

青少年国際平和未来会議2021

International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future 2021

Eight young people from Hiroshima City represented Hiroshima at the International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future 2021 (Online), hosted by Volgograd in August 2021.

To prepare for the conference, they studied the basics of the realities of the atomic bombing and international understanding. They also thought about what they would deliver to youth from cities around the world at the International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future (IYCPF) while cultivating a desire for lasting world peace through interactions with people from various backgrounds.

※ IYCPF brings together young people from Hiroshima City and from Hiroshima City's sister and friendship cities to deepen their friendships and mutual understanding by thinking about and discussing world peace together. In addition, it aims to foster global talent by conveying the Will of Hiroshima, which hopes for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the realization of lasting world peace, to young people around the world, raising peace awareness in the next generation of leaders.



Atomic Bomb Survivor Testimony

Participants listened to an atomic bomb survivor testimony and thought deeply about what happened to each of the survivors on that day. Below, you can find participant comments about the testimony.

● “I think it is very important that people across the globe have learned that the first atomic bomb in human history was dropped on Hiroshima on August 6th. But more than that, as the atomic bomb survivor told us, I felt that it is our responsibility as the younger generation of Hiroshima to fully express the sorrows and losses experienced by the *hibakusha* so that people can know more about the tragedy of the atomic bomb. In addition, it reaffirmed my belief that we need to convey not only the historical facts, but also the emotional aspects.”



● “Listening to the atomic bomb survivor testimony really reaffirmed my understanding of the horror of the atomic bombing and the importance of peace. I was reminded that there was not only destruction immediately after the bombing, but also long-lasting effects on health and the environment as well, and I was keenly reminded that we need to pass on the importance of peace and the horror of war to the next generation. It was a testimony that made me feel that we need to take responsibility for passing on that message.”



“Relay the Memories” - Lecture by Director of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

After visiting the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, the eight participants listened to a lecture by the museum director to deepen their knowledge.



Pre-Conference Seminar

During pre-conference seminar, the eight participants successfully carried out the roles assigned to them. They conducted several discussions and considered how to proceed with the training, as well as the layouts of their presentations. Each of the participants, gathered together under the same objective, participated proactively in the seminar and helped cement awareness in one another that the development of the IYCPF was in their hands.



Studying international understanding



Preparing for the Hiroshima City presentation



Introducing their research on the host city, Volgograd

Attending the Peace Memorial Ceremony

Participants attended the Peace Memorial Ceremony as representatives of our city's youth, reflecting on what they had learned in their prior training.

Below, you can find comments from the participants about their thoughts after attending the ceremony.



● “76 years ago, on this exact day, an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, which took away the lives of many people.

We’re here today to commemorate this tragic event and pay respect to those who perished and to pray for world peace. It’s a great honor and privilege to be part of this annual event and I’m grateful to IYCPF for giving me this wonderful opportunity. Let us spread peace, love, and kindness to the world.”

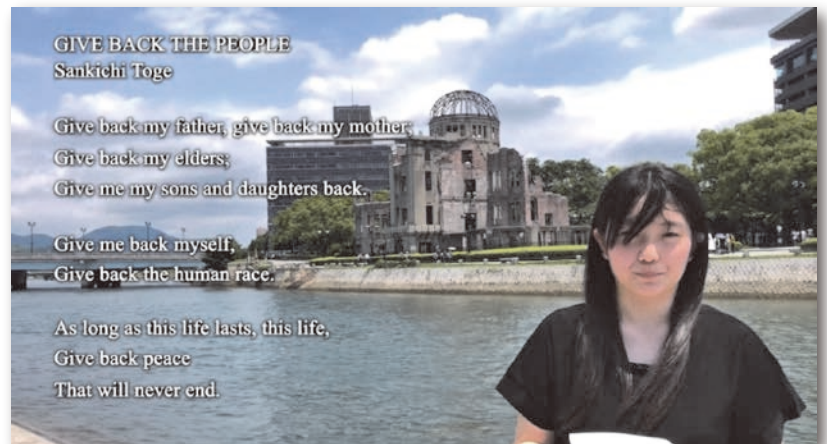
● “I would like to offer my condolences to the victims of the atomic bombing, and I appreciate the opportunity to be here today. In the Peace Declaration, the mayor of Hiroshima mentioned that he wanted young people to convey that nuclear weapons should no longer exist. In response to his words, we will continue discussing peace with people all over the world through IYCPF, and we pledge to convey what we have discussed to the whole world. I truly appreciate the opportunity to be here.”



Online Conference with Cities Abroad

From August 2-15, 2021, eight participants from Hiroshima City attended IYCPF 2021 (Online) hosted by Volgograd. In the conference, 34 youths from eight cities and 7 countries got together to learn about the history of Volgograd and participate in a variety of programs, including reports and activities related to commemorative ceremonies held in each city on August 6.

