



International Symposium “Memories for the Future: How to Pass Down A-bomb Archives as a Living Testament”

Chie Shijo

The international symposium “Memories for the Future: How to Pass Down A-bomb Archives as a Living Testament” was held on July 19, 2025, at the International Conference Center Hiroshima. The event was co-organized by the Hiroshima Peace Institute (HPI) of Hiroshima City University (HCU), the Chugoku Shimbun, and the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA).

In 2024, Nihon Hidankyo (the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. In the acceptance speech, Mr. Terumi Tanaka, co-chair of Nihon Hidankyo, emphasized the importance of the “No More Hibakusha Project-Inheriting Memories of the A- and H-Bomb Sufferers,” which preserves records of the Hidankyo movement, testimonies of atomic bomb survivors, and records of various local Hidankyo activities. Tanaka described the project as a significant reference for passing the movement on to the next generation. The award shone a light on the survivor movement to date, while also underscoring the importance of postwar archives for understanding it. As the survivors age and fewer people who can speak directly about the experience of the atomic bombings remain, archival records become increasingly significant. At this symposium, which coincided with the 80th anniversary of the bombings, we reviewed the efforts to preserve these archives thus far, including those of Nihon Hidankyo, and reconsidered the challenge of how to link these archival collections to the future.

We invited Yoshie Kurihara, a member of the “No More Hibakusha Project-Inheriting Memories of the A- and H-Bomb Sufferers,” to be the keynote speaker. Her presentation was titled “Preserving the Legacy of Nihon Hidankyo.” Following this, three speakers took the stage and gave presentations reflecting on their respective issues concerning the archives of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The presentations were: “Preserving and Passing Down Materials: Highlights from the Museum’s Special Collection” by Hironobu Ochiba (Curatorial and Exhibition Division Chief Supervisor, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum), “Connecting Pictures: Documenting Hiroshima” by Kyosuke Mizukawa (Staff Writer, the Chugoku Shimbun), and “What the Historical Record



Can Tell Us about the Hibakusha Movements in Nagasaki” by Hibiki Yamaguchi (Program-Specific Associate Professor, Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University).

A video message was also received from Jorgen Watne Frydnes, Chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee. He addressed the attendees, emphasizing the significance of collecting and preserving archives, saying, “We can learn. But learning requires memory, and memory demands effort. That is why your work to collect and preserve materials documenting the damage of the bombings, your photographs, testimonies, objects, and stories is of such global importance.”

The latter half featured a panel discussion, which included questions from the audience. Although we were unable to address every issue within the allotted time, I hope this symposium reaffirmed to the attendees the importance of archives in recording and transmitting information about the damage caused by the atomic bombings. I also hope it served as an opportunity to raise issues surrounding archives. Approximately 170 people attended. We extend our sincere gratitude to the speakers, those involved, and attendees interested in this topic.

(Associate Professor at HPI)

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My Seven Years in Hiroshima

Ryo Oshiba

1. Start of the Graduate School of Peace Studies

I joined the Hiroshima Peace Institute (HPI) at Hiroshima City University when the Graduate School of Peace Studies was established in April 2019. I believed that Hiroshima is one of the best places to study about war, violence, and peace. *The Yomiuri Shimbun*, reported on our graduate program in peace studies. Friends/seniors of mine encouraged us, saying that Hiroshima is the right place to provide peace studies for the younger generations.

Staff members at the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) also responded positively to our program during my visit to the JICA office in Tokyo. I requested that our Graduate School of Peace Studies be included in the partner university list of the JICA Development Studies Program which offers the scholarship for overseas students, as we offer courses on post-conflict, peace-building and international cooperation. However, we were unable to use the JICA program to increase the number of international students from developing countries due to the worldwide spread of COVID-19 after spring 2020.

2. “Speaking Out” from Hiroshima and “Receiving” in Hiroshima

We planned to publish a book of contributions by all HPI members under the title *Hiroshima hatsu no Heiwagaku (A Hiroshima Approach to Peace Studies)* because I was interested in the parochialism of International Relations theories while we were asked to stay at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. International Relations theories are usually developed from our questions based on a global perspective, but with some appearing to reflect the researchers’ national historical experiences and their individual values. Some of the International Relations theories developed in the United States seem to be affected by American historical experiences and the belief systems that prevail there. Can we not develop Japanese International Relations theories based on Japan’s historical experiences, which differ from those of the United States?

The atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki resulted in the complete destruction of human dignity, yet survivors have recovered themselves and sought the abolition of nuclear weapons so that no one in the world would experience such a tragedy again. We believe that, as a peace research institute in Hiroshima, we should develop peace studies grounded in Hiroshima’s experiences.

