speech titled, “G7 Hiroshima Vision and the Safety of Life, Person and the Property of the Nationals,” Professor Atsushi Ishida of the University of Tokyo looked back on the history of non-use of nuclear weapons since Hiroshima and Nagasaki and explained that the Hiroshima Vision is a nuclear disarmament concept based on a state-centered view of security. He then suggested, instead, that, a citizen-centered polity, which prioritizes the protection of its citizens would escape security-dilemma and ease tensions with its counterpart. Finally, he stated that in order to sustain the tradition of non-use of nuclear weapons, it would be necessary to strengthen humanitarian awareness that the use of nuclear weapons is taboo.

Specially Appointed Professor (now Professor Emeritus) Gen Kikkawa at the HPI discussed the current crisis in the international order in his speech titled, “The War in Ukraine and the Future of the International Peace Order.” After the collapse of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia a phenomenon occurred in which ethnic minorities within the federal republics held referendums and declared independence. However, the international community has shared certain conditions to limit the recognition of a state. The exception to these conditions is Kosovo, which achieved independence in 2008. Russian President Putin used Kosovo as a precedent to annex Crimea and has since continued to expand territory in eastern Ukraine, putting the principle of territorial integrity in jeopardy. Meanwhile, East Asian countries rely on a fragile security order that avoids conflict through a balance of military power. Professor Kikkawa pointed out that the establishment of a conflict prevention system is essential to create a more reliable international peace order.

Ms. Michiko Tanaka, Senior Staff Writer of the Chugoku Shimbun, looked back on the G7 Hiroshima Summit from the perspective of the A-bombed city in her speech titled, “National policy and the A-bombed cities—The divide we came to understand through our reporting on the Hiroshima Summit.” She indicated that factors that helped make the G7 Hiroshima Summit a reality were that U.S. President Obama’s visit to Hiroshima in 2016 lowered the hurdle of holding the summit in an A-bombed city and that Prime Minister Kishida, who was elected from the city where the atomic bomb was dropped, had strong feelings about this. She then cited the growing importance of delivering a message from Hiroshima to the Putin regime, which is threatening to use nuclear weapons, as the biggest factor. Meanwhile, she said that it was regrettable that the Hiroshima Vision contains a statement justifying

nuclear deterrence and explained that the thinking of those who have led the atomic bomb survivors’ movement was that the use of nuclear weapons by any country is unacceptable and that in this respect, there was a gap between the stance of the A-bombed cities and the government. Moreover, regarding the visit of Ukrainian President Zelenskyy, she also mentioned that there were mixed feelings in the A-bombed city about the fact that his emphasis was placed on obtaining military support from the G7 leaders rather than on disarmament.

Dr. Sumiko Hatakeyama, Executive Committee Member of Peace Boat, delivered a speech titled, “Hiroshima G7 Summit and nuclear weapons abolition: From a Civil Society Perspective.” In the speech, she spoke about her experience in providing policy recommendations to the G7 Presidency as a coordinator of the Nuclear Disarmament Working Group of the C7 (Civil 7/Civil Society 7) run by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The recommendations, which were compiled after multiple negotiations with 125 organizations both in Japan and overseas, called on the G7 leaders to hear directly from atomic bomb survivors, and proposed that the final communique include a clear condemnation of all threats to use nuclear weapons and a concrete plan for negotiations to eliminate nuclear weapons. At the Hiroshima Summit, while the G7 leaders were to some extent exposed to the reality of the atomic bombings, the recommendations themselves were not well reflected in the Hiroshima Vision. However, Dr. Hatakeyama stated that what civil society needs to do is to continue to raise its voice and work to make their voices be heard by politicians.

After the three speeches, Ms. Keiko Ogura gave a “statement from Hiroshima,” in which she described the interactions and impressions she had when explaining her experience of the atomic bombing to the leaders of various countries and their partners, as well as President Zelenskyy, at the G7 Hiroshima Summit. It was impressive that she emphasized that “knowing” is a step toward peace.

A panel discussion was held with Professor Ishida, Professor Kikkawa, Ms. Tanaka, Dr. Hatakeyama, and Professor Kimiaki Kawai (RECNA) as a commentator. Professor Kawai pointed out, while nuclear deterrence focuses on how to prevent an aggression by an opponent before it happens, the “theory” does not provide a theoretical answer as to what to do if nuclear deterrence fails. If nuclear deterrence fails, at least some degree of nuclear retaliation is to be expected, and even if nuclear use is limited, the possibility of nuclear escalation cannot be denied. Professor Kawai emphasized the danger and fragility of nuclear deterrence, saying that there is no such thing as “responsible” use of nuclear weapons and that the only guarantee that they would not be used was their elimination.

Approximately 200 people attended the symposium, and lively discussions were held at this first in-person event in four years. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all the speakers and attendees.

(Lecturer at HPI)

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The Hiroshima Peace Institute held its 7th Lecture Series in English in January and February of 2024. It was the second English Language Lecture Series to be held in person since the beginning of the COVID 19 pandemic. The lectures were held weekly at the Satellite Campus of Hiroshima City University (HPI) in downtown Hiroshima. As always, four lectures were held over four weeks.

