



Listening to the Discussions at the Third Meeting of State Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)

Toshiya Umehara

The Third Meeting of States Parties (3MSP) to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) was held at the UN Headquarters in New York from March 3 to 7, 2025. I took advantage of this opportunity to travel to the U.S. using research funding from Hiroshima City University's AY 2024 Distinctive Research Project "Joint Research on the Impact of Perceptions of 'Hiroshima and Nagasaki' on the Issue of Nuclear Weapon Use" and attended the 3MSP as an observer. As the global nuclear disarmament process stagnates, I was able to obtain valuable insights that will lead to future research regarding the current situation in which nuclear ban supporters have a strong sense of crisis about the risk of nuclear weapons being used.

A flurry of references to "80 years since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki"

The entire tone for the 3MSP was set by the high-level opening session featuring UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Izumi Nakamitsu and other senior officials, and the general exchange of views, in which representatives of each country (including observer countries), international organizations, and civil society NGOs spoke without being bound by any specific topic. As was to be expected, it was notable that many speakers referred to the fact that this year marks 80 years since the first use of nuclear weapons in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo) at the end of last year. Furthermore, the overwhelming majority of comments referred to the "nuclear taboo," that is, the norms of nuclear non-use, and expressed strong concern over risks of using nuclear weapons.

Data highlighting the awareness of the nuclear taboo

An analysis of all 76 statements made by countries and organizations in the opening session and the general exchange of views revealed that 100% of the countries and organizations made some form of negative reference to the use of nuclear weapons. Meanwhile, 66 out of the same 76 statements (86.8%) called for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Although this was also an extremely high proportion, not all speakers mentioned it. However, this count shows that the nuclear taboo was given particular attention at this conference. In addition, there were a total of 29 statements (38.2%) that mentioned the proper nouns "Hiroshima" and "Nagasaki" or

"80 years ago" as the historical reference point of the only wartime usages of nuclear weapons. These references were by far the most frequent among those regarding specific place names and historical events.

Process of "stigmatizing" nuclear weapons underway

Although a wide range of thematic agenda items were discussed outside the general exchange of views, a consistent theme in many of the topics was concern for the victims of nuclear weapons and the idea that nuclear weapons must never be used in order to ensure that no such victims are ever created again. First, the establishment of a trust fund to support "Global Hibakusha," who are the victims of nuclear weapons as a result of nuclear testing, uranium mining, and other nuclear affairs, has been set as a desired goal of the First Review Conference, scheduled to be held at the end of 2026. Of course, this is primarily a move based on the recognition of the moral responsibility to alleviate the plight of the victims that continues to this day. At the same time, however, it is also part of a process of spreading awareness that the mere existence of nuclear weapons poses enormous and unacceptable humanitarian risks, and of strengthening the restraints on nuclear weapons ever being used again by "stigmatizing" them. Furthermore, based on the concept of evidence-based policy making (EBPM), there is a growing movement to point out as a scientific fact the dire humanitarian and global environmental consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and to re-examine nuclear weapons as a genuine security threat.

What is being asked of "absentee" Japan?

There are nuclear-armed states that, while they consider nuclear abolition to be ideal, have entrenched their reliance on nuclear deterrence by citing "security concerns" for their own countries and allies, endorsing nuclear arms expansion rather than nuclear disarmament, as well as countries that depend on extended nuclear deterrence. How will these countries respond to the issues raised by pro-TPNW states? These are also issues for Japan, which once again decided not to participate in the 3MSP as an observer state. As mentioned above, the terms "Hiroshima" and "Nagasaki" were heard so frequently in the conference hall that it raised even greater questions about how Japan will grapple with the nuclear taboo in the coming era.

(Professor at HPI)

Contents

Listening to the Discussions at the Third Meeting of State Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)	Toshiya Umehara	1
International Symposium		
“Victims of Nuclear Weapons in Global Contexts: Appealing – ‘No More Hibakusha’ Now”	Toshiya Umehara	2
New Publication		
<i>Introduction to Hiroshima: Survey and Research [Hiroshima chōsa kenkyū nyūmon: genbaku higai wo shiraberu hito no tamen o gaidobukku]</i>	Makiko Takemoto	3
Research on Japan-China Civil Cultural Exchange and Thanks to the Takashi Matsuo-Zaidan Foundation	Yu Yanan	4
Thinking about Peace Education from the Perspective of Peace Studies	Yoshinobu Yanagi	5
Hello from HPI	Shiro Sato	6
Hello from HPI	Shun Oshita	6
Hello from HPI	Shota Moriue	6
HPP Lecture for Students delivered by the UNIDIR Director, Dr. Robin Geiss	Yoshihisa Furukawa	7
The First Online Briefing Session on Admission to the Graduate School of Peace Studies 2025	Hyun Jin Son	7
Diary		8

International Symposium

“Victims of Nuclear Weapons in Global Contexts: Appealing – ‘No More Hibakusha’ Now”

Toshiya Umehara

On November 30, 2024, the Hiroshima Peace Institute, in collaboration with the Chugoku Shimbun and the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (RECNA), Nagasaki University, held an international symposium entitled “Victims of Nuclear Weapons in Global Contexts: Appealing – ‘No More Hibakusha’ Now” at the International Conference Center Hiroshima.