Hiroshima hatsu no Heiwagaku (A Hiroshima Approach to Peace Studies: 13 Lectures on War and Peace) was published in 2021 by Horitsu Bunka Sha. A book review appeared in the journal of the Peace Studies Association of Japan in 2023. The reviewer, Prof. Nagafumi Nakamura, evaluated our book positively, arguing that it strikes a good balance between presenting Hiroshima perspectives on the atomic bomb and introducing viewpoints

from outside Hiroshima. We should present not only Hiroshima perspectives but also listen to perspectives from outside Hiroshima.

3. Enjoying Communication with Other Departments

Our university has three departments – International Studies, Information Science, and Art – as well as the Hiroshima Peace Institute, and it is enjoyable to communicate with professors/staff from other departments.

Prof. Keiichi Tamura (then vice-President) of Information Science Dept. kindly provided a seminar on databases for HPI faculty members because we planned to develop a database of Atomic Bomb related materials.

Prof. Kaori Maeda (the current University President) and Prof. Toshimitsu Ito, the Director of the Art Museum (the Professor Emeritus) assumed leadership at Hiroshima City University to promote a project establishing a Hiroshima City University Digital Archives with the resources of the Art Museum and HPI. We conducted our project with a financial grant provided by the Toshokan Shinko Zaidan (Foundation for Library Advancement).

We developed HPI Digital Archives in this project. Two expert professors at HPI led the development of the database’s basic framework, and all other faculty and administrative staff participated in collecting information. We published the collected materials, along with brief explanatory articles to assist readers in understanding the contributions, as *Hiroshima Chōsa Kenkyū Nyumon (Introduction to Hiroshima: Survey and Research)* in 2025. We expect that both graduate and undergraduate students will use this research guide to conduct their research using documents/materials.

We are also planning to develop a cross-search system to facilitate academic studies using documents/materials. We are examining how to construct the system at the Hiroshima Platform for Peace Studies and Education, established in January 2024 and composed of Hiroshima University, Hiroshima City University, the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, and the Hiroshima City Government. We wish to thank the strong leadership of Prof. Tamura Keiichi for promoting the project. I believe it will encourage research on the Hiroshima atomic bombing experiences and peace studies.

4. Art and Peace

I had the opportunity to explore parts of Hiroshima City University Digital Archives, which will impress peace studies scholars. These include the *Portrait of Light* (Portraits of Hibakusha painted by faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students of the Dept. of Art), the *Peace Poster* series (exhibited in *Hiroshima Appeals*), drawings of the *Genbaku no Ko no Zo* (Children’s Peace Monument) and other works. You may visit the Hiroshima City University Digital Archives to view them online.

Prof. Yukihiro Yoshida told us fascinating stories about the design of his works and other peace monuments. For example, the Heiwa no Mon (*Peace Gate* monument) was donated by the French government to Hiroshima City on the 60th anniversary of the Atomic Bombing. Prof. Yoshida told us that the layout for installing the *Peace Gate* was designed considering the “Axis of Peace.” He also spoke about the process of restoring Enko Bridge, an elegant bridge designed in the pre-War period, through collaboration with long-time community residents. Hiroshima City regarded this project as one of the activities for the 70th anniversary of the Atomic Bombing.

5. Hiroshima as a Community

One of my former colleagues (Prof. Ikuya Sato) has published a book entitled *Fi-rudo Wa-ku: Sho wo Motte Machi he Deyou* (*Fieldwork: Off with a Book*, Shinyosha, 2006). I believe Hiroshima is a fitting place for it. We were able to know many things outside the campus through various seminars and activities organized not only by the city government but also by the media, civil organizations, and business organizations.

I became interested in Mayor Kazumi Matsui’s ideas on Peace Culture, and I delivered a talk entitled “*Peace Studies and Peace Culture*” at the HPI Public Lecture Series in November 2022. I also had a chance to hear stories of Mr. Hiroshi Harada, former director of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. He told us in the Hiroshima Peace Tourism Meeting that they discussed how to preserve the Atomic Bombed buildings at the time of the 50th anniversary of the Atomic Bombing. They decided to provide subsidies to privately owned buildings, even though neither the national government nor the prefectural government did so. I hope we will share those stories in two ways. First, I would like to inform people who are examining how to maintain disaster-affected buildings, say in Hyogo and Tohoku. Second, I believe Hiroshima should support them by sharing our experiences of reconstruction and recovering ourselves with the people suffering from the destruction caused by war and air attacks, e.g., in Ukraine and Gaza.