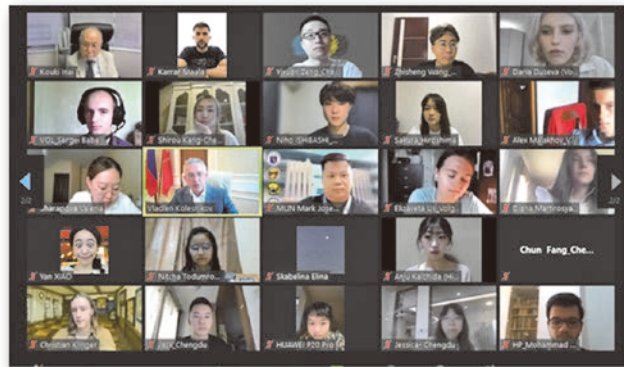
The participants were divided into small groups to exchange opinions and think of activities to contribute to peace. They then shared their ideas to the world through social media. In addition, the participants introduced their cities and gave presentations on their cultures and customs for cross-cultural exchange. The eight participants recited poems about the atomic bomb and made a video introducing various monuments.



video from their presentation about Hiroshima City



using social media for peace activities



the online conference

Reflections

In anticipation of their future contributions, the chairperson of the IYCPF issued Certificates of Appointment and Certificates of Achievement to Hiroshima participants who contributed to peace activities through their participation in the programs. The program ended with each of the participants giving their reflections on the IYCPF:

● “Regarding the pre-conference seminar, all members were inspired by hearing speakers who are working for world peace on a daily basis. In addition to realizing that we are the next generation of leaders in society, it also gave us the opportunity to think about how we can take concrete actions to realize world peace. For the conference, the Hiroshima team members enhanced their teamwork skills and helped each other with preparations.



During the discussions in meetings, there were times when it was difficult for some members to speak their minds or when there were issues with time management, but in the latter half, members were more proactive in participating and able to hold deep discussions within a short period of time.

Through this experience, the conference not only allowed me to hear from a variety of experts, but also to acquire the ability to talk to one another, which is essential for realizing peace. It was the most fulfilling two weeks I have ever experienced.



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● “During the online conference with people from participating countries, I was able to see a lot of ways of thinking, and I felt that no matter what country we were born in, our hope for peace is the same. I also learned about the past mistakes of my country, remorse, and war. Although I was frustrated that I couldn't communicate well due to the language barrier, I was glad that everyone listened to my opinions and tried to understand what I wanted to say. There were times when members had conflicting opinions that caused tension, but I was happy to see everyone's strong desire for lasting peace and their ability to deliver their own opinions. However, I felt that it is necessary to respect and accept each other's opinions, considering the differences in values, rather than just asserting our own opinions one way or the other, in order to deepen mutual understanding and improve relations between nations.”



way to realize peace is to promote dialogue while respecting others and remembering that other prefectures and countries also have tragic pasts caused by war. It really reaffirmed my desire to become a person who can discuss Hiroshima from a variety of perspectives with people overseas.

I was also really happy that all the team members were so kind to me regardless of language or culture. When we all called each other after the last conference, I was surprised to find myself crying. My values changed dramatically, and I made many great friends. I am really glad that I was able to participate in this conference.”



listening to presentations by the other teams and exchanging opinions about peace with people from overseas. I also realized that my English ability was lacking. It was very frustrating to not be able to deliver what I wanted to say, and it motivated me to study English harder from now on. I am also very happy that I was able to make friends with young people from overseas by working as a team, and I hope that we can keep in touch in the future.

I am really glad to have participated in IYCPF 2021. The work is not over yet, so I will do my best in the future. But even after it's over, I will work to utilize what I've learned here in my future.”

● “For us, as citizens of Hiroshima, when we think of peace, what happened on August 6th is the first thing that comes to mind. However, I was shocked to know that most overseas members didn't know much about the atomic bombing. At the same time, I had no idea about the tragedies in their countries and towns, and realizing that really helped to broaden my perspective. I think it is very important to deliver the message of peace from the perspective of Hiroshima, but there are also many people in the world who have been harmed by Japan. The atomic bomb is not the only measure of peace, and I think the quickest

● “Meeting the other Hiroshima team members, it was so much fun to work together with under a common motivation toward a single goal, and all the feelings of anxiety I had before the IYCPF online conference shifted into feelings of excitement. In particular, when making the Hiroshima team's introductory video, it was difficult for each of us to gather materials and create a single video, but we were able to create a wonderful video using our creativity, and I felt a great sense of achievement.

Once the online conference started, I enjoyed the work even more. I learned a lot from

