

Muse No. 42
Japanese Citizens Network of Museums for Peace
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**The 10th International Conference of Museums for Peace
a Landmark Success as a Virtual Online Conference
— The Manga Pandemic Web Exhibition Is Open until 25 December —**

**INMP 2020 has been a constant
struggle against the unknown**

The 10th International Conference of Museums for Peace was planned to be held on 16-20 September 2020 as an in-person conference in Kyoto and Hiroshima, but the spread of COVID-19 forced a change in the original plan, and in April 2020, the INMP proposed to the Organizing Committee to change the plan to a virtual conference, taking into account the views of the Executive Board and Advisory Committee members.

The Organizing Committee was not sure about the success of the international conference at the beginning of the change of plans, because the Committee had no experience in conducting such international conference virtually and there were many unknown factors, including the prospect of member participation.

However, the Organizing Committee was relieved to see the application status on 15 June which was the deadline for submissions for the presentation. It turns out that over 100 people from different countries would be presenting at the international conference on a variety of topics.

**Technical assistance to presenters
was a great help**

This situation was not only troubling for the organizers, but also for the presenters who were not proficient in virtual technology. Roy Tamashiro, the Organizing Committee's special technical advisor, was attentive to those technical inquiries and contributed greatly to the success of the conference.

In addition, the Organizing Committee appointed Ms. Kazuyo Yamane as the chair of the international liaison committee to facilitate communication between presenters and the Organizing Committee, and INMP General Coordinator, Professor Ikuro Anzai, frequently published the "From General Coordinator's Desk" to share information with INMP members and presenters.



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Starting with Japanese cultural events of drums and Ikebana

The content of the conference which was released on the website on 18 September was very comprehensive, informative and attractive. The opening program began with the performance of Japanese drums by the students of Kyoto University of the Arts, one of the co-organizers, and the commemorative lecture following the welcome message was given by Ms. Ikenobo Senko, the next *Iemoto* (head) of Ikenobo School of Ikebana, a traditional Japanese flower arrangement.



Japanese drum performance



Ikebana performance by Ms. Ikenobo Senko

Rev. Clive Barrett, INMP's Advisory Committee member, wrote 'They complemented each other wonderfully. We spend hours debating the meaning of "Peace", and in these two videos so many of the components of peace are displayed. The drum ensemble display excitement, energy, activism, community teamwork for change. The flower arrangement speaks to me of the importance of each individual, reflection, stillness, order, appreciation of natural beauty. But drumming and flower-arranging give different dimensions of "harmony". They show the breadth and diversity of "Peace".'

Content-rich presentations on the website

Presentations from the international conference are still available on the INMP [website](#) and you can read information including newly published "[Museums for Peace Worldwide](#)" (Japanese and English editions), four webinars ([Hiroshima Panel](#), [Directors/Curators Panel](#), [Youth Panel](#) and [Gender & Human Rights Panel](#)), paper presentations, panel discussions, video exhibits, poster exhibits, [Manga Pandemic Web Exhibitions](#) and [the INMP general meeting](#). Professor Syed Sikander Mehdi, Advisory Committee member, emailed to the organizer as follows:

'I visited the INMP sites to review the conference. It is amazing. It was a superb conference. The Organizing Committee managed to get a number of video and article presentations on important themes, organised panels on important issues and beautiful cultural programs.'



Young panellists in Webinar 4 (Youth Panel)

The Manga Pandemic Web Exhibition is open until 25 December 2020 and submissions of Manga work, both professional and amateur, will be accepted until 30 November.

The Online General Meeting was held on 18 September attended internationally by several dozens of members and approved all agenda items as proposed. It was decided to give Dr. Kazuyo Yamane (Executive Board member) and Dr. Roy Tamashiro (Advisory Committee member) Special Contribution Awards, and to confer on Dr. Ikuro Anzai (General Coordinator) the title of Honorary General Coordinator on January 1, 2021.

