

Greetings

72 years have passed since the Atomic Bombing. From the ruins Hiroshima has completely changed into a beautiful and peaceful city surrounded by water and greenery. However, in many places of this world, there are still many people living in fear of destruction by air strikes and in fear of terrorism. How can we stop this destruction and create a world where we can live peacefully and securely ?

In recent years, the number of tourists from overseas who have come to Hiroshima as well as Tokyo and Kyoto, has increased rapidly. Because it is such an unsettling world, people may be expecting something from Hiroshima. In May last year, President Obama, who came to Hiroshima for the first time as an incumbent President of the United States, hugged a Hibakusha, and made a strong peace message for the future.

President Obama said, "We are a member of the family of one human race. We can choose a future in which Hiroshima and Nagasaki are known not as the dawn of atomic warfare, but as the start of our own moral awakening."

While raising the national flags of each of the 194 countries in the world, we go beyond the differences in language, religion and principle, and we simply wish "May peace prevail on earth". We have been performing this " Flag Ceremony " to pray for peace in each country of the world, every year on August 6th in front of the Atomic Bomb Dome. It is our 25th annual ceremony this year. Although the ceremony is very simple with reciting ordinary words, I think true world peace must start from the heart by praying for peace of each country. This is also the desire of Hibakushas in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Today, many friends in Japan and around the world are also participating in our ceremony through the Internet. So, with these friends, let us pray together with one heart, and send our prayer of world peace to the world.

August 6th, 2017

Shohei Tominaga
Representative of
Hiroshima World Peace Prayer Society Members