HPI has organized an annual international symposium in collaboration with the Chugoku Shimbun and the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA). It has been a fruitful exchange of ideas with them in designing and preparing the symposium.

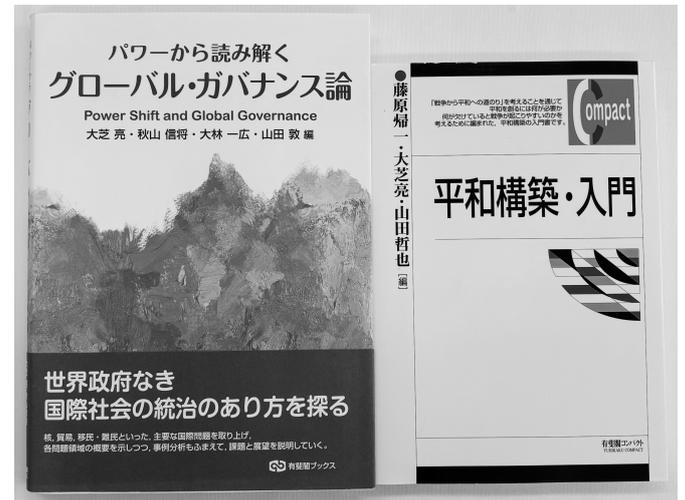
We had the G7 Hiroshima summit in May 2023. In parallel, civil society actors organized the Civil 7 meeting, working together with domestic and international NGOs in response to the summit. I strongly welcome the linkage of NGOs engaging in anti-nuclear issues, human rights issues, environmental issues, and development issues. The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations in 2024. This news has reminded us of the importance of the testimonies of atomic bomb survivors and the way they live, which prompts us to reflect on our own lives.

6. Give Back to the Next Generation

Business schools in the United States have begun to re-examine their educational programs from the perspective of how well they balance knowing, doing, and being.

I am thankful to the people of Hiroshima for giving me many opportunities to know about nuclear weapons, war, violence,

and peace. I could engage in doing various activities checking the usefulness of our peace studies. And, I have re-examined my being and my value system through discussions with our graduate students as well as people from diverse backgrounds. These communications function like an educational program that balances knowing, doing, and being although business school and the Graduate School of Peace Studies are of course different from each other. I would like to pass this knowledge and experience on to the younger generation, including graduate and undergraduate students, and young people in high schools.



At the Graduate School of Peace Studies, I taught courses such as “Global Governance” and “Peacebuilding and the International Society.”



Heiwa no Mon (*Peace Gate* monument), Peace Boulevard, Nakajima-cho Naka-ku, Hiroshima. Photo by the author, November 15th, 2025.

* This text presents a condensed version of my essay published in Hiroshima Peace Research Journal, vol. 13 (March 2026).

(Director and Specially Appointed Professor at HPI)



HPI Public Lecture Series AY 2025: “Perspectives from Hiroshima: An Online Public Lecture Series on 80 Years of Peace”

Toshiya Umehara

From 24 October to 27 November 2025, the Hiroshima Peace Institute offered its annual Public Lecture Series online. The theme for this academic year, “Perspectives from Hiroshima: An Online Public Lecture Series on 80 Years of Peace,” highlighted the historical turning point marked by the eightieth anniversary of the WWII’s end. As generational transmission becomes increasingly difficult, Japan now faces a critical moment of transition. The postwar identity of Japan as a “nation that does not wage war” has long supported a deeply rooted peace consciousness, including a strong societal aversion to nuclear weapons. Yet, as international politics grows more unstable and Japan’s security environment deteriorates, this self-understanding as a peace-oriented nation has begun to show signs of strain. This lecture series revisited the developments from the immediate postwar era to the present, analyzing current challenges and reconsidering what Hiroshima can and should contribute to peace—returning, in a sense, to the moral and historical origins of Hiroshima’s message.

1. The “Non-Nuclear Norms”

In the first lecture, Professor Toshiya Umehara addressed “Transformations of Japan’s Peace and Non-Nuclear Norms.” He surveyed Japan’s trajectory as a peace- and non-nuclear-oriented state through the analytical lens of norms. Prof. Umehara explained the layered structure of the “non-nuclear norms,” including the so-called “nuclear taboo”—the normative idea that nuclear weapons ought not to be used—brought into renewed attention with the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (*Nihon Hidankyo*). He also discussed nonproliferation norms such as “not possessing” and “not allowing others to possess” nuclear weapons. Focusing on the three decades from the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to Japan’s ratification of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Prof. Umehara highlighted a persistent gap: although Hiroshima and Nagasaki embody the very origins of the nuclear taboo, the Japanese government has historically been reluctant to support binding international restrictions on nuclear weapons use. Even so, he emphasized that the normative force of the survivors’ plea—“Let us be the last to suffer this pain”—remains a constitutive element of international reality.

