

Commitment to Peace
August 6, 2010

We love Hiroshima, our beautiful, green city.

Sixty-five years ago on August 6, 8:15 a.m.

The first atomic bomb in history was dropped on Hiroshima.

In an instant, many precious lives were lost. Bodies and faces of loved ones were completely disfigured.

The bomb destroyed traces of history and culture cultivated over the years by many people, and the city was reduced to ashes.

Amidst the burnt ruins, however, phoenix tree and tree of heaven buds began to sprout. These buds gave citizens the hope and faith that they could rebuild their city.

In spite of the destruction and despair, citizens pulled themselves together and gave it their all

each day to reconstruct the city, and we are extremely grateful to them.

There are many serious problems in the world today. Many children have lost their smiles in the conflict and poverty that surrounds them. Sad things such as bullying and violence are taking place in our everyday lives. If we do not work to solve these problems, there will be no future for us.

How can we resolve these conflicts? How can we bring smiles to everyone's faces?

It is our mission as the youth of Hiroshima to learn from past tragedies and tell the world what we know.

We cannot change what happened in the past, but we can learn from it, and if each of us acts with the strong desire for change, we can build a peaceful world.

It is our turn next.

To fill the world with smiling people, we promise to convey our wish from Hiroshima to the world and future generations.

Children's Representatives

Mikina Takamatsu (sixth grade, Hiroshima City Fukuromachi Elementary School)

Kazuhiro Yokobayashi (sixth grade, Hiroshima City Furutadai Elementary School)