Sowing Peace During the Pandemic

Hidefumi Terasawa: Director of the Memorial Museum for Agricultural Emigrants to Manchuria

COVID-19 pandemic has brought a significant impact on the museum, which had to cancel almost all group reservation in March and temporarily close for two months in April and May. However, in fall, because of the limited traveling of going outside the resident prefectures, an increasing number of schools within Nagano Prefecture have chosen the museum as one of the destinations for their school excursions. As a result, more schools visited the museum in October and November compared with the same months last year, and the visitors were safely accommodated in the “seminar building” just expanded last year. Actually, Nagano Prefecture, where the museum locates, sent the largest number of Agricultural Emigrants to Manchuria, and this was an opportunity for not only students but also teachers to learn about "untold history" that is often difficult for us to face.



While we had unexpected surge of the students visiting to the museum, we hope to see this continue next year onwards. Actually, the total number of visitors in 2020 is expected to be about half of what it was last year. As a privately owned and operated museum, next year will be even more challenging for us. However, the museum has to continue its efforts to convey the tragedy of war as well as the value of peace through the history of Agricultural Emigrants to Manchuria. We will work hard to sow and

nourish peace for tomorrow.

Approaching the Reality of the War After 75 Years

Tamotsu Asakawa: Director of Yamanashi Peace Museum

Yamanashi Peace Museum (YPM) has been holding special exhibitions this year. "Reflecting on Japan's Handling of Post-war Issues" ran from January to the end of June, 2020, followed by "Approaching the reality of the War", which is currently exhibited and will run until the end of February next year. With the aging of those who experienced the war and the fading of the memory of the war in the society, it is becoming more and more important to pass on the realities of the war and stories of the battlefield experience.



Therefore, the panels introduce the stories of seven citizens, such as Mr. Kinzo Zaihara, with his experience of aggression of Japanese military at the Chinese front, the battlefield of the Leyte war, and the truth of “Five Races Under One Union” policy introduced in Manchukuo, as well as his journey toward friendship between Japan and China, etc. The panels also show the number of war dead in Yamanashi Prefecture by region (most of them were from the Leyte war, Philippines, and the Chinese front), and explain the possible turning point to end the war, through many-sided exhibits and historical documents. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the museum has remained open, and recently we have many

visitors from outside prefectures, like Tokyo and Kanagawa. See also the attached newspaper article.

Chukiren Peace Museum Nobuo Seriza: Secretariat

The museum was closed for about a month in spring due to COVID-19 pandemic, but has been open since then as we have relatively small number of visitors.

In addition to a few individual visitors, on September 7th, a reporter from Shanghai Oriental Satellite Television's Song Kankan, Tokyo Bureau Chief accompanied by a cameraman, visited the museum for the third time.

Also 15 members of the "Comfort Women Issues and Gender Equality Seminar", headed by Ms. Haruko Yoshikawa (former member of the House of Councilors), visited the museum on October 24th. The original plan was to have 30 visitors, but in order to take preventive measures for COVID-19, we limited the number to 15. In addition to Ms. Yoshikawa, Ms. Noriko Omori, a lawyer who was the head of the defense team for the "trial over comfort women", was also there.



At the request from the members of the "Seminar for the History of Showa Period", Mr. Serizawa, head of the secretariat of the museum, talked about "Chukiren" (association of returnees from China) at their monthly study session in Nyuzen Town, Toyama Prefecture, on November 5th. There were about 15 participants, who well prepared for the session by reading the memorial hall's booklet in advance. We had a two-hour session, including presentation of

photographs, followed by video presentation and question-and-answer session.

The members of the "Meeting for Reading Testimony" continue their activity at the museum once a month, but the other "Meeting for Learning from Chukiren" has taken a break until COVID-19 pandemic goes down.

Maruki Gallery for the Hiroshima Panels

Yukinobu Okamura: Curator

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, we decided to close the museum temporarily for two months from April 9th to June 9th this year. Considering the goal of the museum, which aims to ensure that anyone, at any time, can see the Hiroshima Panels by simply coming to the museum, we are still wondering if it was the right decision to close the museum. At the same time, with the number of infected people increasing, we are also not sure if we should keep the door open. It is really tough to decide how to confront the invisible risk.

With the temporary closure of the museum, we have received about 5,000 donations, equivalent to 70 million yen for emergency support from all over Japan and overseas. Also, through the Maruki Gallery for the Hiroshima Panels Foundation, established in 2017 to preserve the Hiroshima Panels and renovate the gallery building, we have received about 6,000 donations, equivalent to 140 million yen already this year. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported us in this difficult situation.

