

Greetings

73 years have passed after the atomic bombing. Every ordinal life had been completely destroyed in an instance, and they said there would be no trees and grass for 75 years in Hiroshima. At that time nobody could imagine that the ruins of Hiroshima would be changed into such a beautiful and peaceful city surrounded by water and greenery.

However, we should never forget, on the long way to reaching this point, there were countless activities of many people who had stood up from deep sorrow and a multitude of support from people in many parts of Japan and around the world, all of whom shared strong feelings for peace and the desire that such a tragedy should never be repeated.

In recent years, a rapidly increasing number of tourists from overseas has been coming to Hiroshima as well as Tokyo and Kyoto. Some people may come here expecting to find the way to world peace by seeing the great change of Hiroshima from ruins to such a lush, bright city.

The world seems to be changing dramatically now. With the severe conflict, unsettling frustrations among the countries and ethnic groups, I think that the number of persons who are beginning to perceive that they might be an illusion in the long flow of history, may be increasing little by little but steadily.

While raising the national flags of each of the 194 countries in the world, we go beyond the differences in language, religion, principle, and assertion, with only one wish: "May peace prevail on earth". We have been performing the "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 26th annual ceremony this year. Although the ceremony is very simple with reciting ordinary words, I think everything will start from the heart of praying for peace of each country. It 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 pray of world peace to the world.

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Shohei Tominaga
Representative of
Hiroshima World Peace Prayer Society Members