

Commitment to Peace

We were not able to believe it –

Sixty-nine years ago on August 6, an atomic bomb was dropped onto this Hiroshima, and many precious lives were lost.

Grandpa, who was five years old at the time of the bombing, spoke of that day: “The scenes, straight from hell, are still burned into my eyes.”

We who are growing up in Hiroshima learned about the damage, tragedy, and strength of Hiroshima.

Many buildings were destroyed by the blast. Having lost their homes and families, the survivors saw their everyday lives vanish.

Amongst this,

water service did not stop even for a day, and the streetcars began to run again after three days.

Through the efforts of the people, Hiroshima’s city and spirit were revived.

We are grateful for those who managed to find hope to live, and survived amidst the sadness and suffering. We realized that those things we take for granted are peace.

An A-bomb survivor once said: “Start from the small things.”

And we have already begun to act.

We value our friends and treat them kindly.

We listen to stories about the reality of the atomic bombing, and the longing for peace, from our families and the survivors.

With wishes for peace, every year we fold paper cranes, and dedicate them at the monuments.

We think for ourselves about what peace is, and exchange opinions with our friends.

By thinking about peace, we are able to connect with others.

We have gained the courage to start from what we can do.

Welcome to Hiroshima.

We are waiting for all of you here in this city.

Let’s all talk and share opinions about peace, about the future,

Believing that many different thoughts will become a powerful driving force for peace.

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