In addition to our efforts to have more visitors, we again realize the importance of cooperation with those who cannot visit the museum but want to support its operation. In the future, we plan to strengthen our support system internationally by introducing online card payment option to our supporter system,

releasing virtual tour videos on the website, etc.



NHK covered the online lecture by Saitama University held at the museum

**Daigo Fukuryu Maru Exhibition Hall
Daigo Fukuryu Maru
Recognized as a "Ship Heritage"**

Yusuke Hasunuma: Curator

The Daigo Fukuryu Maru (Lucky Dragon) has been certified as a "Ship Heritage" by the Japan Society of Naval Architects and Ocean Engineers (JASNAOE). JASNAOE recognizes historical, academic, and technologically valuable ships and their related facilities as "Ship Heritage", and the Daigo Fukuryu Maru was recognized as a rare wooden ship with a "Western-style transverse framing structure".

The wooden Daigo Fukuryu Maru was built during the period of food shortages immediately after the end of World War II, and was engaged in deep-sea fishing. It was destined to be dismantled after its life span about 20 years, or to quietly decay on the seashore. However, because of its exposure to a hydrogen bomb test in 1954, it has been preserved for more than 70 years from its construction as a heritage for peace by conveying the horrors of nuclear bomb.

Recently, there are structural distortions on the frame of the Daigo Fukuryu Maru and preserving the deteriorated engines is also an

important issue. Since 2016, the "Committee for the Preservation of the Daigo Fukuryu Maru" which consists of experts specializing in various fields such as cultural heritage conservation or wooden construction, has been discussing preservation measures. We will promote the Daigo Fukuryu Maru as an industrial and cultural heritage to be preserved in the future, and create opportunities to attract people's interest in the Daigo Fukuryu Maru by making the most of coming ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as a tail wind.

We are planning to hold an online citizen's lecture to commemorate the certification of the Daigo Fukuryu Maru as a "Fune Heritage" at the 3.1 Bikini Commemorative Meeting in 2021. For more information, please check the Daigo Fukuryu Maru Exhibition Hall website.



**Women's Active Museum on War and
Peace (WAM)**

**Eriko Ikeda
Director Emeritus**

The year 2020 is the 20th anniversary of the "Women's International War Crimes Tribunal on Japan's Military Sexual Slavery". There were a number of commemorative events in Japan and abroad, and this final month marks the peak of

these events. At wam, we have been busy preparing panels for the special exhibition called "The Emperor's Responsibility and Voices Against Forgetfulness: 20 Years after the Women's International War Crimes Tribunal on Japan's Military Sexual Slavery", which has started from December 12th.

Looking back on the past 20 years, I feel a mixed emotion. There is a worldwide growing movement by women who are trying to bring justice to the wartime sexual violence in their countries, as well as accuse violence against women by #MeToo movement, which can be associated with the time when the women survivors of Japan's military sexual violence courageously began to speak out. In 2018, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Dr. Denis Mukwege (Congo) and Ms. Nadia Murad (Iraq) for their efforts to eradicate wartime sexual violence against women and devotedly assist survivors.

However, in Japan, a united backlash from government and people against the country's responsibility for so-called "comfort women" issue is gaining momentum. The survivors in Asian countries who have been demanding the Japanese government to acknowledge the facts and make an official apology and compensation, are now aged and we shock to hear about their passing away. On the other hand, the Japanese government has insisted that "comfort women are not sex slaves", "there is no evidence of forced recruitment" and "Japan has no legal responsibility", while online right-wingers called "Netouyo" and right-wing groups, often inflaming hated speech, have repeatedly slandered and attacked supporters of women survivors. The media fails to monitor and criticize these actions by giving way to some peer pressure and ends up making "comfort women" issue as a taboo subject.

In December, 2000, when the verdict was read out at the Women's Tribunal, which

indicated that the Emperor Hirohito was guilty and that the Japanese government was responsible for that, women survivors from all over the world hugged each other with great emotion, saying, "Justice has finally been achieved!". When I think of their faces and expressions at that time, I feel pain and regret.

In this special exhibition at wam, we will reflect on the issue of Japan's failure to hold the emperor's responsibility during post-war period, while also highlighting the voices of the people who have continued to question the emperor's responsibility for the war. We look forward to your visit.



