

Declaration of Peace

It was only about a month ago that we came to know the terror of the atomic bomb. Because we have this opportunity to visit Nagasaki, we learned about this terror and were very surprised to learn about the thousands of people who suffered as a result of the bombing. We also came to learn that the bombing and its aftermath are not over. In the last year, 3,355 people were newly placed on the list of victims of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki.

As a result of the bomb, many people lost their lives and more people lost the ones they loved. When we reconsider this tragedy, we feel that we are blessed in this life. At the same time, we can't help but feel that the reality of the bombing is becoming less real to us. We can't imagine the destructive power of even one, yet all over the world, there are about 17,000 nuclear weapons. We don't even want to consider that these weapons might be used some day. We must not make a future like this. We must bear responsibility for our future and act accordingly. We believe this from the bottom of our hearts.

Dreams of young people were stolen. Some endured loneliness while others had loved ones taken from them in an instant. We never want such a future. The bomb dropped over Nagasaki 69 years ago took away so much in a flash. We shall never repeat such a tragedy.

These things are critical: for the atomic bombings to be known, and that we consider peace not someone else's business, but our own. To Japanese people, we want you to know and to think. To people around the world, let us change what peace means to us, and take our ideas and spread them to create a peaceful world.

If we truly wish for peace, and wish for it soon, we must believe that we can use our power for this purpose. We take it as a matter of course that we can freely laugh, cry, get angry and feel joy. What peace means is for all of the people of the world to feel this way.

To this end, we, Fuzoku Kushiro Junior High School students, will share what we have learned about Nagasaki, our feelings in opposition of nuclear weapons, and our opinion that nuclear weapons are terrifying and we want them gone. We will share this with our family, friends, sisters and brothers, and future generations. We will continue to think about how to make our world more peaceful and what else can be done.

December 2nd, 2014
The 45th Class of the
Hokkaido University of Education Affiliated
Kushiro Junior High School