The first lecture was held on January 19th and the presenter was HPI Professor (now Professor Emeritus) Narayanan Ganesan. Prof. Ganesan's lecture was titled, "The impact of the Myanmar military coup on the domestic situation" and considered domestic aspects of the ongoing coup. He summarized, the Myanmar military staged a coup against the elected civilian government in February 2021 and has been in power since through the State Administration Council (SAC) composed of military officers and headed by General Min Aung Hlaing. After nearly 3 years of military rule, the country's situation has deteriorated very badly. In terms of political and security issues the country is almost in a state of civil war with high numbers of civilians killed and injured alongside an equally large number of them imprisoned. The conflict between the Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) and the People's Defence Forces (PDFs) on the one hand and the SAC on the other has also led to almost 2.6 million people being internally displaced and much damage to property and infrastructure. Similarly, the socio-economic situation is also poor with a significantly weakened local currency, high levels of inflation, and unemployment. The citizens of Hiroshima have been fortunate to have Prof. Ganesan's deep insight into the dynamics and players in the ongoing situation in Myanmar to keep us well informed, and although he is now retired and a Professor Emeritus, we count on his ongoing work to continue this public service.

The second lecture was held on January 26th by HPI Professor Tadashi Okimura, who gave a lecture titled, "The impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Japanese energy security." In this second timely public lecture, Prof. Okimura described how in the wake of the Russia-Ukrainian war, energy security has become a major issue for countries that depend on Russia for energy. Other countries have also been greatly affected by the war, such as the high price of natural gas. His lecture examined the impact of the war in Ukraine on Japan, which has low energy self-sufficiency, from the perspective of energy security. He provided a detailed explanation of the dynamics of the Japanese energy sources, and the potentials of various energy production systems to play key roles in providing Japanese energy in the future. He provided a detailed overview of an important issue that many of us have deep concerns over, but lack the nuanced understanding we received in this lecture.

I myself presented the 3rd lecture on February 2nd, titled, "American hibakusha: the history of Americans exposed to radiation," a lecture based on selected aspects of my global hibakusha research. I began my talk in the 1920s with the case of the "Radium Girls," who were exposed to radium in their workplace, and then went to the core of my discussion, about

the millions of Americans have been exposed to radiation and suffered health damages. Many of these people were exposed as part of the United States' nuclear weapon program. These include soldiers exposed to nuclear detonations during nuclear testing, "downwinders" exposed to radioactive fallout following nuclear weapon tests, workers at production facilities that manufactured nuclear weapons and nuclear fuel for power plants, and also people exposed to radiation as part of medical research conducted covertly by the U.S. government to prepare for fighting a nuclear war. My talk surveyed the history of these exposures and focused on how the U.S. government selected communities or populations who they deemed acceptable to expose to radioactive materials.

The 4th and final lecture was presented on February 9th by Kimiko Ichikawa. Ms. Ichikawa is a PhD Candidate, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and her lecture was based on research she has conducted towards the completion of her dissertation. She spoke on the topic of, "Victimhood in Comparison: The Holocaust and Post-Atomic Bomb Human Experience."

Her lecture investigated the experiences of victims of unethical human experiments, focusing on two different cases: the Holocaust and the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It examined victimhood—the condition of being a victim in an unethical human experiment in atrocities, which involves various aspects of testimonies—how the victims began their experiments, continued, developed their emotions, and ended their relationships with their perpetrators at the human experiment sites. Based on a deep analysis of what the victims portrayed in their testimonies, the lecture sought to understand their voices in these ways: (1) how they were treated as less than human and how they talked about their bodies during the experiments, (2) how they saw the power and politics between them and the people who did this to them, and (3) how they felt emotionally during the experiments. We were very fortunate to be able to engage with the research of a young and promising scholar and be able to grasp the process of developing arguments from research and oral history. We have taken a lot of pride in the HPI English Language Lecture Series to offer a venue for young and emerging scholars to present their research, and for the citizens of Hiroshima to participate in the creation of ongoing scholarship around a broad range of peace issues.

Each lecture was very well attended; each was about an hour long, and was followed by a very engaged question and answer period. Questions came from other attending scholars, students and the many citizens who joined, either individual lectures, or week after week. We are already deep in planning for the 8th HPI English Language Lecture Series to be held either later this year, or early in 2025. We will keep the community informed and look forward to another series of fascinating presentations, and robust discussions. And we especially thank all contributing lecturers who made the series a strong and diverse range of talks.

(Professor at HPI)

Academic Exchanges with South Korea

Hyun Jin Son

As relations between South Korea and Japan improve, the Hiroshima Peace Institute (HPI) is actively engaged in exchanges with South Korean universities and research institutes. It is deepening its research exchanges by signing research exchange agreements with South Korean universities and holding joint seminars and forums with research institutions with whom it already has agreements.

As part of a research forum held annually in collaboration with South Korean research institutions, the HPI at Hiroshima City University and the Center for Japanese Studies at the Sejong Institute held the Korea-Japan Forum 2023 on July 28, 2023. The forum, at Jeonbuk National University in South Korea, was attended by 50 researchers and media personnel from both countries and discussed the direction of Japan-South Korea cooperation on global issues such as the Indo-Pacific strategic environment and climate change.