Portraits of Japanese military officials who were found guilty by the Women's International War Crimes Tribunal and photographs of the women survivors who were delighted by the verdict. The full text of the verdict translated into Japanese is also displayed at the permanent exhibition.

Peace Aichi

Daisuke Miyahara: Director

We closed the museum in April and May this year due to COVID-19 pandemic and held the special exhibition titled "Dummy Atomic Bomb Pumpkin—Citizen's testimony of Bomb-Dropping Drill" two months later than originally planned (June 9th to August 29th, 2020). Fragments of the pumpkin bomb (about 15 kilograms) dropped on Fukushima City were

displayed, and an elaborate replica of the fragment produced by Peace Aichi supporters was exhibited. The replica has since been shown as a permanent exhibit.



The replica of the fragment of Pumpkin Bomb

The museum was closed for a month in September for building improvement work.

The special exhibitions for October and November were "Children in War" and "War and Animals"(October 6th to November 28th, 2020). From the collection of the Hekinan City Archives in Aichi Prefecture, about 400 *menko* (circular or rectangular pasteboard cards slapped down on the ground to overturn other cards) played by children in 1920s-1950s were displayed. The drawing on *menko* also reflected the sign of the times.

From December, "Peace Aichi 8th Exhibition of Donated Artifacts: Passing on War Memories" will be held (December 8th, 2020 - February 27th, 2021). This year, 235 items donated by 23 citizens will be exhibited.

We also have received large number of applications for the Post-War 75 Years Project—Storytelling Volunteer from Post-War Generation, and already started the training program for them. The training will be conducted until April, followed by the on-site activity.



Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan University

Kazuyo Yamane: Expert Committee member

The museum reopened on September 28th, with shortened its opening hours. Please see the website for details.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, we are holding our permanent exhibitions on the website. The following three web-based exhibitions are now available on the museum's website.

* Web-based permanent exhibition: 20 museum artifacts are displayed.

<https://www.ritsumeikan-wp-museum.jp/webexhibition/permanent/>

* Web-based museum document exhibition: 18 items once introduced in the "Museum Dayori (Newsletter)" are displayed.

<https://www.ritsumeikan-wp-museum.jp/museummaterials/>

* The 133th mini-exhibition "Special Exhibition for 75 Years After the War: Selected One from Museum Artifact" and the activity report by the on-the-job trainees at the museum.

<https://www.ritsumeikan-wp-museum.jp/mini133kai2/>

From September 28th to November 7th, we had an exhibition called "Radiation Images: Making Radioactivity Visible."

Other Projects at the Museum

① Autumn Special Exhibition "CITY&PEACE Nanjing International Peace Poster Exhibition (November 14th to December 12th, 2020)

② Mini-Exhibition

- 131st: "Rohingya as Seen by Students' Eyes" (November 2nd to 26th, 2020)
- 132nd: "Forced Chinese Labor and the

Mannin-kou (mass grave)” (December 1st to 22nd, 2020)

- 136th: “Under the Same Sun: The Beginning of Japanese Immigration to Peru” (January 9th to 30th, 2021)
- 137th: "Student Mobilization— Search of Tadao Hayashi: 1943-2021", in collaboration with “Kyoto Museum Road Project”

**Grass Roots House: Peace Museum
“Bikini Day in Kochi” starting from
March 5th to 14th, 2021**

**Keisuke Okamura: Vice director &
Executive Committee Secretary General of
Bikini Day in Kochi**

On October 24th, 2020, the number of ratifying countries of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) have reached 50, overcoming obstacles by the United States and other nuclear powers, which Hibakusha and people around the world have longed for. On January 22nd 2021, the ratification of the TPNW will come into force, becoming an international norm following the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention. This will be a historic moment to start the second stage to move toward a nuclear-free world.

Encouraged by this historic achievement, we will organize "Bikini Day in Kochi" in coming March. The purpose of this event is to raise awareness of the fact that not only the Daigo Fukuryu Maru but also the crews of 270 tuna fishing boats from Kochi Prefecture (1,000 boats nationwide) were exposed to radiation due to the hydrogen bomb detonated on the Bikini Atoll by the United States in 1954. Furthermore, this

event addresses the fact that the radiation exposure of the crews was concealed by the government of Japan and the United States for 60 years, and that the former crews and their families have not yet received any relief.