The year 2024 marks 70 years since the launch of Japan’s nationwide anti-A- and H-bomb movement, which was sparked by the hydrogen bomb test at Bikini Atoll and the Lucky Dragon No. 5 incident. The symposium also came at a time when the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, drawing renewed attention to the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and the unacceptable damage they cause. The suffering of “Global Hibakusha,” people exposed to radiation from nuclear tests and other events around the world, lies on the same continuum as the experiences of the atomic bomb survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki who suffered indescribable hardships as a result of the atomic bombings, when viewed from the perspective of the inhumanity of nuclear weapons. This symposium was designed to take this recognition as a starting point to reexamine the true nature of nuclear risk. The 220 audience members who filled the venue responded with comments such as, “I was impressed by how each speaker had a different perspective, yet they all came together in one story.” Highlights from each speaker’s remarks are summarized below. (honorifics omitted; Job titles and affiliations are as at the time of the symposium)

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ Keynote Speech: Robert Jacobs (Professor, Hiroshima Peace Institute)

Nuclear weapons are not just a form of violence when they are used in warfare, but that their mere existence is itself violence. To reach the point where nuclear weapon states have produced, tested, and deployed these weapons, even if they assert that it is for deterrence, they have already committed violence against human beings and the ecosystem as a whole.

The term global hibakusha refers to those human beings who have been exposed to radiation since 1945, in three categories: from nuclear weapon testing; from nuclear accidents; and through the production of nuclear weapons and nuclear fuel. Collectively, there have been many millions of such people since 1945 all around the world. Less than a decade after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, nuclear-armed states began incorporating the effects of fallout into their operational planning and have continued to build their strategies on this basis. A total of 2,121 nuclear weapons tests have been conducted on every continent except South America and Antarctica, with hundreds of millions of people affected by fallout. There has always been a nuclear colonialism that underlies the selection of nuclear weapon test sites.

During the Cold War, no populations would experience exposure to large bursts of external radiation. Rather, millions would experience what the people exposed to the black rain in Hiroshima experienced, having large amounts of radioactive particles dumped into the ecosystem where they live, finding their way into their bodies. This is a more invisible and quiet violence. This is a violence that is easy to deny and dismiss. In reality, during the Cold War, a nuclear detonation occurred every 8.6 days. For people living in the Marshall Islands, Kazakhstan, southern Utah, French Polynesia, and

South Australia, nuclear war has occurred.

Report I: Hideaki Ito (Documentary Film Director and Television Director)

I made the film “Silent Fallout” with the intention of conveying that the entire North American continent is contaminated by nuclear radiation and that all the people living there are victims of nuclear weapons. The key is a sense of ownership; problems cannot be solved by treating them as someone else’s problem. During the film screening tour in the U.S., I told audience members that I wanted them to first know that they were all sacrificing their health and lives in order to have nuclear weapons. I would like to work hard so that one day the time will come when everyone on this planet can think of nuclear issues as environmental issues and approach them with a sense of ownership.

Report II : Mayu Seto (Member of Kakuwaka Hiroshima, a group of citizens of Hiroshima working toward a nuclear-free world)

What first inspired me to take action to abolish nuclear weapons was my encounter with “Hibakusha.” I realized that though our ordinary lives are part of a system that causes others to be irradiated, I had unconsciously placed myself on the side of the victims regarding the nuclear issue simply because I was born and raised in Hiroshima. Only after the facts are known can voices of indignation be raised and change be brought about. When I visited the Marshall Islands, local people shared what they carried in their hearts with me in a variety of ways. I hope I can feel with my heart, even just a little, what kind of people were there and what kind of suffering they experienced.

Report III : Tatsujiro Suzuki (Professor, Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University [RECNA])

Science should exist independently of war. However, the reality of history is that entanglement of science with war will not disappear unless we change the social system and eliminate the causes of war. The reliability of the nuclear deterrence system is now being jeopardized by advanced technology, and we must consider how dangerous reliance on nuclear deterrence really is. Given the advances being made in civilian technology, its impact needs to be considered by society as a whole, not left solely to military experts, and a code of conduct is needed. Civil society as a whole needs to improve its oversight capacity.