Specially Appointed Professor (now Professor Emeritus) Gen Kikkawa, Professor Tadashi Okimura, and Associate Professor Hyun Jin Son from the HPI participated in the forum and discussed the need for Japan-South Korea cooperation in areas such as nuclear safety management and the development and dissemination of renewable energy. The forum also proposed that an organic consultative body, in which the private sector and government can discuss the form and direction of trilateral cooperation among Japan, the U.S. and South Korea, be established through the Track 1.5 Dialogue among the three countries at a semi-government level.



On November 24, 2023, the HPI at Hiroshima City University hosted a forum titled, “World Affairs in 2023 and the Future of Peace” with the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Hiroshima. The forum discussed the impact of the critical international situation sparked by the war in Ukraine on East Asia as well as the improving relations between Japan and South Korea. Following on from last year, the forum discussed the outlook for East Asia and Japan-South Korea relations.

At the forum, Professor Jong Won Lee (Professor at the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University) delivered a keynote speech titled, “International Affairs and Analysis of East Asia in 2023.” Professor Lee stated that the world has entered a new Cold War, with the protracted war resulting from Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the conflict between the U.S. and China over Taiwan, and instability on the Korean Peninsula. To overcome this he presented a proposal to establish a mechanism for dialogue on regional security and military issues and use regional frameworks in East Asia.

In the second session titled, “World Affairs in 2023 and the Future of Peace: East Asia after the Improvement of Japan-South Korea Relations,” Dr. Sook-hyun Kim emphasized that to respond to the changing international situation it is necessary to institutionalize cooperation among Japan, the U.S., and South Korea to prevent a decrease in joint response to and cooperation against security threats. Associate Professor Hyun Jin Son then emphasized that the denuclearization of North Korea is a primary issue for the Korean Peninsula in the new Cold War era between South Korea, the U.S., and Japan versus North Korea, China, and Russia. He stated that to achieve this, it was important to strengthen cooperative relations between South Korea, the U.S., and Japan and restore mutual trust between Japan and North Korea and between Japan and South Korea, rather than inter-Korean relations.

In the third session titled, “Current Status and Prospects for Regional Cooperation in East Asia,” Professor Chang-min Lee (Division of Integrated Japanese and Regional Studies of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies) stated that Japan and South Korea could combine their respective strengths to create synergy and become cooperate in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Professor Tadashi Okimura of the HPI raised the issue of energy security, which has come to the forefront during the war in Ukraine and the conflict in Gaza, and proposed diversifying energy and energy supply sources, nurturing new energy industries, developing alternative energy sources, and fostering the relevant industries.

As part of research exchanges with South Korean universities, an agreement on academic and research exchanges was signed between the HPI at Hiroshima City University and the East Asia Institute at Dongseo University in South Korea on February 16, 2024. The East Asia Institute at Dongseo University was established in May 2019 by merging the university’s Japanese Research Center and Chinese Research Center. To jointly seek solutions in East Asia, where conflicts between regional nations are deepening, it was established to study various issues and actively discuss exchanges and cooperation between researchers, students, and citizens.

With this agreement, the HPI and the East Asia Institute at Dongseo University have agreed to engage in researcher and student exchanges, as well as research collaboration and the mutual provision of research results, publications, and other information.



The HPI has had exchanges with Dongseo University for some time, and six graduate students from the Graduate School of Peace Studies at Hiroshima City University participated as presenters and debaters in the 20th Anniversary International Conference of the Korea-Japan Next Generation Academic Forum, organized by the Japanese Research Center at Dongseo University from June 23 to 25, 2023. Marking the 20th anniversary since the first forum in 2004, this forum was attended by approximately 200 graduate students and accompanying teachers, from 60 universities in Japan and South Korea, with a variety of programs, including presentations in separate sessions, panel discussions, and a reception. This was the first time that graduate students from the Graduate School of Peace Studies participated in the forum. They gave presentations and held discussions on a range of areas, including international relations, politics, law, and history.

By providing an opportunity for young Japanese and South Korean researchers to present their research, the Korea-Japan Next Generation Academic Forum has contributed to the training of future researchers specializing in future Japan-South Korea relations, and has already played a role in training many researchers.

Additionally, on October 30, 2023, Specially Appointed Professor Gen Kikkawa and Associate Professor Hyun Jin Son from the HPI participated as a presenter and a debater, respectively, in the Japan-Korea New Millennium Forum organized by the Japanese Research Center at Dongseo University. Specially Appointed Professor Kikkawa gave a presentation titled, “Peace in Northeast Asia and Japan-Korea Relations: Toward the Institutionalization of Security Cooperation,” and Associate Professor Son discussed, “Normalization of Japan-Korea Relations and Historical Issues.” Various issues and challenges existing between Japan and South Korea were discussed at the forum and 30 participants, including Japanese and Korean researchers, experts, and media personnel, exchanged opinions.



In the future, it is considered necessary to establish a system for research and academic exchanges between Japan and South Korea that will allow academic exchanges between researchers and between research institutions to take root, regardless of the political situation between the two countries.