2. Anti-Nuclear Movements

In the second lecture, Associate Professor Makiko Takemoto explored “Eighty Years of Anti-Nuclear Activism.” She began by tracing earlier European peace movements from the nineteenth century, then outlined the development of post-1945 anti-nuclear activism following the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In Japan, the 1954 Lucky Dragon No. 5 (*Daigo Fukuryūmaru*) incident during the Bikini hydrogen bomb tests formed what many called a “third atomic bombing,” galvanizing the nationwide anti-nuclear movement. Meanwhile, Western Europe—particularly West Germany—saw scientific communities playing an especially prominent role in Cold War peace and anti-nuclear mobilization. After the Cold War, activism diversified, expanding to include anti-nuclear-powerplant and environmental movements, as well as NGO-driven initiatives. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons can also be seen as a successor to—and product of—the activism of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), and *Nihon Hidankyo*. Prof. Takemoto underscored the importance of approaching anti-nuclear movements with a comprehensive, historically grounded perspective.

3. Hiroshima as a “City of Peace”

The third lecture, delivered by Lecturer Shota Morie, examined “The Origins of Hiroshima as a ‘City of Peace.’” After reviewing

the scale and characteristics of the atomic bomb damage, he detailed how the devastated city was rebuilt within the new identity of a “City of Peace,” focusing on the legislative process that shaped this transformation. He explained how Mayor Shinzo Hamai and other leaders, in their search for reconstruction funding, pushed for the Hiroshima Peace Memorial City Construction Law, enacted in 1949 as a private member’s bill. The law not only conferred a legal identity on Hiroshima as a city embodying the pacifism of the postwar Constitution, but also had practical aims, such as securing the transfer of former military land. Thus, Hiroshima’s identity as a “City of Peace” was historically intertwined with its earlier character as a “military city.” He concluded by framing the ideals of the Peace Memorial City Law as a “perpetually unfinished project,” emphasizing the importance of continuous dialogue between the mayor and citizens to envision and cultivate the future of Hiroshima as a “City of Peace.”

4. Science and Technology: The IAEA

The fourth lecture, “The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Current Status of Nuclear Legal Regulation,” was presented by Lecturer Shun Oshita. He began by emphasizing that the IAEA is grounded in scientific and technological expertise, while its annual budget and staff size are comparable to those of local governments in Hiroshima Prefecture. Lecturer Oshita explained that IAEA’s safeguards function simultaneously as auditor and detective for nuclear materials. At the same time, the IAEA has provided technical cooperation in the fields of health, agriculture, and the environment. Despite increasing pressures toward “politicization,” the IAEA has managed—under its deliberative culture, the so-called “Vienna Spirit”—to play meaningful roles amid the war against Ukraine. In the context of the Iranian nuclear issue, Lecturer Oshita highlighted the importance of scientific rigor and due process of law for building trust. He concluded by noting that trust is indispensable for nuclear disarmament. This challenge has been acknowledged especially by Hiroshima and Nagasaki, given the two cities’ experience with the destructive aspect of science and technology. In this regard, the IAEA may hold potential as a “gardener of trust” in the international community.

5. The Nuclear Umbrella

In the fifth lecture, Professor Shiro Sato discussed “The Nuclear Umbrella and Our Responsibility.” He argued that while Japan as the “only country to have suffered wartime atomic bombings” aspires to a world free of nuclear weapons, it simultaneously relies on the U.S. nuclear umbrella for national security. Addressing both the functionality and the moral dilemmas of nuclear deterrence, Prof. Sato argued that accepting the nuclear umbrella means condoning the coercive violence inherent in nuclear threats. It also means that Japan could, in principle, become either a perpetrator of nuclear violence or a victim—another hibakusha. He raised fundamental ethical and political questions: Can violence be used to control violence? Can killing human beings—or other living creatures—with nuclear weapons ever be justified? Can the possibility of becoming victims of nuclear war be “tolerated” as an acceptable risk?

Participation and Feedback

The lecture series received 274 registrations, drawing significantly more interest than in the previous years. According to post-event surveys, 56 percent of respondents rated the series as “very satisfying,” and combining those who responded “satisfying,” 94 percent evaluated it positively. Free-text responses included comments such as “extremely insightful,” “I learned many things I did not know,” and “a very meaningful set of lectures.”

