

Hiroshima Peace Appeal

This year marks 68 years since the A-bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, taking more than 140,000 precious lives in an instant of intense heat, blast and terrifying radiation. Even now, large numbers of *hibakusha* are suffering from radiation disorders. Today, around 19,000 nuclear warheads still exist on Earth, and humankind continues to be threatened by nuclear weapons.

In recent years, there has been some movement on a path toward the reduction and abolition of nuclear weapons, for example, with the final document towards “a world without nuclear weapons” being unanimously adopted at the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in May 2010. In September 2010, the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI), founded by Japan and nine other countries, put forward realistic proposals to the nuclear powers for the attainment of “a world without nuclear weapons,” and is engaging in efforts toward the progress in disarmament.

In the Second Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference in May 2013, Japan, jointly with the other NPDI countries, submitted a new working document on the reduction of the role of nuclear weapons. In the chairperson’s summary, the nuclear test and missile launch by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK, North Korea) were strongly denounced as breaches of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1718, 1874 and 2087, which the DPRK was requested to observe. As the only country to have suffered attacks by A-bombs, Japan is urging the submission of resolutions for nuclear disarmament and the enforcement of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) at international conferences.

In *hibakusha* support, there are still issues remaining in the recognition of *hibakusha*, and the further improvement of relief measures by the government is necessary. JTUC-RENGO demands that the required relief measures be taken when there are clear scientific grounds for recognition of a person as a *hibakusha*, and will work toward the improvement of relief measures for those affected by the A-bomb and for health issues experienced by the second and third generation of A-bomb survivors.

The three organizations, JTUC-RENGO, The Japan Congress Against A- and H-Bombs (GENSUIKIN), and the National Council for Peace and Against Nuclear Weapons (KAKKIN) are continuing activities aimed at the foreign delegations of the nuclear powers in Japan to demand the abolition of nuclear weapons, which began last year. In addition, an A-bomb exhibition is also being held throughout the country in order to communicate the horrors of nuclear weapons. We will continue in the future to reach out to the world broadly and forcefully for a suspension of nuclear weapons’ testing and the abolition of nuclear weapons to avoid the awful damage of nuclear weapons ever happening again.

Aiming toward the realization of nuclear weapons and permanent peace as we move toward the 2015 NPT Review Conference, we pledge to make persistent efforts in workplaces and communities for the movement to abolish nuclear weapons as well as to collaborate with the International Trade Union Confederation, Mayors for Peace, the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation and a large number of other organizations and NGOs.

August 5, 2013
JTUC-RENGO 2013 Peace Hiroshima Rally