(Associate Professor at HPI)

Collecting Photo Books That Have Recorded and Expressed the Damage Caused by the Atomic Bombs

Chie Shijo

Since immediately after the atomic bombings, photographs have played an important role, alongside personal belongings and testimonies, as a means of recording and communicating the damage caused by the atomic bombs. Not only the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum but also the Research Committee for Photography of the Nagasaki Atomic Bombing at the Nagasaki Association for the Promotion of Peace, a semi-government organization, has been collecting photographic materials related to the damage caused by the atomic bombs for many years. In recent years, the Chugoku Shimbun has attempted to recreate the cityscape before and after the bombing using photographs of the area before and after the bombing on its website “Hiroshima no Kuuhaku (Striving to fill voids in Hiroshima)—Tracing Hiroshima before and after the Atomic Bombing.” Meanwhile, in Nagasaki, the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition at Nagasaki University and the Nagasaki National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims have collected photographic data of life before the bombing and made them available online as “Archives of Pre A-Bomb Days.” In November 2023, it was reported that the Japanese government had decided to recommend “Visual archives of Hiroshima atomic bombing—Photographs and films in 1945” for inclusion in the Memory of the World by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). The application for international registration had been jointly submitted by the City of Hiroshima and five media organizations, including the Chugoku Shimbun. A decision on whether or not it will be registered will be made in the spring of 2025. In any case, the collection includes many representative photographs that recorded the damage caused by the atomic bomb, including those capturing the devastation suffered by citizens on the day the bombs were dropped. In this way, for photographs related to the damage caused by the atomic bombs, both the public and private sectors and academia have worked to accumulate photographic materials and data to use them in various ways, although there are issues with the system for collecting and storing them.

It goes without saying that each and every photograph taken of the cities before the bombing and the damage caused by the atomic bombs is important as a means of recording and communicating the “facts.” However, the efforts have focused mainly on collecting photographs or photographic data taken before the bombing to immediately after, and publications such as photo books, including magazine photo features, have not been collected. The photo feature in the August 1952 issue of the magazine *Asahi Graph*, which sensationally reported on the damage caused by the atomic bomb, is widely known. In fact, not only immediately after the atomic bombings but for a long time after the war, many photographers, including Ken Domon, who published the photo

book *Hiroshima* in the 1950s, Shomei Tomatsu, Hiromi Tsuchida, and Miyako Ishiuchi, took photographs on the subject of the damage caused by the atomic bombs, and compiled photo books not only as records but also as forms of expression. These photographs and photo books have also played an important role in visually conveying the damage caused by the atomic bombs not only to Japan but to the world.

Photo books are expensive, and many of them are published in limited numbers. Not only are some books out of print, but even some recently published books are difficult to obtain. It is also difficult to obtain privately published photo books as well as leaflets distributed at various photo exhibitions. Furthermore, if photographers are famous Japanese photographers, their photo books are popular among overseas collectors, leading to an increase in the prices of their second-hand books. Many publications have probably already been lost. Therefore, it is difficult to build up an archive without securing a certain amount of funds to actively collect these materials. However, there are no institutions in Hiroshima that are actively collecting publications related to such photo books and photographers with a view to those related to the atomic bombing in Nagasaki as well.

Accordingly, as part of the AY2022 distinctive research of Hiroshima City University’s “Forming a Collective Memory of the Atomic Bomb Damage through Photography,” we collected and organized photography publications (photo books, magazine photo features, critiques and essays about photographs, etc.), mainly focusing on photo books on the subject of the damage caused by the atomic bombs, and recorded bibliographic information such as headlines online. First, with the cooperation of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, we obtained the relevant information through materials held in the museum’s library, and based on that, we added new information on photography publications, including those related to photographs of the atomic bombing in Nagasaki, to create “List of Bibliographic Information on Publications Related to Atomic Bomb Photographs” (666 books and 103 magazines as of December 7, 2023) and “List of Photographers and Organizations Related to Atomic Bomb Photographs” (91 photographers and four organizations as of September 4, 2023). Based on the lists we created, we not only bought new publications at bookstores but also collected old, out-of-print publications with the cooperation of second-hand bookstores. In addition, Mr. Satoru Ubuki, an expert on Hiroshima’s postwar history, kindly donated A-bomb-related materials, including rare publications. Even after the one-year distinctive research ended, we have collected photography publications, and our collection now includes 359 books and magazines (as of December 7, 2023).

Until now, when it comes to photographs related to the damage caused by the atomic bombs, the focus has been on examining the images of the photographs as historical facts, or “what kind of damage was captured on camera,” and there have been few opportunities to examine how the photographs themselves have been described or perceived. Photo books, which have recorded and expressed the damage caused by the atomic bombs, also provides a clue to exploring how memories of the damage caused by the atomic bombs have been shaped in the 80 years since the bombings. This collection of photography publications related to the two A-bombed cities is not just a local resource but is also valuable for considering the relationship between photography and the damage caused by the atomic bombs and the war. We will continue to collect the relevant materials and digitize bibliographic information, hoping to make them available to a wide range of people who are interested, as a starting point for considering the relationship between the damage caused by the atomic bombs and photography from various angles.

(This article is an updated version of the article published in “Web Essay” on the Hiroshima Peace Institute website in August 2023.)