The event will be an opportunity for Kochi and Japan, which have suffered from the nuclear damage of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Bikini and Fukushima, to send a message to the world about the abolition of nuclear weapons and the elimination of nuclear power plants. We are planning four events: a photo exhibition (March 5th to 14th, free of charge), fieldwork with former tuna boat crews (March 6th, 6,000 yen for participation fee), a plenary session on "Bikini Day in Kochi" (March 7th, 1,500 yen for participation fee), and two film screenings of "The Daigo Fukuryu Maru" and "Portraits of Hibakusha in Kochi, Memories of Deep-Sea Fishing 2020" (February 28th in Muroto City and March 13th in Kochi City, 1,200 yen for the ticket) (See the poster). The plenary session will also be available for online participation (1,500 yen for participation fee).

These events are part of “Bikini Day” in Kochi to investigate the radiation exposure of former tuna fishing boat crews by hydrogen bomb testing, and to work for their relief. We look forward to many visitors from Japan and abroad.

Oka Masaharu Memorial Nagasaki Peace Museum

Noboru Sakiyama: Board Chairman

The museum has been open since June 9th, taking preventive measures against COVID-19 as well as shortening its opening hours (10:00 am to 4:00 pm). The number of visitors to the museum from September, 2019 to October, 2020 decreased sharply to 1,028. We have managed to operate the museum with donations from our members.

On July 19th, we held the "5th Meeting to Talk about Mr. Masaharu Oka", where vice president Tomohiro Shinkai reported about his lecture, "The Life and Thought of Mr. Masaharu Oka", given at the Presbyterian Church called “The End of the Earth” in Busan, Korea on February 8th to 9th, and exchanged opinions with the participants. We also resumed the lecture called "Let's Learn Again! Japan's Contemporary History Course Phase 1" and held its 5th session titled "Restoration of Soviet-Japanese Diplomatic Relations and the Northern Territories" on September 5th and the 6th session titled "Family and Gender in Postwar Democracy" on November 7th.



In addition, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the museum on October 1st, we organized a lecture by Mr. Yasuto Takeuchi, "The reality of forced labor for Koreans in Nagasaki: Questioning the denial of the history of forced labor", on October 4th, at the first attempt of on-site and online participation.



Himeyuri Peace Museum

Katsumi Maedomari, Curator

The museum had to close for such a long period (72 days) for the first time since the opening under influence of the declaration of a national state of emergency for coronavirus pandemic. 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII, so we expected more active mood to rethink about the history. However, there are fewer opportunities to tell the story of the Battle of Okinawa in this situation.

In June, a memorial service which is usually attended by 300 to 400 people was held this year as well, but only about 20 Himeyuri alumni and museum staff could attend the ceremony to prevent spreading infection. Also, the museum had to stop some activities such as an annual seminar for teachers and explanation talk for visitors in the exhibition rooms by museum

educators.

In addition, since national schools' closure from March, almost all of school trips were cancelled or postponed. Even in this situation, some schools ask for an online program to give students an opportunity to learn about Himeyuri and the Battle of Okinawa. It would be the best to come to Okinawa and visit the museum in person, but it is encouraging for us to know that some schools are looking for opportunities to learn the history.

Also, through INMP and Citizens' Network's online meeting, it became clear that we can have contact with members of the networks even we are at different places, and it became an important opportunity for us to consider the possibilities for the future.

The Himeyuri Museum is now open with infection control and prevention. Since the museum's admission fee is the founding source of its management, the museum will face serious financial troubles if it remains closed or the number of visitors decreases. However, the museum staff members are trying to do their best to endure the situation.

The renovation of the exhibition, originally scheduled for July of 2020, has been postponed to April 12, 2021. We are currently preparing for the opening. We sincerely hope that by next spring, the infection will have subsided and we will be ready to welcome visitors with our new exhibits.

It is obvious that all of similar facilities of our museum are facing the same challenges, including reducing activities and operational concerns, but let's keep up and get it over!

Note: Himeyuri Peace Museum is temporarily

closed from March 22 to April 11, 2021, for the museum renovation.

