

## Declaration of Peace

70 years have passed since the end of World War II. We had thought that war was something in the past and none of our business. However, we learned that even now many people are still suffering from the painful memories of the war and its aftereffects. We also knew that the average age of the atomic bomb victims is over 80 years old which means it's difficult for them to tell their stories to younger generations. That is why, we believe, it's important for us, the youth living in Japan, to transmit the necessity of peace. We mustn't make the tragedy of the war a folk tale.

At 11:02 on August ninth 1945, an atomic bomb exploded 500m above Matsuyama-cho, Nagasaki. 73,884 people were killed and 74,909 people were wounded. More than half of the population of Nagasaki at that time suffered from the bomb. Especially radiation caused huge damage to victims' bodies. Still now many victims are afflicted by the aftereffects of the radiation. More than 16,000 nuclear weapons which caused their pain still exist around the world. War and disputes which try to destroy peace have been happening. We should notice that war and dispute are connected to us otherwise it's impossible to transmit the importance of the war.

It may be difficult to do something directly for Nagasaki which is far away from Hokkaido. However, we can "link". 70 years after the World War II, fewer people know the facts of the day of the atomic bomb. To link 70 years ago with the future and to live thankfully as much as we can are our missions and all we can. We will live thankfully in our daily lives and we will be happy to live peacefully.

We don't have to live in fear of war. We haven't experienced the terror of atomic bombs and moreover don't see war happening with our own eyes. Peace is a great pleasure. We feel strongly that we must not take it for granted that we can live peacefully because we learned the suffering of people in Nagasaki. If we get used to peace, we won't be able to explain the fear of the atomic bomb to future generations and might even forget the fact. We, the 46<sup>th</sup> class of the Hokkaido University of Education Affiliated Kushiro Junior High School swear that we will never forget what happened in Nagasaki 70 years ago and tell the fear of the atomic bomb to future generations in order to prevent such a cruel history from happening again anywhere around the world, and live as thankfully as possible.

December 2nd, 2015  
The 46th Class of the  
Hokkaido University of Education Affiliated  
Kushiro Junior High School