(Associate Professor, HPI)



Some of the collected publications related to atomic bomb photographs

Picture Books Created in Ukraine during Wartime

Yuko Takesako

“Could you please say ‘victory’ instead of ‘peace’?” During his visit to Ukraine in 2023, Robert Campbell, who translated *The Dictionary of War* (written by Ostap Slyvynsky) into Japanese and published it as *Senso Goi Shu* (Iwanami Shoten, Publishers, 2023), was asked this by a student during a lecture on Japanese literature at Ivan Franko National University of L’viv.

The Russian attack began suddenly in the early hours of February 24, 2022. Subsequently, picture books related to Ukraine were urgently published in Japan. These include the following: *Senso ga Machi ni Yattekuru* [Photo (1)] (*The War That Changed Rondo*) (written by Romana Romanyshyn and Andriy Lesiv, translated by Mizuhito Kanehara, Bronze Publishing Inc., 2022), *Kiefu no Tsuki* (*The Moon of Kyiv*) (written by Gianni Rodari, illustrated by Beatrice Alemagna, translated by Yoko Uchida, Kodansha Ltd., 2022), *Senso Nikki: Enpitsu Ippon de Egaita Ukuraina no Aru Kazoku no Hibi* [Photo (2)] (*War Diary*) (written by Olga Grebennik, supervised by Yuri Nagura, translated by Madoka Watanabe and So-eun Jung, Kawade Shobo Shinsha Publishers Inc., 2022), *Iero Batafurai* [Photo (3)] (*Yellow Butterfly*) (written and illustrated by Oleksandr Shatokhin, Kodansha Ltd., 2023), *Ie – Aruhi Senso ga Hajimatta* (*Provisional: The House – One Day the War Has Begun*) (written by Kateryna Tikhozoraya, illustrated by Oleksandr Prodan, translated by Emi Sugimoto, Choubunsha Publishing Co., Ltd., 2023), and *Boku no Tottemo Futsu no Ouchi* (*My Most Ordinary Home*) (written by Constantin Satüpo, translated by Junko Fujiwara, Kakehashi Publishing, 2023). Here I will introduce the following three books: *The War That Changed Rondo*, *War Diary*, and *Yellow Butterfly*.



(1)

The War That Changed Rondo was written by a husband-and-wife writer team living in Lviv the year after the Russian invasion and annexation of Crimea in 2014. Although it had never been translated into Japanese, it was translated and published with unusually rapid speed after the Russian invasion in 2022. The war suddenly comes to Rondo, a town of music and flowers, bringing destruction, chaos, and darkness with it

... Although its three main characters fight hard, the war continues. The authors are an internationally acclaimed duo, and in this book, they use graphical techniques to depict the unreasonable violence and destruction known as “war.” “Each of us is powerless” and “the pain of our injuries is remembered and never fully heals.” To express this, they depicted the main characters as fragile things that easily break and burn, like glass, a balloon, or a paper airplane. When they visited Japan last fall, they spoke about their current feelings, saying that the 2014 invasion of Crimea “was like a frozen conflict, where it was unclear whether it was war or not, and whether it was over or not,” but in 2022, “a full-scale war had begun, and we realized that it could not end without victory.”



(2)

War Diary is a picture book diary written by Kharkiv-based author Grebennik, which is written with a single pencil, covering the 20 days following the first bombing at 5:30 a.m. on February 24. The book describes the events that took place over the 20 days from when she took refuge in the basement of an apartment building, suffering from food shortages, to when she left her husband and mother behind in Kharkiv and traveled through L’viv and Poland to Bulgaria with her two children, where they settled down as refugees. This book was published in Korea through an acquaintance of the author and has been translated into Japanese as well as European and other languages. Grebennik’s portrayal humorously depicts her daily life, in which she worked hard to ease the fear of her children in the basement where they took refuge, coming up with ways to keep them entertained, and vividly conveys the tense reality of having to write names, dates of birth, and contact information on her children’s arms. In order to connect the young lives to the future, she chose to temporarily separate from her husband, and she continues to create art, living with her children in a foreign country, while her husband volunteers with the Red Cross in Kharkiv to help the people of the city.



(3)

Yellow Butterfly is a picture book with no words that was written one month after the Russian invasion. Drawing in black color with pencil, conté crayon, and other media, the author depicts the war of aggression—barbed wire, tanks, huge holes caused by bombs, and mountains of rubble - and conveys the terrible fear and anger of a fleeing girl. He depicts life, including that which has been taken, as a yellow butterfly. As swarms of yellow butterflies fill the barbed wire, they try to find a future and hope beyond the war. The author, who has left the town of Sumy near the Russian border with his family and now lives as a refugee in Lviv, wrote in the afterword, “All Ukrainians are now working with all their might to defeat the Russian terrorists. As an illustrator, I am also participating in my own way.”

Robert Campbell says that the university’s students do not reject peace. However, he reports that the said student in Lviv conveyed, “An uncertain peace without no clear destination could threaten our language, our culture, and even our lives.” This is the reality of “war.” Nevertheless, authors create picture books in the hope of a future without war. Grebennik, the author of *War Diary*, wrote in the book, “War and humans are different.” What will she say now?