(Professor at HPI)



HPI Research Forum

“Critical Area Studies and Global Politics: the False Promise of Global IR”

Shiro Sato

The Hiroshima Peace Institute held a research forum titled “Critical Area Studies and Global Politics: the False Promise of Global IR” on 7 August 2025. We welcomed, as a presenter, Dr. Lindsay Black. He is an associate professor in the international relations of East Asia at the Leiden University Institute for Area Studies (LIAS) in the Netherlands. His most recent major publication is *Disciplining Democracies: Human Insecurity in Japan-Myanmar Relations* (Bristol University Press, 2023) and he has published numerous articles and book chapters.

Dr. Black reviewed the intellectual history of the relationship between Area Studies and International Relations. He outlined the characteristics of Global International Relations (Global IR), which emphasises pluralistic universalism and regional diversity. However, Global IR still faces significant issues such as its state-centric view, insufficient emphasis on disciplines beyond political science, and its contribution to the colonization of knowledge. He therefore stressed the importance of Critical Area Studies. Critical Area Studies critically examines how areas are defined, by whom, and for what purpose, and how researchers themselves relate to the

areas.

As a discussant, Professor Josuke Ikeda (Faculty of Law, Tohoku Gakuin University) posed questions, such as what distinguishes Area Studies from International Relations when studying the same region? How does Critical Area Studies relate to Critical International Relations (Critical IR) or Pluriversal International Relations (Pluriversal IR)? He further questioned how Critical Area Studies perceives the dominance of English as the language of International Relations.

The participants also raised important questions: whether or not the dichotomy between Western International Relations (Western IR) and Non-Western International Relations (Non-Western IR) is itself a Western-centric view, and how we can distinguish between Area Studies scholars and International Relations scholars. Through this research forum, we could reconsider the methodology and epistemology of Area Studies as well as International Relations.

(Professor at HPI)



Public Workshop of the HPI Project Research “Peace and Education in Postwar Japan”

Akihiro Kawakami



On September 3, 2025, Associate Professor Kunitomo Miyamori of Gakushuin University, a researcher in educational philosophy, clinical education, and education law, delivered a presentation titled “The Idea of Peace and Rights of Children in Postwar Japan and Age of the Earth: From a Viewpoint of Educational Research, Education Law, Synthetic Anthropology,” organized by the HPI Project Research “Peace and Education in Postwar Japan.”

Miyamori argued that the Japanese Constitution (particularly Article 9), established during the postwar reform period, was “reinterpreted” in the context of the East-West Cold War and the “1955 System,” leading to increasing militarization and a divergence between constitutional norms and reality. On the other hand, he argued that Article 9 was deeply examined by those seeking to protect and utilize the current Constitution in response to this situation. Through confronting reality, they pioneered new possibilities for achieving peace. Miyamori, in his historical perspective, views 1945 as the beginning of the modern era, the “Age of the Earth.” He sees 1989 as a major turning point, marked by the collapse of the socialist regimes and the adoption of the

Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, the simultaneous global surge of neoliberalism spread Americanized ideology worldwide, creating societies where it became difficult for people to live as human beings. Yet, even under such circumstances, “the voices of singular first-person ‘I’ are being heard, and through raising their voices, the plural first-person ‘Is’ [as the plural of ‘I’] are becoming the subjects who create and bear responsibility for ‘community’.” He further noted that “attempting to grasp reality through ‘subjectivity, first person, and life’ rather than ‘objectivity, third person, and science’” is now required in both theory and practice for peace. This development, he pointed out, aligns with the early 20th-century international new education movement’s attempt to create a global society under the slogan “from the children.”

Furthermore, Miyamori pointed out that we must confront future academic and societal challenges by returning to the fundamental principles of “Peace and Education in Postwar Japan” from the perspective of children’s rights.

(Professor at HPI)

International Symposium Organized by the Hiroshima Peace Platform

Yoshihisa Furukawa

On December 21, 2025, the Hiroshima Peace Platform (HPP) held the international symposium “Beyond 80 Years Since the Atomic Bombing.”

At the outset, Izumi Nakamitsu, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, delivered a keynote address titled “Prospect for Nuclear Disarmament in Today’s World in Transition.” In recent years, the strategic importance of nuclear weapons — which should inherently generate instability — has been reevaluated. She pointed out that under the current international situation where the framework for arms control and disarmament is faltering, the risk of the use of nuclear weapons is increasing. She then outlined six action guidelines: prioritizing the avoidance of nuclear war; maintaining the nuclear disarmament/non-proliferation regime; addressing risks posed by newly emerging technologies; engaging youth; preserving the voices of atomic bomb survivors; and fostering a culture of peace. In the subsequent Q&A session, discussions covered the importance of achieving outcomes at the 2026 NPT Review Conference, the necessity of multi-layered diplomacy including informal dialogues, the role small and medium-sized countries can play, and the normative significance Japan’s Three Non-Nuclear Principles could hold in international discourse.