Tel:098-997-2100 Fax:098-997-2102

HP <http://www.himeyuri.or.jp>

FB

<https://www.facebook.com/HIMEYURI.PEACE.MUSEUM/>



Attendance was limited at museum's memorial service (June, 2020)

(Translated by Emi Karimata)

Impact on the Operation of Museums for Peace

In July 2020, Ikuro Anzai (Honorary Director, Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan University) conducted a questionnaire survey on "The Effects of Novel Coronavirus Infectious Disease on the Management of Peace Museums" for 97 museums for peace in Japan, and got answers from 62 museums (64%). All the museums that responded were forced to close temporarily due to COVID-19.



In 2020, 75 years after the end of the Pacific War and the atomic bombing on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, 56% of the museums planned special projects on various themes, but due to COVID-19 they had to cancel, postpone or change the content.

In addition, 37% of the museums faced financial difficulties due to a sharp decrease in admission fees, donations, and museum goods sales revenue, and several museums were forced to consider closing.

In response to this situation, there were many requests for stronger support for the management of peace museums including countermeasures against infectious diseases and guarantee of financial resources. There were also voices expressing their awareness of the importance of cultural and educational projects, and a sense of crisis regarding the withering of memories of war.

With the spread of new coronavirus infection, many peace museums in Japan have been working on the following measures.

- ◆ Producing a DVD about the exhibition contents of the museum and lend it to schools
- ◆ Connecting with the line to exchange opinions with people inside and outside Japan
- ◆ Utilizing video instead of sending a storyteller to the school
- ◆ Introducing the exhibition on Twitter, SNS, Facebook, blog, YouTube, and website
- ◆ Focusing on renewing the website
- ◆ Rather than having visitors coming to the museum, sending museum staff for on-site lectures on peace
- ◆ Holding web seminars on peace
- ◆ Creating and renting a traveling exhibition set
- ◆ Digitalizing the photographs of the collection

items and providing them to schools

- ◆ Conducting guide seminars using ZOOM
- ◆ Considering future virtual museums
- ◆ Providing questions on the website for quizzes related to images and photographs stored in the museum
- ◆ Animating picture-story shows and storytelling projects

It has become clear that many peace museums are working on providing information and sending messages through the “electronic space.”



INMP's Elections Were Successfully Conducted in November 2020 Well-balanced New Governance Team Was Born

By Ikuro Anzai: INMP General Coordinator

Following the historical success of the 10th International Conference of Museums for Peace as a virtual online conference in September 2020, the election of INMP's board members was held with unprecedented vigor in November. For the first time in INMP's history, electronic voting was introduced for the 17 eligible candidates for the Executive Board and 15 candidates for the Advisory Committee, with an average voter turnout of more than 70%, including the mail-in ballot held in Japan, the turnout of which was 84%.

The Nominations/Elections Committee co-worked with the Kyoto Office to successfully conduct the elections for the next term from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2023.

Ten Executive Board Members newly elected consist of 4 men and 6 women, with the regional distribution of 3 from Europe, 2.5 from North America, 2.5 from Asia, 1 from Middle East and 1 from Africa.

Twelve Advisory Committee Members consist of 6 men and 6 women, with the regional distribution of 3 from Europe, 3.5 from North America, 2.5 from Asia, 2 from Oceania and 1 from Africa.

Here is a list of new Executive Board and Advisory Committee members.

[Executive Board Members]

- Joyce Apsel (Clinical Professor, New York University, USA)
- Mona Badamchizadeh (Museologist - Volunteer member and Cofounder & Coordinator of Children's department of Tehran Peace Museum, Iran)
- Kimberly Baker (Chair, Living Peace Museum, Canada)
- Clive Barret (Chair of Trustees, The Peace Museum, Bradford, UK)
- Akihiko Kimijima (Professor of College of International Relations, Ritsumeikan University, Japan)
- Jesper Mgagnusson (Director of Fredens Hus (The Peace House, Sweden)
- Iratxe Momoitio Astorkia (Director of Gernika Peace Museum, Spain)
- Munuve Mutisya (Director of the Community Peace Museums Heritage Foundation of Kenya)
- Satoko Oka Norimatsu (Director, Peace Philosophy Centre, Vancouver, Canada)
- Linh Tran (External Relations Manager, Thanh Hoa Bamboo Association, Vietnam)

[Advisory Committee Members]