(M.A. Student at Graduate School of Peace Studies)

The History of the Hokkaido A-bomb Survivors' Organization and the Hokkaido No More Hibakusha Hall

Mihoko Kato

Background to the establishment of the Hokkaido No More Hibakusha Hall

In early August 2023, I visited the Hokkaido No More Hibakusha Hall in Shiroishi Ward, Sapporo, and heard about the history and current activities of the Hokkaido A-bomb Survivors' Organization. The hall is located just outside the Heiwa-dori Exit of Heiwa Station on the JR Chitose Line, which is connected to the station by a long pedestrian bridge. The building of the hall has an object on the roof that resembles the Atomic Bomb Dome, and you can easily find the building by going closer and looking up. [Photo (1)]



Photo (1)

The predecessor of the Hokkaido A-bomb Survivors' Organization was the Hokkaido A-bomb Survivors' Group Council ("Hokkaido Hidankyo"), which was founded in 1960. The Bikini incident sparked the anti-nuclear movement in Japan, and organizations of atomic bomb survivors were formed all over Hokkaido, which came together to form the Hokkaido Hidankyo. Since 1965, a memorial service for the atomic bomb victims has been held every year on August 6, and at the fourth memorial service in 1968, calls were made for the construction of a community center for atomic bomb survivors, which led to a movement to build this hall.

The Hokkaido No More Hibakusha Hall Construction Committee, formed in 1982, began a "brick donation" campaign that asked people to buy bricks for the construction of the hall for 500 yen each. Construction of the Hokkaido No More Hibakusha Hall began in August 1991 and was completed in December of the same year. It can be said that it was built through the efforts and donations of atomic bomb survivors and local citizens. (For more details on the background, please refer to the association's website via the QR code at the end of the article). The current building houses an office on the first floor and an atomic bomb museum on the second floor, displaying documents and photographs from the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The third floor houses a training room and a library. In the training room, visitors can listen to stories from atomic bomb survivors and watch videos, and circle study sessions are also held. When I visited, an exhibition of original illustrations from the picture book *Kita no Sato kara Heiwa no Inori—No More Hibakusha Kaikan Monogatari* (Prayers for Peace from Hokkaido—The Story of the No More Hibakusha Hall) (written by Mineko Koyama, illustrated by Shiro Fujimoto, The Hokkaido Shimbun Press, 2020) was being held on the third floor. This picture book depicts the hardships that atomic bomb survivors endured on the way to the construction of the hall, overlapping with the life of a girl who was exposed to the atomic bombing in Nagasaki. The images of original paintings in gentle colors and the statue of St. Mary that the girl cherished (on display on the second floor) are burned into my mind. The library has a collection of about 2,000 books, mainly related to the atomic bombings, and visitors can also view the complete series of *Barefoot Gen* and materials related to the Lucky Dragon No. 5.

Why are there so many atomic bomb survivors in Hokkaido?

The existence of atomic bomb survivors in Hokkaido is little known among the general public or among researchers. Before being assigned to the Hiroshima Peace Institute, I was based in Sapporo for nearly 20 years. However, I am ashamed to say that I had never heard of the Hokkaido A-bomb Survivors' Organization. According to the association's website, there were 248 A-bomb survivor certificate holders in Hokkaido as of March 2020. However, this is the number of certified atomic bomb survivors, and it is believed that at one time there were as many as 1,000 (some say 2,000) atomic bomb survivors living

throughout Hokkaido. Why did they end up in Hokkaido, far away from the A-bombed areas, and put down roots?

Taking into account the explanation given by Kunio Kitame, vice-secretary of the organization, whom I spoke to for this article, and the testimonies of atomic bomb survivors living in Hokkaido published in the book *Kita no Hibakusha no Sakebi—Soshō 11-nen no Ayumi* (Cries of Atomic Bomb Survivors in Hokkaido—The History of the 11-year Legal Dispute) (published by the Lawyer Group for Hokkaido Lawsuit for Atomic Bomb Disease Authorization 2011) [Photo (2)],



Photo (2)

it seems that those who were exposed to the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and later ended up in Hokkaido had the following background. First, there were those who fled to Hokkaido after August 1945, relying on their family members and relatives. Second, there were those who moved to Hokkaido due to employment, transfer, or marriage. Third, there were young men who volunteered to serve at the Army Marine Headquarters (commonly known as "Akatsuki Corps") in Hiroshima and were directly exposed to radiation while on duty or were exposed to secondary radiation while helping with rescue operations and who were later allowed to return home to Hokkaido. Some of them were originally from outside Hokkaido, such as the Tohoku district. However, after returning to their hometowns, they were unable to work as they wished due to the health damage caused by the atomic bomb, and the resulting conflicts with those around them led them to leave their hometowns and move to Hokkaido. Fourth, there were atomic bomb survivors who applied for jobs to develop Hokkaido after the war. It is not difficult to imagine that in remote areas of Hokkaido, even if people developed health problems thought to be caused by the atomic bomb, they would not have been able to receive appropriate medical treatment because there was no knowledge or understanding of exposure to atomic bombing.

After the war, various people from overseas territories settled in or relocated to Hokkaido. To quote from the Hokkaido A-bomb Survivors' Organization's website, we should never forget that among these people, there were a considerable number who continued to escape from discrimination against and rumors about the fact that they were exposed to the atomic bombing in Hiroshima or Nagasaki and finally came to Hokkaido.