Report IV : Hiromi Morita (Staff Writer, the Chugoku Shimbun)

The Hiroshima experience is by no means a local event of the past but continues to raise a pressing issue today. War and nuclear hazards keep occurring around the world up until now. Twenty years ago, I wrote a series of feature articles entitled “50 Years After the Bikini Atoll Disaster”, and what became clear to me there then was precisely the issue of colonialism. I believe that what I should do as a journalist is to maintain a bird’s-eye view of the world and continue to report on what nuclear weapons bring to humanity from a “perspective below the mushroom cloud.” I will continue to appeal for realism deeply rooted in humanity that recognizes that nuclear weapons and humanity cannot coexist and the only way to eliminate the risks of nuclear weapons is to abolish them.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
The second part was a panel discussion, moderated by the author. In a post-symposium survey using a four-point rating scale, 53% of participants answered, “very satisfied”. Combined with those who answered “satisfied,” the figure was 87%, proving that the symposium was very well received.

(Professor at HPI)



Introduction to Hiroshima: Survey and Research [Hiroshima chōsa kenkyū nyūmon: genbaku higai wo shiraberu hito no tamen no gaidobukku]

Edited and published by Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University in March 2025.
Price: 1,980 yen including tax

Makiko Takemoto

In March 2025, the Hiroshima Peace Institute (HPI) published a new book titled *Introduction to Hiroshima: Survey and Research*. It was published to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings and the 30th anniversary of the founding of Hiroshima City University. The articles in the book were written mainly by faculty members of HPI and other members of Hiroshima City University. The book is intended to serve as an essential guide for surveys and research related to the atomic bombings and Hiroshima.

Chapter 1 titled “Research Guide” introduces key databases and foundational literature for beginning research on Hiroshima. It also provides guidance on how to approach different types of research materials. Chapter 2, “Research in Hiroshima,” highlights important facilities in the city of Hiroshima and Hiroshima Prefecture that preserve and exhibit materials related to the atomic bombing. These facilities include museums where visitors can learn about the history of war and Hiroshima’s involvement in it.

Chapter 3, “Experiencing Hiroshima,” is organized around two sub-themes, “August 6” and “Tracing the Imprints of the A-bomb.” This chapter describes 28 commemorative events held annually around August 6 at various locations in Hiroshima. It also offers guidance for further research on Hiroshima and the atomic bombing including how to interview Hibakusha and how to find guided tours of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park.

When people begin research on the atomic bombings, the first thing that often comes to their mind is to visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum. However, even if you are unable to visit Hiroshima, there are still many opportunities for such learning. Across Japan, numerous facilities offer insights into the atomic bombing and the history of war. Chapter 4, “Research in Japan,” introduces 28 facilities in Japan, including peace museums, exhibitions and archives on nuclear issues.

Chapter 5 is titled “Doors to Understanding Atomic Bombings and Nuclear Issues.” As the final chapter, it suggests various themes for further research on nuclear issues and offers global perspectives on them. An essential and comprehensive bibliography on Hiroshima is also included, providing valuable resources for those seeking to deepen their study of Hiroshima.

In 2025, the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings, global interest in Hiroshima and Nagasaki is growing, particularly due to the Nobel Peace Prize awarded in October 2024 to the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo), as well as recent nuclear tensions in international politics. We hope that the publication of this book will serve as an opportunity for people to reflect on the contemporary significance of Hiroshima.

(Associate Professor at HPI)



Facilities and memorial ceremonies are briefly introduced in half or one-page formats. QR codes* provide easy access to related websites. Further information is provided through “Columns” and “Literature” sections.

(*QR Code is a registered trademark of DENSO WAVE INCORPORATED in Japan and in other countries.)



Research on Japan-China Civil Cultural Exchange and Thanks to the Takashi Matsuo-Zaidan Foundation

Yu Yanan

Introduction

What prompts you to begin research may not be a significant incident, but a trivial, everyday thought that just crosses your mind. My research began just like that. I did not intend to do anything amazing from the beginning; I just looked deeply into what I was interested in, thought about what I could write about the results, and finally analyzed the research results. As a Chinese person studying in Japan, I came up with the theme of “Japan-China Civil Exchange.”

The first question I had

There have been many discussions and studies on exchanges between Japan and China. There are many papers that examine exchanges between Japan and China from various angles, such as politics, economics, culture, and society. Therefore, I think it is more difficult than expected to conduct in-depth research in a different direction or from a single angle and express original ideas. Nevertheless, I decided to study Japan-China exchanges, particularly the people-to-people exchanges, because I have felt a sense of discomfort since I was in my home country.