Following this, overseas researchers who studied in

Hiroshima presented their research findings, moderated by Professor Shiro Sato of the Hiroshima Peace Institute (HPI). HPP Fellowship Participants, Mr. Franco Escobar (report via pre-recorded video) and Dr. Elizabeth Chappell as well as Dr. Vladisaya Bilyanova Vasileva, Specially Appointed Assistant Professor at the Center for Peace at Hiroshima University, took the stage as the panelists. Each presentation addressed topics including youth participation in peace activities, efforts to pass on hibakusha testimonies to the next generation, and attempted to reconnect hibakusha research with international research trends in transitional justice and nuclear injustice, reexamining issues of compensation and responsibility. These topics were discussed based on their research and practice in Hiroshima. Following the Q&A session, Under-Secretary-General Nakamitsu highlighted the importance of linking academic research to international policy and social practice, emphasizing the significance of continuous engagement by younger generations and researchers in international discussion.

The HPP will continue its efforts to establish a hub for research and education on peace in Hiroshima.

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



New Publication



Nuclear Politics in Post-WWII Japan [Kaku no Sengo Nihon Seijishi]

Kyoto: Minerva Shobo, published in October 2025, Price: 6,050 yen including tax

Toshiya Umehara

Japan has long regarded itself as the world’s only *Hibakukoku* (“A-bombed nation”), building its postwar identity on pacifism and a deep aversion to nuclear weapons. Yet, at the same time, the Japanese government has never officially denied the possible use of nuclear weapons by the United States, its ally, under the framework of extended nuclear deterrence—the so-called “nuclear umbrella.” Why has this contradiction emerged, and how has it evolved over the eight decades since Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

These are the central questions explored in my new book, *Kaku no Sengo Nihon Seijishi (Nuclear Politics in Post-WWII Japan)*, published by Minerva Shobo in October 2025. Using the theoretical framework of constructivist international relations, the book examines how postwar Japan internalized two international norms in strikingly different ways—the nuclear non-use norm (the so-called “nuclear taboo”) and the nonproliferation norm—empirically drawing on a wide range of primary sources. The analysis reveals that Japan’s policymakers came to embrace the nonproliferation norm as a central part of the nation’s postwar identity and as a binding rule of conduct. In contrast, the “nuclear taboo” was accepted mainly as a moral or constitutive principle—acknowledged on rhetorical and symbolical bases, but Japanese government deliberately kept it from acquiring real policy-binding or regulatory force.

For example, Chapter 1 of the book focuses on occupied Japan, where the U.S. occupying force dismantled Japan’s latent nuclear research program, rigorously enforcing the nonproliferation norm from the outset. Meanwhile, strict censorship under the occupation prevented the spread of information about the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, hindering the initial foundations in the society for a robust “nuclear taboo.” Furthermore, wartime Japanese elites tacitly embraced the narrative that the atomic bombings had “ended the war,” partly to conceal the inconvenient fact that Japan had continued to seek Soviet mediation until the USSR broke neutrality and invaded Manchuria on the same day as the Nagasaki bombing. This early period marked the origin of Japan’s selective internalization of nuclear norms—and the lasting invisibility surrounding nuclear use.

Subsequent chapters trace this trajectory through Cold War alliance politics and into the present, analyzing how Japan has navigated challenges such as North Korea’s nuclear development and Russia’s war in Ukraine. I hope this book offers readers a clearer understanding of how Japan became both symbolically anti-nuclear and strategically reliant on nuclear deterrence—and what that dual legacy means for the future.

(Professor at HPI)

Invisible Sorrow: Untold History of the War Experience of Taiwanese Who Remained in the Philippines

Hitoshi Nagai

On 16 November 1956, two Taiwanese named Lin Chiou-tan and Kao Chang-chin left Manila Airport and arrived in Taipei. During World War II they were conscripted into the Japanese navy in 1944 and sent to Zamboanga on Mindanao Island, the Philippines. After the end of the war, they hid in mountainous areas refusing to surrender but were captured by the Philippine military and then returned to their home country after 13 years.

