

*Nuclear Disarmament Symposium*  
*On the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Atomic Bomb*

**WAR NEVER AGAIN**

Overview

1. Objectives:

70 years are passing from the moment of the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Explosion of atomic bombs at one moment destroyed the precious lives of tens of thousands of people and even now some tens of thousands of hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors) are suffering from the aftereffects of bombing. Still more than sixteen thousands nuclear bombs which can cause indescribable tragedies on humankind in the world.

It is aimed that the symposium will provide the forum to engage in an open dialogue among religious leaders and experts on disarmament from within and outside of the country and to identify the urgently needed action in this present world where the international community cannot abandon vast number of nuclear arsenals in many parts of the world even after 70 years from the moment of dropping of the atomic bombs.

It is sincerely hoped that this symposium can be most valuable and fruitful occasion to clearly identify present day agenda for further promotion of nuclear disarmament. By focusing recent discussion of the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons the symposium proposes dynamic steps toward the complete abolition of nuclear weapons.

We would like to share the proposal with hopes and visions from this symposium with globally wider circle of political, religious and cultural leaders and to call the international community to take further actions for elimination of nuclear weapons.

2. Organized by: Community of Sant' Egidio  
Religions for Peace Japan  
Japan Religious Committee for World Federation

3. Supported by: City of Hiroshima  
Association of Religions of Hiroshima Prefecture  
Embassy of Italy in Japan

4. Date: Thursday, August 6, 2015

5. Time: (1) Symposium (14:00 – 17:45)  
(2) Reception (18:00 – 19:15)  
(3) Lantern Floating Ceremony (19:30 – 20:30)

6. Venue: (1) Symposium

Room “Orchid” on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor at ANA Crown Plaza Hotel Hiroshima  
7-20 Naka-machi, Naka-ku, Hiroshima city TEL: 082-241-1111

(2) Reception

Room “Castel View” on 22<sup>nd</sup> floor at ANA Crown Plaza Hotel Hiroshima

(3) Lantern Floating Ceremony

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park: Naka-machi, Naka-ku, Hiroshima city

7. Participants: Approximately 250 of Religious leaders and political representatives who work on disarmament activities, experts, media and citizens

8. Language: Japanese & English (simultaneous translation)

9. Program (tentative):

13:30 Registration

14:00 Opening

Prayer for Peace

Opening Remarks: Rev. Tsunekiyo Tanaka (President of Association of Shinto Shrines and Japan Religious Committee for World Federation)

Welcome Speech: Kazumi Matsui (Mayor of Hiroshima city) \*TBD

Messages: H.E. Archbishop Joseph Chennoth (Ambassador of Vatican to Japan, reader for the Pope)

Greeting: H.E. Mr. Domenico Giorgi (Ambassador of Italy to Japan)

Speeches: Ven. Gijun Sugitani (Chair of the Board, Religions for Peace Japan/ Supreme Advisor to Tendai Buddhist Denomination)

Prof. Alberto Quattrucci (Secretary General of Peoples and Religions, Community of Sant' Egidio)

Testimony of atomic bomb-survivor: Rev. Nobuaki Kubota (Chief Priest of Hiroshima Tosho-gu)

15:00 Session 1 “Issues of Abolition of Nuclear Weapons”

Coordinator: Rev. Kosho Niwano (Board Member of Religions for Peace Japan/ President Designate of Rissho Kosei-kai)

Speaker: Prof. Vladimir Garkavenko (Co-President of the International Physicians for the Prevention of the Nuclear War)

Response: Rev. Yutaka Minabe (Member, Abolition of Nuclear Weapons and Disarmament Task Force of Religions for Peace Japan/ Bishop, Episcopal

Church of Japan, Yokohama District)

H.E. Faisal bin Abdulrahman bin Muammar (Secretary General of King  
Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Center Interreligious and  
Intercultural Dialogue)

Discussion

16:15 Session 2 “Actions for Nuclear Disarmament Hereafter”

Coordinator: Dr. William F. Vendley (Secretary General of Religions for Peace  
International)

Speaker: Rev. Prof. Dr. Sang Chang (Co-President of World Council of Churches)

Response: Rev. Munemichi Kurozumi (Vice Chief of Kurozumi Shinto)

Mr. Alyn Ware (Global Coordinator of Parliamentary Network for  
Nuclear Disarmament)

Mr. Saber Chowdhury (President of Inter-Parliamentary Union,  
Co-President of Parliamentarians Nuclear Non-proliferation and  
Disarmament)

Discussion

17:30 Closing “Religious Contributions for Building World Peace”

Remarks: Prof. Agostino Giovagnoli (Director of Asia, Community of Sant’ Egidio)

Closing Remarks: Religions for Peace Japan \*TBD

Prayer for Peace

17:45 Fin

18:00 Reception (Room “Castel View” on 22<sup>nd</sup> floor at ANA Crown Plaza Hotel Hiroshima)

19:30 Lantern Floating Ceremony (Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park)

20:30 Fin