Because my father worked at the Foreign Trade and Economic Service Center for many years, I have seen the politeness and kindness of people from Japan and South Korea. I once received some panda-patterned goods from a kind old Japanese woman. These experiences gave me the impression that “there are kind people in every country.” However, as I went to junior high school, high school, and then university, the opinions I saw online gradually shifted in the direction of “hating Japan” and “hating China.” The Japanese teachers who helped me at university were also very kind people, and the contrast between this “kindness of the people around me” and the “abusive language online” was so drastic that I felt uncomfortable. Why is there such a big difference? Which one is true thought? This was the first question I had, and it made me want to know more about the interactions between the people of Japan and China, rather than between the two governments.

Courtesy visit to the Takashi Matsuo-Zaidan Foundation

After coming to Japan, I looked into the results of a Japan-China Joint Public Opinion Poll conducted by The Genron NPO and the China International Publishing Group. However, the results did not resolve my question. Rather, I just became more and more confused. This is because there are many Japanese people who have a negative impression of China, and many Chinese people who have a negative impression of Japan. Meanwhile, the professors, staff, and students at the international student dormitory at Hiroshima City University were kind and seemed interested in my life in China. I was a little puzzled. I visited the Takashi Matsuo-Zaidan Foundation not knowing what to believe or what to doubt. That was a turning point for me.

I had researched the Takashi Matsuo-Zaidan Foundation beforehand and knew that the foundation provides grants and supports programs to promote culture, the arts, and international exchange. However, it was during a conversation that I recognized that there were still some things I did not know. I had been curious

about some posters on the wall, and Secretary-General Yoshihiro Kimoto kindly explained to me about them, perhaps realizing that I had been looking at them from time to time. I then learned for the first time that there is an annual event called “Pop Culture Hiroshima” aimed at promoting international mutual understanding and cultural exchange. In addition, it seems that concerts have also been held there in the past. It was natural that I did not know about this, having lived in one city in China all my life. The first thing that came to my mind was, “Are there any exchange programs and activities between the people of Japan and China that I do not know about?”

Japan-China civil cultural exchange programs and activities

This courtesy visit opened my eyes to a whole new world. If there were any exchange programs and activities between the people of Japan and China that I did not know about and could not participate in, I thought I would start by looking into all the programs and activities I could. However, due to time limitations, I decided to narrow my scope to the period of the aforementioned public opinion poll and look into as many Japan-China civil cultural exchange programs and activities as possible that were conducted before and after the COVID-19 pandemic period.

During my research, I noticed something interesting. My initial expectation was that there were only a few Japan-China civil cultural exchange programs and activities, involving only a small number of people, so they would end up going unnoticed. I wondered if there would be 20 such programs and activities, or maybe 30. However, the results I found far exceeded my expectations. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, there were 362 programs and activities in 2017, 402 in 2018, and 278 in 2019. Even with the impact of COVID-19, there were 76 programs and activities in 2020, 63 in 2021, and 236 in 2022. I was very surprised that so many programs and activities were being carried out every year. At the same time, I noticed various problems, but my joy grew.

Due to time constraints, the amount of material I was able to collect was insufficient, and I was unable to compile a summary of all Japan-China civil cultural exchange programs and activities held between 2017 and 2022. However, I was able to confirm that, even if only partially, Japan-China civil cultural exchange has not been suspended in recent years. I also learned that even in times of emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic, there are people who continue to work hard to promote Japan-China civil cultural exchange. Having uncovered these two facts, I felt encouraged and hopeful about the future of Japan-China civil cultural exchanges. I think I will be able to continue trusting in the kindness of the people that I have believed in all along.

Conclusion

Finally, I would like to once again express my deepest gratitude to the Takashi Matsuo-Zaidan Foundation. Thanks to the scholarship, I was able to concentrate on my research and confirm many facts with my own eyes. I truly appreciate it.

(Graduate of the Master's Program in Peace Studies)

Thinking about Peace Education from the Perspective of Peace Studies

Yoshinobu Yanagi

I retired from working for Hiroshima municipal high school, where I had been for 38 years, and entered the Graduate School of Peace Studies at Hiroshima City University in April 2024. One of the reasons I became interested in peace studies was the experience of a university student who was a volunteer guide for the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. During a tour guide by her, an international student could no longer bear the cruelty of the atomic bombing and strongly refused to listen to her guide, and she was unable to say anything. If the purpose of peace education up to high school is just to “pass on the experience of the atomic bombing,” then this university student can be said to have acted in an appropriate way. However, at the same time, I doubt that current peace education can develop young people’s “ability to communicate” and “ability to act.”

In the revised Hiroshima City Education Guidelines for fiscal 2021, Hiroshima City clearly stated that it will “further promote peace education that ensures that students understand the reality of the atomic bombing and the progress of reconstruction, and develop their own ideas about peace and the ability to act based on those ideas.” In addition, the Hiroshima City Board of Education reviewed the teaching methods and contents of peace education from 2020 to 2022, and in accordance with the basic policy, formulated a consistent peace education program for Hiroshima City elementary, junior high, and high schools.