During the war Lin and Kao engaged in transporting supplies as civilian workers for the Japanese navy. When the U.S. military invaded Mindanao in March 1945 and occupied Zamboanga, they fled into the jungle while their Japanese comrades were killed. Even after the war they did not know that the war had ended. Initially Chen A-shih, a childhood friend from the same hometown in Taipei, also joined them, but he died of illness and they erected a grave marker for him. Lin and Kao survived by eating birds, boars, wild vegetables, bananas, etc. When they encountered the Filipino residents, they fled out of fear (Li Chan-ping et al., *Beacon Years*).

Lin and Kao were found in the jungle on 23 October 1956 by the Philippine Constabulary (PC) and arrested. While detained at the local PC headquarters, Lin attempted suicide

(he thought he would be shot as a Japanese soldier) but he survived, and on 1 November, the two were transferred to the PC General Headquarters (Camp Crame) in Quezon City near Manila. Subsequently, negotiations were held between the diplomatic authorities of the Philippines and the Republic of China (Taiwan), to facilitate the return of Lin and Kao to Taipei, their homeland as they desired.

The diplomatic papers of the Republic of China held by the Academia Historica in Taipei show no involvement of the former suzerainty Japan had in diplomatic negotiations over the treatment of the two Taiwanese captives. There are also no documents about the negotiations in the Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (official inquiries received a response that such documents “did not exist”), and neither did Japanese newspapers focus on the matter. This is likely the reason Lin and Kao’s experiences are not known in Japan.

The two civilian workers from the former colony mobilized by Japan faced many hardships during and after the war, but their distress and sorrow have been left untold in Japan.

(Professor at HPI)

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

Hyun Jin Son

The Hiroshima Peace Institute (HPI) held the second online briefing session of AY 2025 on admission to the Graduate School of Peace Studies (GSPS) via Zoom on October 10, 2025. We were pleased to have nine participants this time.

As in the previous online briefing sessions, the outline of the GSPS and the entrance examination system were introduced at the beginning. Then, possible career paths of graduates, scholarship opportunities, and the status of international student admissions were explained. A current graduate student in the master’s programs at GSPS shared his 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 2026

The online briefing sessions on admission to the GSPS for AY 2026 will be held twice, on May 8 and October 9, 2026. Everyone is welcome, not only those who plan to apply for the GSPS from October 2026 or AY 2027, but also those who would like to get information, such as details 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.

First session Date and time: May 8, 2026 (Fri), 6:30–8:00 p.m. (Japan Standard Time)
Deadline of application: April 27, 2026 (Mon), 5 p.m.

Second session Date and time: October 9, 2026 (Fri), 6:30–8:00 p.m. (Japan Standard Time)
Deadline of application: October 2, 2026 (Fri), 5 p.m.

Meeting format: Online (Zoom meeting)

Fee for the participation: Free

Contact: nyushi@m.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp

(Admissions Office, Hiroshima City University)

More detailed information will be posted on the HPI website as the session date approaches.