- Christian Bartolf (Gandhi Information Center - Research and Education for Nonviolence. President, Germany)
- Kathleen Cogan (LPC- Intern, Heights Family Counseling, USA)
- Lucy Colback (Freelance writer, Hong Kong)
- Lonnie D. Franks (Lighthouse Technologies, Inc., Executive Consultant, USA)
- Francis Patrick Hutchinson (Professor/Dr Organizational affiliations include Peace Education Commission, IPRA, Editorial Board Member, Journal of Peace Education, Australia)
- Shannen Johnson (Learning and Engagement Officer, The Peace Museum, UK)
- Emi Karimata (Researcher, Himeyuri Peace Research Center at Himeyuri Peace Museum, Okinawa, Japan)
- Kevin Kelly (Executive Director, The Dayton International Peace Museum, USA)
- Mari Chiemi Leilani Kumura (Student, ISI Kyoto, Japan/USA)
- Lomudak Okech (Coordinator, Community Museums of Peace of the African Child Soldier, South Sudan)
- Eva Rodriguez Riestra (Representing Working Group for a Peace Museum for Australia. Committee member; Architects for Peace; Australia. Public Art Program Manager; City of Sydney; Australia)
- Erik Somers (Museum professional, Historian and researcher at the Netherlands Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies (NIOD) in Amsterdam, the Netherlands)



**We welcome the ratification of the
Nuclear Weapons Convention
as a condition for its entry into force**

**Kyoto Museum for World Peace,
Ritsumeikan University
Director: Ago Shinichi / Honorary
Director: Anzai Ikuro**

The entry into force of the Nuclear Weapons Convention marks a turning point in the history of nuclear disarmament.

In addition to prohibiting the development, possession, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons, the treaty also prohibits "assistance, encouragement and solicitation" of the use of nuclear weapons. In other words, it prohibits non-nuclear states from relying on the nuclear weapons of the nuclear powers, the so-called "nuclear umbrella".

"The accusation that the Nuclear Weapons Convention is ineffective because the nuclear weapons states and their allies are not parties to it" is a blanket statement. It is true that countries that have not ratified the treaty are not directly bound by it, but the fact that fifty countries necessary for the treaty to take effect have ratified a treaty calling for a total ban on nuclear weapons, taking into account the voices of the citizens of the world who sympathized with the heartbreaking cries of the atomic bomb survivors in Hiroshima and Nagasaki who were victims of the actual use of nuclear weapons, has a significant deterrent effect against the threat or temptation to use it in actual warfare.

Already on 8 July 1996, the International Court of Justice, while reserving its conclusions on the threat or use of nuclear weapons in the event of an existential crisis of a state, issued an advisory opinion stating that "the threat or use of nuclear weapons generally violates the rules of international law applicable

to armed conflict". The Nuclear Weapons Convention is a landmark move by UN member states to outlaw the threat or use of nuclear weapons and we welcome it and strongly urge the nuclear powers and their allies who are turning their backs on the Convention to change their nuclear security policies.

We also call for a change in the "nuclear umbrella" policy of Japan, because the Constitution of Japan, the only A-bombed country, is based on "pacifism," which demands the minimization of armed dependence in resolving conflicts, maintaining security, and building peace, which is incompatible with the security policy that relies on US nuclear weapons. The citizens of Japan under the Japanese Constitution are expected to work and fight together with the global movement of civil society including A-bomb survivors that contributed to preparing for, enacting, and bringing the Nuclear Weapons Convention into force, and the governments such as New Zealand, South Africa, Mexico, Austria, etc. that have ratified the treaty.

The Kyoto Museum for World Peace at Ritsumeikan University further endeavors to disseminate information on the inhumane reality of the use of nuclear weapons through exhibitions and related projects, in cooperation with the International Network of Museums for Peace, the Association of Japanese Museums for Peace of which the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum are members, as well as the Japanese Citizens' Network of Museums for Peace, and here declare that we will work even harder to achieve a nuclear weapon-free world.

November 8, 2020.





Mahatma Gandhi by Pegge Patten
acrylic on cradled pane



Your Articles are Welcome!

- ◆ Number of letters: about 500 letters in Japanese, and about 1000 words in English.
- ◆ Hopefully 1 or 2 photos
- ◆ Due Date: We will accept it at any time

Please send your article to the following email address.

musejapankvoto@gmail.com