The outline of this program indicates that in order to develop students as builders of a peaceful and sustainable society, they will acquire the following knowledge and competences:

- Knowledge about the reality of the atomic bombing and war, etc.
- The ability to think, judge, and express themselves to solve problems they face
- The competence to respect themselves and others and to better communicate with others
- Mentality to respect human beings and nature, and want for world peace

With this revision of the program, the majority of the teaching materials for high schools have also been created with the latest information, and the details are in line with the purpose of the 2018 revision of the curriculum guidelines. The book “Hiroshima Peace Workbooks - Realization of a Sustainable Society (High School Edition)” is distributed every year to all the students enrolled in Hiroshima City’s seven high schools, secondary education school, and special needs school.

Among Hiroshima City High Schools, Motomachi, Funairi, Hiroshima Municipal Commercial, and Hiroshima Municipal Technical High Schools have a history of being affected by the atomic bomb, and therefore have been involved in initiatives such as lectures by graduates on their experiences of the bombing and school memorial ceremonies. This is significantly different from the other schools that were established after the war, i.e., Numata, Misuzugaoka, and Hiroshima Mirai Sousei High School, Hiroshima Secondary Education School, and Special Needs School.

Based on the current implementation status of peace education set by each school, I am conducting research and analysis on how

peace education is used to realize the student image that each school aims to achieve. In addition, for schools that implement peace education in the “comprehensive inquiry time” introduced in 2019, I am conducting a survey on the qualities and competences of students they aim to cultivate, lesson plans, results, and challenges. In this survey, I received cooperation from eight Hiroshima municipal high schools and junior high schools, as well as three high schools outside Hiroshima prefecture, and received valuable responses from the eight schools to the school questionnaire and from approximately 2,700 students from both inside and outside Hiroshima to the student questionnaire. In the future, I plan to continue researching the transition of peace education, including the education given by atomic bomb survivor teachers after the war.

Since I entered this graduate school last year, I have had three opportunities to reexamine war and peace from outside of “Hiroshima.” The first was in July, when Associate Professor Hyun Jin Son took me on a peace study trip to Korea, where I learned about the history of the war seen from Korea at the Ministry of Unification, the National Memorial for Abductees during the Korean War, and the War Memorial of Korea. The second was in November, when I accompanied the Hiroshima team (students from this university) who participated in the event to communicate, inherit, and exchange “Thoughts on Peace,” which was organized by Okinawa Prefecture. Lastly, in December, I participated in a peace study trip to Korea organized by the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea, interacted with graduate students from Dongseo University, and had the opportunity to meet with Shim Jin-Tae, director of the Hapcheon branch of the Korean Atomic Bomb Victims Association, and Jeong Won-Sul, chairman of the Korean Atomic Bomb Victims Association, who participated as a member of the delegation to the Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony of the Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo), at the Hapcheon Atomic Bomb Museum, known as the “Hiroshima of Korea.”

During the workshop in Okinawa, I deepened my dialogue with students and leaders from Okinawa, Nagasaki, Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Cambodia, and it was a very valuable experience to learn about the different war histories and perceptions of “peace” from those of Hiroshima. These three experiences broadened my knowledge and I learned more than I had expected when I enrolled for graduate studies.

In March 2023, the Central Council for Education issued a report on the “Next Basic Plan for the Promotion of Education,” which presented two concepts: “fostering creators for a sustainable society towards post-2040” and “improving the Japanese way of well-being.” Although the word “peace” does not appear here, I believe it is impossible to achieve a “sustainable society” or to “improve well-being” in a life where lives are threatened by war. As someone who has been involved in education for nearly 40 years, I would like to conduct research at this graduate school from the perspective of peace studies on how to transform Hiroshima’s peace education, which has so far focused on learning about the reality of the atomic bombing, into peace education that cultivates the qualities and competences required to build a peaceful and sustainable international society.

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

Hello from HPI

Shiro Sato Professor

Dr. Shiro Sato was born in Osaka City and grew up in Hirakata City, Osaka Prefecture. After graduating from the Faculty of Commerce at Doshisha University, he obtained M. A. in International Politics and International Security from the Department of Peace Studies at the University of Bradford (U.K.), and received Ph. D. in International Relations from the Graduate School of International Relations, Ritsumeikan University. Dr. Sato was a post-doctoral research fellow of the Afrasian Centre for Peace and Development Studies at Ryukoku University, and a G-COE Research Fellow of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Kyoto University. He worked for the Faculty of International Liberal Arts at Osaka International University as an associate professor, and the Faculty of Bioindustry at Tokyo University of Agriculture as a professor. His books include: *International Politics of Nuclear Weapons and Hibakusha* (Akashi-syoten, 2022, in Japanese), *Japan's Contemporary Diplomacy: Issues and Debates* (Horitsu Bunka Sha, 2024, in Japanese), [co-eds.] *Reading E. H. Carr* (Nakanishiya, 2022, in Japanese).