2025

- ◆ **Jul. 1** Toshiya Umehara serves as a discussant in a book launch event of *Japan's Aging Peace* by the Security Studies Unit (SSU), Institute for Future Initiatives (IFI) and the Graduate School of Public Policy (GraSPP) of the University of Tokyo held at University of Tokyo.
- ◆ **Jul. 4** Mihoko Kato serves as a panelist in the "SRC 70th Anniversary Roundtable: The Future of Slavic and Eurasian Studies" organized by the Slavic Eurasian Research Center at Hokkaido University, via Zoom.
- ◆ **Jul. 10** Shota Morie presents a lecture titled "Looking Back on 80 Years Since the Atomic Bombing: The Origin of Hiroshima as a 'City of Peace'" in the training session of female assembly members from across Hiroshima prefecture.
- ◆ **Jul. 19** Shiro Sato presents an online lecture titled "Non-Use and Abolition of Nuclear Weapons," at the 10th Hiroshima Junior International Forum, organized by Hiroshima Prefecture.
- ◆ **Jul. 25** Kato presents a paper titled, "Expansion of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization: A Tool for Power Projection or a Platform for Regional Cooperation?" at session 16.1, "Non-Western Countries and the Liberal International Order: Developing Competing Norms and Institutions in Greater Central Asia," at the 11th World Congress of the International Council for Central and East European Studies (ICCEES) at University College London.
- ◆ **Jul. 30** Morie presents a lecture titled "The Postwar History of Hiroshima" in the training session "Introduction to Hiroshima" for 15 junior Japanese journalists, held by Hiroshima City.
- ◆ **Aug. 5** Sato presents a lecture entitled "Violence and Non-Violence over Non-Use of Nuclear Weapons," at Nishi Hongwanji in Kyoto.
- ◆ **Aug. 6** Umehara speaks in the live radio broadcast of the Peace Memorial Ceremony commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Hiroshima Atomic Bombing and an interview segment on a morning radio show, aired by the RCC Radio (a Hiroshima local station).
- ◆ **Aug. 26** Shun Oshita provides an academic presentation titled "Performing the Duty to Prevent Genocide through Export Control: Transfers of Military Materials to Israel in National Courts and the ICJ" at the Sub-Session "Genocide and the International Court of Justice" of the 128th Annual Conference of the Japanese Society of International Law in Okayama.
- ◆ **Sep. 6** Chie Shijo presents a lecture titled "Unspoken 'Atomic Bomb' from a Gender Perspective" for the GeNuine lecture series, "Intersecting Gender and War" in Hiroshima City.
- ◆ **Sep. 19** Oshita is featured in the Egyptian daily Al-Masry Al-Youm in an article titled "Hiroshima: Between the Memory of Pain and Sympathy with Gaza" (in Arabic).
- ◆ **Oct. 3** Akihiro Kawakami presents a lecture titled, "What is a constitution?" at "Peace School 2025" hosted by Peace Forum in Hiroshima City.
- ◆ **Oct. 9** Makiko Takemoto presents a lecture titled "Hiroshima and Antinuclear Movements in Japan and Germany" at the lecture series "Peace – International & Interdisciplinary Perspectives" of Hochschule Hannover (online).
- ◆ **Oct. 18** Kato presents a paper entitled, "Strategic Alignment among "Rogue States" in Eurasia: Russia and Iran as a Case Study," at the Russia and Eastern European studies section I of the 2025 annual convention of the Japan Association of International Relations (JAIR) at the Kobe International Conference Center.
- ◆ **Oct. 18** Xianfen Xu presents a paper entitled, "Japan's Historical Memory: Reflections on Prime Ministerial Statements," at the 2025 Annual Conference of the Chinese Society for the History of the Second World War (Jiangxi, China).
- ◆ **Oct. 30** Kawakami presents a lecture titled, "The Pacifism of the Constitution of Japan and Hiroshima," to students from Nagoya City Meito Senior High School, at the HCU Satellite Campus.
- ◆ **Nov. 4** Oshita, as a member of Working Group 2, "Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Nuclear Energy," at the 63rd Pugwash Conference, provides a report on the International Atomic Energy Agency at the International Conference Center Hiroshima.
- ◆ **Nov. 5** Hitoshi Nagai publishes his book, *Hibakusha ga Nemuru Shima: Shirarezaru Genbaku Taiken (Hibakusha's Memorial Island: An Untold Story of the Atomic Bombing Experience)* in Japanese (Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten, 2025).
- ◆ **Nov. 5** Takemoto contributes a web article titled "What is Peace? Explaining Diverse Definitions, the Current State of World Peace, and our Contributions" on the Asahi Shimbun SDGs ACTION!.
- ◆ **Nov. 9** Tadashi Okimura's comments appear in the article "Understanding COP30 from the Basics" in the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper.
- ◆ **Nov. 11** Okimura's comments appear in the article "Negotiations between nations in climate change talks" in the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper.
- ◆ **Nov. 18** Ryo Oshiba is interviewed by students of Nagoya University Affiliated Lower Secondary School on the International Understanding and Peace, at the Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University.
- ◆ **Nov. 29** Kawakami presents a lecture titled, "Hiroshima and the Constitution," at a "Lecture on Human Rights Education" hosted by Futaba Community Center.
- ◆ **Dec. 5** Sato presents a lecture titled "Impacts of Testimony of the Hibakusha on International Politics" in a forum, organized by the Center for the Multicultural Public Sphere, Utsunomiya University.
- ◆ **Dec. 9** Morie presents a lecture titled, "Hiroshima Peace Memorial City Construction Act 1949," in a joint research forum held by the Hiroshima Peace Institute, University of Baghdad, and Japan Foundation, at Hiroshima City University.
- ◆ **Dec. 13** Hyun Jin Son acts as a facilitator for the Hiroshima Korea Forum 2025, hosted by the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Hiroshima at Hotel Granvia Hiroshima.
- ◆ **Dec. 19** Umehara presents a book talk on his recently published *Kakuno Sengo Nihon Seijishi (Nuclear Politics in Post-WWII)* at HCU Satellite Campus.

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



HIROSHIMA RESEARCH NEWS

Vol.28 No.2 (March 13, 2026)

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- Printed by Letterpress Co., Ltd.