Problems faced by the Hokkaido A-bomb Survivors' Organization

On April 26, 2024, newspapers reported that the Hokkaido A-bomb Survivors' Organization plans to dissolve at the end of March 2025, the year that will mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the war. The reason for this is said to be that the atomic bomb survivors are aging and suffering from various illnesses, making it difficult for them to all attend secretariat meetings, which causes difficulty in continuing activities. In addition to providing interaction and consultation services for atomic bomb survivors living in Hokkaido, the association has also been active in sharing the reality of the atomic bombings through peace studies classes at local schools. It seems that in the future, its activities will be continued by atomic bomb survivors and their children who are able to participate. However, the number of participants will be limited. Now that Russia, which borders Hokkaido, is at war and repeatedly threatening to use nuclear weapons, it is becoming more and more important to learn what it means to be A-bombed and what would happen if nuclear weapons were used, and to share the importance of peace. I sincerely hope that more people will become interested in its activities.

(Lecturer at HPI)

Hello from HPI

Toshiya Umehara Professor, Hiroshima Peace Institute



Prof. Umehara had a long career as a journalist at the *Asahi Shimbun*, a leading daily newspaper in Japan. There he served in various capacities including, European Editor in London, Deputy Managing Editor at Tokyo Head Office and Member of the Editorial Board. After leaving the newspaper in 2021, he studied as a doctoral student at HCU Graduate School of Peace Studies and received a Ph. D degree (Peace Studies) in March, 2024.

Hello! Although I am not a newcomer in a strict sense here at HPI, let me introduce myself to mark off a fresh start as a member of faculty. I worked as a newspaper correspondent mainly in the field of international reporting. My formative years as a journalist were spent in Nagasaki in late 1980s and early 1990s, and thereafter, I engaged various reporting on war and peace throughout the world. The main topics I have been pursuing are issues related to nuclear weapons. When I decided to move on to academia three years ago, I found myself attracted to this university for obvious reason of its location in Hiroshima and its research and educational activities related to nuclear weapons.

The title of my doctoral dissertation is, “Postwar Japan and Non-Nuclear Norms.” Nuclear weapons have never been used in actual warfare since Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and it has been pointed out that behind this situation is a shared understanding, or a “norm” in the international society that nuclear weapons are “weapons that must not be used and/or are unusable”. This is the so-called “nuclear taboo” (norms of nuclear non-use). Japan, of course, has a lot to do with the formation of this norm. However, the Japanese government, which relies on the extended nuclear deterrence (so-called nuclear umbrella) given by the U.S. government as the bedrock of national security, has been reluctant to openly and categorically state that nuclear weapons must not be used at any time by any nation. Why? That is my main research question and I have been studying this phenomenon in a multilayered manner, including the dynamics of nuclear taboo with other non-nuclear norms, such as the non-proliferation norm of not possessing nuclear weapons.

Unfortunately, these non-nuclear norms are facing a serious crisis these days, as Russia has threatened to use nuclear weapons in their full-scale invasion of Ukraine since 2022. It goes without saying that a world without nuclear weapons should remain our goal, but before that can happen, I believe the minimum red line of “never letting them be used again” should be maintained. As a person with two careers in academia and journalism, I hope to contribute to widening insights over these issues related to war and peace, and share them with fellow colleagues and students here at HPI.

The First Online Briefing Session on Admission to the Graduate School of Peace Studies 2024

Hyun Jin Son

The Hiroshima Peace Institute (HPI) held the first online briefing session of AY 2024 on the admission to the Graduate School of Peace Studies (GSPS) via Zoom on June 7, 2024. We were pleased to have three participants this time.

As in the previous online briefing sessions, an outline of the GSPS and the entrance examination system were presented in the beginning. Then, the possible career paths of graduates, scholarship possibilities, and the status of the acceptance of international students were explained. A current graduate student in the doctoral program at GSPS shared his experiences on study and research at GSPS as well as student life in Hiroshima. In the second half, the participants held a question-and-answer session with faculty members and administrative staff in a relaxed manner.

(Associate Professor/Admission Committee at HPI)

The Forthcoming Online Briefing Session on Admission to the Graduate School of Peace Studies in 2024

The first online briefing session on admission to the GSPS for AY 2024 will be held on October 4, 2024. Everyone is welcome, not only those who would like to study at the GSPS but also those who would like to get information about the entrance exam for the future enrollment. We will be better able to answer your questions if you could include them when applying to participate. English explanations are also available.

Date and Time: October 4, 2024, 6:30–8:00 p.m. (Japan Standard Time)
How to hold the event: Online (Zoom meeting)
Fee for the participation: Free
Deadline of the application: September 27, 2024, 5 p.m.
Contact: office-peace@m.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp



For further information, please visit the HPI website.