It is my pleasure to join as a member of the Hiroshima Peace Institute from this spring. I major in International Relations, Security Studies and Peace Studies. I am interested in politics and ethics of the use of nuclear weapons, and Japan's policy of nuclear disarmament as well as non-proliferation. I would like to contribute to the City of Hiroshima by exploring the political conditions for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Shun Oshita Lecturer

Dr. Shun Oshita, born and raised in Hiroshima, brings to this position a decade of research and professional experience in peace, development, and international affairs. His publications analyse disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction through the lens of international law and international organisations.

Previously, he served as a Researcher/Advisor at the Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna and was the Rapporteur of the Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee of the IAEA's Board of Governors in 2023. He also worked at the International Legal Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. He was a Research Associate/Assistant Professor at Waseda University, which awarded him a master's degree and a Ph.D. in Law.



I'm truly excited to begin my new career at the Hiroshima Peace Institute in 2025, marking 80 years since the creation of the UN Charter, the atomic bomb attacks on Nagasaki and Hiroshima, and the end of World War II, among other significant events. In my role, I embrace the unique opportunity to contribute to the new agenda for peace and a world without nuclear weapons.

International law guides interactions among states and serves as a vital framework for globalising national societies, enabling individuals to be more open-minded and inspiring chance, order, and change to enhance peace efforts worldwide. I dedicate my efforts to truth, progress, and justice, which help us avoid pandering to shallow politics and the ivory tower of academics, while trusting in the power of reason to achieve a world without nuclear weapons. I look forward to collaborating with you on peace endeavors!

Shota Moriue Lecturer

Dr. Shota Moriue was born in Hiroshima City. Graduated from College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Tokyo, he received a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Tokyo School of Law. After working at the Legislative Bureau of the House of Representatives (during which he also served as a Visiting Fellow at Clare Hall, University of Cambridge), he held positions at the Hiroshima City Hall and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. While serving in these institutions, he completed the doctoral program at the Graduate School of Peace Studies, Hiroshima City University, in March 2024. He holds a Ph.D. in Peace Studies. His publications include: *Mikan no Heiwa Kinen Toshi—Hiroshima Heiwa Kinen Toshi Kensetsu Hou no Kiseki to Tembo* (The Incomplete Peace Memorial City—The History and Prospects of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial City Construction Law) published by Ronsosha in 2024.



It is my great pleasure and honor to begin a new career at the Hiroshima Peace Institute, known as the “hub of wisdom” of Hiroshima, especially in this milestone year commemorating 80 years since the atomic bombing. Before coming here, I had been engaged in legislative and administrative work in both national and local governments.

My research focuses on the history of Hiroshima's postwar revival. In particular, I examine the Hiroshima Peace Memorial City Construction Law, which came into force on the 6th of August, 1949. I am interested in the role this act played in the reconstruction of Hiroshima city, as well as in how successive mayors of Hiroshima have implemented its Article 6, which provides: the Mayor of Hiroshima shall, with the cooperation of residents and support from relevant organizations, establish a program of continuous activity toward completion of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial City. Through this lens, I explore the specific “continuous efforts” (commonly referred to as peace administration) undertaken by each mayor.

Looking ahead to the 100th anniversary of the atomic bombing, I hope to contribute to the preservation and transmission of Hiroshima's urban memory as an International City of Peace and Culture, by systematically organizing and documenting the city's history of reconstruction.

HPP Lecture for Students delivered by the UNIDIR Director, Dr. Robin Geiss

Yoshihisa Furukawa

On May 24, 2025, the Hiroshima Platform for Peace Studies and Education (HPP) invited Dr. Robin Geiss, Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), to give a lecture for students. At the beginning of the lecture, Director Geiss noted that even 80 years after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, nuclear weapons continue to cast a dark shadow over the future of humanity and that momentum for global nuclear disarmament is fading. He pointed out that global military spending has reached a record high of \$2.7 trillion, while the UN's annual budget is just \$3.5 billion, leaving very little investment in diplomacy. He also warned about the growing risks of the modernization and proliferation of nuclear weapons, and that major arms control and disarmament treaties, such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START), are in danger of collapsing.

Next, he cited new security threats, such as the military use of AI technology, cyberattacks, and biological weapons, and noted that these technologies are changing the traditional balance of power between nations and creating unpredictable risks. In particular, he emphasized that as arms control is undergoing a shift from one centered on maximizing “destructive

power” to one driven by the pursuit of “speed” marked by increasing reliance on drones and AI, and there is an urgent need to develop a legal framework to address ethical issues, such as lethal autonomous weapon systems.

