International Meeting and World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs

With the hibakusha, let us achieve a nuclear weapon-free, peaceful, and just world - for the future of humankind and our planet.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki, August 3-9, 2024 Keith and Suzanne Blackburn

Saturday, August 3: International Meeting, Hiroshima JA Building



Reports from the Hibakusha on the A-bomb damage and sufferings





Rex Alex, Peace Action NYS & SUNY BDS





Black Rain victims' struggles and achievements, and their message to the world Sunday, August 4, morning session: the Adoption of the "Declaration of the International Meeting"

The 2024 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs Declaration of the International Meeting

Sunday, August 4th: Opening Plenary of the World Conference Against A and H Bombs Hiroshima, Green Arena, Hiroshima Prefectural Sports Center



About 4000 people from all over Japan attended this session in person and another 1000 attended virtually.

The program started with presentations from delegates from around Japan.

Suzanne was a "Chair" at this session and was on stage to announce the overseas delegates who spoke.



Sunday, August 4, around Hiroshima Green Arena



A children's cultural science museum was built at the site of ground zero

Memorial Park - Hiroshima 平和記念公園

> Suzuki Miekichi Memorial Monument "Riding a Dream" by Entsuba Katsuzo

Japanese Delegates

outside the Green Arena



Peace Bell

Before and After what is now called the Atomic Bomb Dome





The building on the left is the Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall, a European-style building that was used for exhibitions, concerts, and lectures, built along the Motoyasu River, Hiroshima. The same building is shown after the atomic bomb was dropped on August 6, 1945. The remnants of this building are now called the Atomic Bomb Dome, and serve as a peace memorial. These images are from the Memorial Museum in Hiroshima.

Atomic Bomb Dome









Peace Memorial Park, Hiroshima













August 5, Forum 1: For a Nuclear Weapon-Free World - Dialogue between government representatives and citizen movements, TKP Garden city Hiroshima Ekimae Ohashi, Asty Hiroshima-Kyobashi Bldf, 1-7 Kyobachi-machi, Minami-ku, Hiroshima



Pictured here

- Emiko Hirano (translator and Vice President of New Japan Women's Association),
- Miguel Mojedano Batel (First Secretary, Embassy of Mexico in Japan),
- Batyrkhan Kurmanseit (Minister-Counselor, Embassy of Kazakhstan in Japan),
- Abacca Anjain-Maddison (Former senator/representative of Rongelap Islanders, Marshall Islands)
- Yayoi Tsuchida (Japan Council Against A and H Bombs, Gensuikyo)













August 6, Closing Plenary and Hiroshima Day Rally, Green Arena



August 6, Lantern Floating Ceremony

Bank of Motoyasu River near Aioi Bridge





Keith and Suzanne wrote a message of peace from GVCP and PANYS on a green lantern which was launched that evening as part of the program



Traveling from Hiroshima to Nagasaki by bus with local and overseas delegates



Pictured above:

- BC Top Bahadur (Executive Committee member, Nepal Peace and Solidarity Council),
- Yayoi Tsuchida (Japan Council Against A and H Bombs, Gensuikyo),
- Abacca Anjain-Maddison (Former senator/representative of Rongelap Islanders, Marshall Islands),
- Karki Surendra (National Council member, Nepal Peace and Solidarity Council)



Pictured above:

- The family of Maribe Hernandez Sanchez (Coordinator, Alliance for Nuclear Disarmament, Spain),
- Yayoi Tsuchida (Japan Council Against A and H Bombs, Gensuikyo),
- Abacca Anjain-Maddison (Former senator/representative of Rongelap Islanders, Marshall Islands),
- Keith and Suzanne Blackburn (members of Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace, Peace Action New York State, USA)

August 8, Nagasaki Peace Park





August 9, 1955 - <u>Prayer Monument for Peace</u> (Peace Statue), Nagasaki Peace Park, Matsuyama-machi, Nagasaki (Japan). 9.7m tall bronze peace statue symbolizing a universal prayer for world peace and for the consolation of war victims. Created by Nagasaki-born Seibo Kitamura. The statue's right hand pointing upwards symbolizes the threat of the atomic bomb. The left hand stretching horizontally symbolizes peace. And the lightly closed eyelids convey the idea of an ardent prayer for the souls of the war dead.







August 8, Meeting with Nagasaki Hibakusha





August 8, Exchange Forum between Overseas Delegates and Citizens, Nakabe Auditorium, Nagasaki University





August 9: Nagasaki Day Rally, Nagasaki Shimin Kaikan Gymnasium





August 9: Signature Campaign in a Nagasaki shopping center





We Call on the Government of Japan, the Only A-Bombed Country in Wartime, to Sign and Ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

To: Prime Minister of Japan

Across the world, people are calling for advancing from the entry-into-force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) to the elimination of nuclear weapons. Having listened to the voices of the Hibakusha, more and more countries are choosing to achieve the "security of a world without nuclear weapons", not the "security by nuclear weapons", and are supporting and joining the TPNW. The government of Japan, the only country to have suffered the atomic bombing in wartime, must stand at the forefront of the efforts to achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons. Over 70% of the Japanese people believe that Japan should join the TPNW, as shown in opinion polls. What is called for is for the Japanese government to sincerely respond to the voices of the Hibakusha and people of Japan. I hereby urge the government of Japan to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Nagasaki Atomic **Bomb Museum**



August 9, 2024







Farewell Party, August 9, Nagasaki





Link to photos from Gensuikyo

https://photos.app.goo.gl/pLyDFwPGHCu4XUq47