- 2024
- ◆ **Jan. 17** Robert Jacobs presents a lecture titled, “The global hibakusha in world history,” to students from the THINK Global School in Hiroshima.
 - ◆ **Jan. 20** Mihoko Kato contributes a commentary entitled, “Keep Seeking ‘a World Without Nuclear Weapons,’” to the website of the Nippon Institute for Research Advancement (NIRA). [in Japanese]
 - ◆ **Jan. 26** Tadashi Okimura delivers a lecture in English entitled, “The Impact of Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine on Japanese Energy Security,” as part of the HPI 7th English lecture series at the HCU satellite campus.
 - ◆ **Feb. 2** Jacobs presents a lecture titled, “American hibakusha: the history of Americans exposed to radiation,” as part of the Hiroshima Peace Institute 7th English Lecture Series at the HCU satellite campus.
 - ◆ **Feb. 14** Jacobs presents a lecture titled, “Nuclear weapons and international relations,” to students from the Law School of Western Sydney University in Hiroshima.
 - ◆ **Feb. 20** Jacobs presents a lecture as the Inaugural Hiroshima Seminar at the Museum of Literature Ireland, hosted by University College Dublin.
 - ◆ **Mar. 6** Xianfen Xu contributes an article entitled, “The Beginning of Japan’s ODA to China,” to Kawashima Shin and Inoue Masaya eds. (March 2024) Masayoshi Ohira’s Diplomacy toward China and East Asia: From the Economy to the Solidarity Initiative for the development of the Pacific Rim, PHP Editors Group, Chapter 12, pp. 431-466.
 - ◆ **Mar. 8** Kato contributes a research report entitled, “Russia and ASEAN under the Ukraine Crisis – Background of Strategic Partnership,” on the website of the Japan Institute of International Affairs.
 - ◆ **Mar. 12** Okimura presents a lecture entitled, “Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine and Japanese Energy Security,” as “Global Issues” special lecture at the Hiroshima Jogakuin High School.
 - ◆ **Mar. 13** Kato presents a keynote lecture entitled, “Russia and East Asia -- Change, Continuity, and Prospects after the Russo-Ukraine War,” at the online seminar “Hokkaido Symposium on International Affairs in Northeast Asia 2024,” organized by the Hokkaido International Exchange and Cooperation Center (HIECC), via Zoom.
 - ◆ **Mar. 18** Xu presents a paper entitled, “China’s Foreign Policy” at the “Governance and Peace in Asia II” conference hosted by the Hiroshima Peace Institute, held at the HCU Satellite Campus.
 - ◆ **Mar. 20** Xu presents a lecture titled, “Japan-China Relations and East Asia Regional Cooperation,” to students from the School of Political Science and Economics of Waseda University, at Chisun Hotel Hiroshima.
 - ◆ **Mar. 21** Kato delivers a presentation entitled, “Strengthening Ties between Russia and North Korea under the Russia-Ukraine War,” at the international conference “The Path of Trilateral Security Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific Era,” organized by the Institute for Global Strategy and Cooperation (ROK) and KEIO Center for Contemporary Korean Studies (Japan) in Seoul.
 - ◆ **Mar. 29** Kato contributes an article entitled, “The Impact of the Invasion of Ukraine on Russia-DPRK Relations: From the Perspective of Great Power Competition and Transition of National Interests,” to the journal “Russian Eurasian Society,” No. 1070 [in Japanese].
 - ◆ **Apr. 7** Tetsuo Sato attends the Board of Councilors of the Japanese Society of International Law, held online.
 - ◆ **May 1-3** Hyun Jin Son participates in the “2024 Global Strategy Special Committee Workshop,” held in Seoul, Korea and is appointed as a Special Committee Member of the Global Strategy.
 - ◆ **May 10** Kato delivers a presentation entitled, “Russia’s Turn to the East Policy after the War in Ukraine,” at the workshop “Contesting Authorities in Central Asia: Prospects, Concerns and Balances,” held in a hybrid format (in-person and online via Zoom) at the Centre for Oriental Studies, University of Tartu.
 - ◆ **May 17** Jacobs presents a lecture titled, “Global hibakusha during the Cold War,” to students from Southern Illinois University at the HCU Satellite Campus in Hiroshima.
 - ◆ **May 19** Jacobs presents a lecture titled, “Radiation exposures and legacies of nuclear technologies,” to study abroad students from the University of California and students from Meiji Gakuin University at JMS Aster Plaza in Hiroshima.
 - ◆ **May 21** Toshiya Umehara presents a lecture titled, “Japanese Media Coverage on Japan-ROK relations: Facts and Norms,” at the Hiroshima Korea Forum 2024, co-hosted by Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Hiroshima and the Hiroshima Peace Institute, held at Hilton Hiroshima.
 - ◆ **Jun. 4** Jacobs presents a lecture titled, “How millions harmed by nuclear weapons and power have been made invisible during the Cold War and After,” to the History Seminar Series at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia.
 - ◆ **Jun. 16** Sato attends the Board of Councilors of the Japanese Society of International Law, held online.
 - ◆ **Jun. 21** Son receives the Civil Merit Medal in the category of Unification Education from the Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea at the 2024 Unification Cultural Event, held at Cheonggyecheon, Korea.
 - ◆ **Jun. 23** Umehara presents a lecture titled, “Atomic Bomb, Wars, Nuclear Weapons and Peace,” as part of the prior training session for International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future, Hiroshima 2024.
 - ◆ **Jun. 29-30** Son participates as a steering committee member and a moderator of the session in the 21st International Conference of the Korea-Japan Next Generation Academic Forum, held at the Fukuoka Campus of Japan University of Economics.

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



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