He then stated that in order to address these increasingly multipolar threats, it is necessary to restore political momentum and that trust-building through continuous diplomatic dialogue and verification measures, as well as active participation by younger generations and the private sector in the fields of science and technology, are essential. He stressed the importance of intergenerational dialogue to pass on the memories of atomic bomb survivors, particularly in Japan.

Finally, he stated that international cooperation is essential to resolving global issues, including the nuclear threat, and that the United Nations, which will celebrate its 80th anniversary in 2025, is the only universal forum for dialogue to facilitate a consensus among nations, however slow and difficult the process may be, and it will strive to achieve this goal with the involvement of civil society under Japan's spirit of “fall down seven times, get up eight.”

*(Chief of the Academic Affairs and Faculty Administration Division,
Hiroshima City University)*

The First Online Briefing Session on Admission to the Graduate School of Peace Studies 2025

Hyun Jin Son

The Hiroshima Peace Institute (HPI) held the first online briefing session of AY 2025 on admission to the Graduate School of Peace Studies (GSPS) via Zoom on June 6, 2025. We were pleased to have nine participants this time.

As in the previous online briefing sessions, an outline of the GSPS and the entrance examination system were introduced at the beginning. Then, the possible career paths of graduates, scholarship opportunities, and the status of the acceptance of international students were explained. A current graduate student in the master's program at GSPS shared her experiences on study and research at GSPS as well as student life in Hiroshima. In the second half, the participants talked individually with faculty members, graduate students and administrative staff using Zoom's breakout room function.

(Associate Professor/Admission Committee at HPI)

The Forthcoming Online Briefing Session on Admission to the Graduate School of Peace Studies in 2025

The second online briefing session on admission to the GSPS for AY 2025 will be held on October 10, 2025. Everyone is welcome, not only those who would like to study at the GSPS from 2026 but also those who would like to get information about the entrance exam for future enrollment. We will be better able to answer your questions if you could send them in advance. English explanations are also available.

Date and time: October 10, 2025 (Japan Standard Time)

Meeting format: Online (Zoom meeting)

Fee for the participation: Free

Deadline of application: October 3, 5 p.m.

Contact: nyushi@m.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp
(Admissions Office, Hiroshima City University)

For further information, please visit the HPI website.



2025

- ◆ **Jan. 16** Akihiro Kawakami presents a lecture titled, “Pacifism in the Constitution of Japan and the Perspective of Hiroshima,” to students at Kyungpook National University in Korea as a special lecture of the Short-term Study Program for Academic Exchange Partner Universities, at HCU.
- ◆ **Jan. 26** Chie Shijo delivers a presentation titled, “Narratives of Prostitution and the Atomic Bomb: The Case of the West Red-Light District in Hiroshima City,” at the 2024 Open Topic Research Presentation of the Comprehensive Women’s History Society Association, held online.
- ◆ **Feb. 19** Hitoshi Nagai presents a paper on “The Tokyo Trial and the Philippines” at the International Symposium “War & Memory: 80 Years After,” held at Lyceum of the Philippines University, Manila, Philippines.
- ◆ **Mar. 15** Shijo delivers a presentation titled, “The Potential of ‘Blank Space’ in Tanka Poems and Haiku,” at the 74th Atomic Bomb Literature Study Group’s “Joint Critique Session: Reading haiku and tanka poems from the people involved in the disaster, who are not finished and inescapable,” held at Fukuoka University.
- ◆ **Mar. 18** Nagai attends the 722nd NHK International Broadcast Programs Council meeting, held at the NHK Broadcasting Center, Tokyo.
- ◆ **Mar. 24** Mihoko Kato contributes a research report titled, “Research at OSCE Documentation Centre in Prague (DCiP),” to the website of the Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology Open Laboratory for Emergence Strategies (ROLES) of the University of Tokyo.
- ◆ **Mar. 25** Ryo Oshiba edits the high school civics studies textbook *Revised Edition: Our Public* for the 2026 academic year, published by Shimizu Shoin.
- ◆ **Mar. 26–28** Nagai conducts archival research on the Japanese stragglers during World War II at the Academia Historica and the National Central Library in Taipei, Taiwan.
- ◆ **Mar. 31** Toshiya Umehara and Makiko Takemoto publish the Japanese translation of Robert Jacobs’s *Nuclear Bodies: The Global Hibakusha* with Professors Yuko Kawaguchi and Nagako Sato (Nagoya: Nagoya University Press, 2025).
- ◆ **Apr. 10** Takemoto contributes an article titled “Japanese Anti-nuclear Movements: Local and Transnational Characteristics of Peace Protest in Hiroshima” to Luc-André Brunet and Eirini Karamouzi (eds.), *Beyond the Euromissile Crisis: Global Histories of Anti-nuclear Activism in the Cold War* (New York / Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2025).
- ◆ **Apr. 15** Shiro Sato co-authors a book entitled *Introduction to Politics, 4th Ed.* (Kyoto: Horitsu Bunka Sha, 2025) in Japanese.
- ◆ **Apr. 23–25** Hyun Jin Son delivers a presentation titled, “Possibilities for Japan-South Korea Cooperation on North Korea’s Nuclear and Abduction Issue,” at the “Global Strategy Special Committee Tokyo Conference” hosted by the Peaceful Unification Advisory Council, held in Tokyo.
- ◆ **May 10** Sato delivers a presentation titled, “Lost Scene: A Moral Obligation of Nuclear-Weapon States,” at the Plenary Session “Global Governance through Deliberation and Dialogue” (Public Session), the 18th Research Conference of the Japan Association of Global Governance, held at Hakuoh University.
- ◆ **May 17** Kato presents a lecture titled, “The Rise and Expansion of the ‘Non-Western World’: Examining the Post-Cold War International Order from the Perspective of ‘the Other Side of the Coin’” at the 36th Symposium of the Institute of Eurasian Studies, held at the Tokai University Shinagawa Campus.
- ◆ **May 17** Kawakami delivers a presentation titled, “Thinking

about the Constitution from Hiroshima: Hiroshima and Constitutional Pacifism in a World Facing the Threat of Nuclear War,” at the National Constitutional Research Association (Zenkoku Kenpo Kenkyukai) Spring Conference, held at the Higashi-Senda Campus, Hiroshima University.

- ◆ **May 19** Shun Oshita offers an expert commentary titled “Procedural Governance in Implementing International Export Control Obligations” for the Japanese Society of International Law.
- ◆ **May 23** Shota Moriue presents a lecture titled, “Hiroshima’s Post-war Revival and Initiatives for Peace,” to Turkish diplomats visiting Hiroshima as part of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation’s “Promote Understanding and Dialogue between the Middle East and Japan” project, at the HCU Satellite Campus.
- ◆ **May 25** Kawakami presents a lecture titled, “Hiroshima and the Constitution,” hosted by the Niho Community Center.
- ◆ **May 30** Kato contributes a research report entitled, “Russia and East Asia in 2024: A Turning Point,” to the website of the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA).
- ◆ **May 30** Oshita contributes an article entitled “Promoting Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy through the IAEA: A Special Rule of Due Process for Technical Cooperation Programme” to the *Waseda Law Review*, which focuses on non-power nuclear applications, including medicine and ocean monitoring, based on his field research conducted in Vienna.
- ◆ **May 31** Umehara delivers a presentation titled “The Nuclear Taboo and Japan: the Origin of Victimhood and the Formation of Norms,” at a session of the Peace Studies Association of Japan Spring Convention 2025. ▽Sato participates as a discussant at the same session at the same convention. ▽Kato participates as a discussant in session 3 of “Asian Version of the CSCE / OSCE: Creating a Multilateral Dialogue in Northeast Asia,” at the same convention held at the Osaka Ibaraki Campus, Ritsumeikan University.
- ◆ **Jun. 7** Umehara serves as a moderator and discussant on the “Frontier Panel” at the 2025 Research Conference of the Japan Association of Disarmament Studies. ▽Sato participates as a moderator in the session of “Nuclear Taboo and Nuclear Disarmament and Non-proliferation,” at the same conference held at the Bunkyo Campus, Takushoku University.
- ◆ **Jun. 16** Umehara publishes the Japanese translation of Tom Phuong Le’s *Japan’s Aging Peace: Pacifism and Militarism in the Twenty-First Century* (Tokyo: Misuzu Shobo, 2025).
- ◆ **Jun. 18** Oshita delivers a presentation titled, “Ensuring Decent Work in Africa through Technical Cooperation: A Right-based Approach” at the International Conference on African Development 2025, which is organized by the Ghana Scholarly Society, held online.
- ◆ **Jun. 24** Takemoto presents a paper titled, “Transformation of the West German Peace Movement after the 1968 Movement,” at the 9th Annual Hasekura International Symposium held at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada.
- ◆ **Jun. 28–29** Son participates as a supervising instructor in the 22nd International Conference of the Korea-Japan Next Generation Academic Forum, held in Busan, Korea.

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



HIROSHIMA RESEARCH NEWS

Vol.28 No.1 (September 1, 2025)

- Published by Editorial Committee (Shun Oshita, Mihoko Kato, Xianfen Xu), Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University
3-4-1, Ozuka-higashi, Asaminami-ku, Hiroshima, 731-3194 Japan
Phone: +81 (0) 82 830 1811 Fax: +81 (0) 82 830 1812 E-mail: office-peace@m.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp
- Printed by Letterpress Co., Ltd.