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# Fight against the A-bomb

YAMADA Hirotami

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Anthony Brown

## The speaker's profile

Hirotami Yamada was born as the eldest son of the father of the Nagasaki Commercial School teacher, Masuho, and the mother, Yoshi, in Nakagawa-machi, Nagasaki, on June 1st, 1931. In April 1944, he entered an old-education-system Nagasaki junior high school in Narutaki. On August 9th 1945, the A-bomb was dropped over Nagasaki. He was exposed to the A-bomb at the Nagasaki Junior High School, 3.3 kilometers from the hypocenter. He survived without a scratch. His father was at Mitsubishi Arms factory in Ohhashi, 1.3 kilometers from the hypocenter, and he was seriously injured. His mother, Yoshi, sister, Misao, brother two years younger than him, Akira, and nine-month-old brother, Takashi, were at home in Shiroyama-machi, 800 meters from the hypocenter. Mother, sister, and two brothers were dead of A-bomb disease within the first month. He went through life with father who was miraculously recovering.

He graduated from Nagasaki Nishi High School in March, 1950. In April of that year, he entered the Nagasaki University's Faculty of Economics. As he formed Newspaper club, he was suspended from school for two months for publishing newspaper without the permission. This was the first time punitive action in the university. He sought approval Stockholm Appeal for Peace to call for cessation of the production and use of nuclear weapons. After he graduated from the university in May 1954, he was posted to Miyazaki prefecture to work in a high school.

In December 1961, father died of lung cancer caused by radiation exposure. Five in six members of the family got killed by A-bomb. It made him having a strong will to abolish nuclear weapons, and he returned to Nagasaki. As well as being a teacher, he assumed officer of the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Survivors Council in May 1983 and became the executive officer in 1990. He has also served as director of the Japan Confederation of A- and H-bomb Sufferers Organization. Their greatest goal is to get government compensation for the A-bomb sufferers.

### **YAMADA's lecture**

I am Yamada. As he introduced, I was born and raised in Nagasaki. I graduated from Nagasaki University's Faculty of Economics. Thus I tend to focus on the social science. What I would like to talk about today will be getting into it. When I talk to college student, just like you, I talk about not only how much we had been hurt, grieved, and suffered from the A-bomb but also how the occupying American forces and the Japanese government were related to the A-bomb sufferers. I will talk about that things on basis of my experience as far as possible. I will try my best.

In 1933 our family moved to Shiroyama-machi in Nagasaki. We moved from Nakagawa-machi, the outskirts of the east of Nagasaki. I had lived there until age three. My father had worked as a teacher at the Nagasaki Commercial School in those days. The school was located at where Irabayashi Elementary School is now. Hence, we were living in Nakagawa-machi. As Irabayashi was in the city, the ground was narrow, and the school was moved to Aburagi-machi, a new residential area on the outskirts of Nagasaki. If the school had't moved to Aburagi-machi, we would have lived in

Nakagawa-machi. Then we would not have had to take A-bomb rather hard and sad. I can't say it's anything but bad luck. Shiroyama-mati was located 800 meters from the hypocenter. The nearest parts of the town was 500 meters and the most remote parts was one kilometer from the hypocenter. Our family of six was living in 800 meters from the hypocenter.

From April 1945, we couldn't take classes in the junior high school including an advanced course of primary school. Then what had we been doing? As you know we were marshaled for factories or farmlands. As I entered a junior high school in the previous year, I could have taken classes for one year in the school. We were forced into the military job a every opportunity, but we could study in the first year at junior high school. However, from April 1945, we were prevented from taking classes in the junior high school. There were large rooms in the school, such as the gymnasium or the chemical lab. A floorboard in such rooms were ripped, encased in concrete, and brought machines from factory. The school became a factory. Here in this place, Nagasaki University, was once an arms factory of Mitsubishi, and torpedoes were manufactured here. It is said that the torpedoes, which were used for the Pearl Harbor Attack, were manufactured right here. This large campus was a factory. Students from several schools were marshaled for such factories. Some students of Nagasaki Commercial School also came here. Teachers accompanied them to there and dealt with them.

At that time, I went out to school in Narutaki, though the sound of air-raid siren was heard. In those day, there were trams, but if junior high-school students got caught taking it by senior students, they were beaten up because they were cheeky. So I walked to the school instead of taking the tram. It took about one hour.

When the sound of air-raid siren was heard, we didn't have

to go to school. It is ridiculous to walk out on the streets during the siren. Before that an industrial area around Nagasaki city, a port and Nagasaki station had gotten bombed, but a residential area had not gotten bombed that much. Therefore I downgraded the siren and went out to school because I was in a residential area. Besides, I didn't want to be late. If I had waited for the siren to be over, I would have arrived one hour late. I didn't want to enter the classroom where classmates were working hard. However, I had nothing to do when I arrived at school. There were only a few people who came a long distance. It was absolutely the free atmosphere. We spent our time chatting with friends. At about 10:30, the siren was called off. It means there would be no other enemies dispatching, and the students gradually came to school. It was the time of 11:02 a.m. This situation was same in Hiroshima. Apparently, when the people came out from shelters, the bomb was dropped as if on cue. It may be it was done "deliberately", not "as if on cue." Because of this, damage was severe. I feel certain that it was prearranged.

Anyway, I was in school. My father was in right here. Here was a factory. He was in an office which was twostoried wooden building with windows facing south. He was working near the window opened because it was hot. There was no air conditioning just like now. There were some teachers including my father who came from several schools. The office was for those teachers to work. They were working facing exactly A-bomb.

My mother, sister, and brothers were in a house which stood on a hill of Shiroyama-machi, 800 meters from the hypocenter. There were six or seven houses on the hill, and hundreds of houses were there at the foot of the hill. We lived in a corner of the hill. Our house also faced south in the south on the hill where the Gokoku Shrine stood. It just seemed like facing the

Shiroyama Elementary School. The east of the Shiroyama Elementary School was the hypocenter. Facing the Shiroyama Elementary School means facing the hypocenter. Our house was there.

My mother said “I didn’t know what was going on.” The moment the blinding light flashed. It was really a tremendous flash of light. Then, it was plunged into darkness and crumpled houses. After the building light, everything around me became black. “I didn’t know what was going on.” Then she found a grimmer in the dark. It came in through a gap in collapsed roof. She pushed through rubble and dragged herself outside. My sister and brother did so, too. My young brother was only nine months old. He was not yet walking. He lay down with covering a thin summer futon. It was difficult to find him who were buried under rubble. After going out from the rubble, my mother dug out the area hearing a baby cry, and saved him. Apparently, he was wrapped in a futon was crying in space between a toppling chest and a toppling pillar. My mother, sister, and brothers got a serious injury. Since my brother, who went to elementary school, was in the entrance, he got showered his arms with fragment of broken glass. My mother and sister got their feet caught in rubble, and their feet were swollen. On the way to coming out from rubble, there were thorny woods, glass fragments, and nails. They had scratches with such things. My mother suffered a catastrophic neck injury and the bleeding would not stop. Even so, they survived.

At 11:02 a.m. I was in a classroom, and something flashed. In that instant, somebody said “Whatch out!” As soon as I heard the voice, I automatically crawled under a desk. Even now elementary students are taught to crawl under the desk if there is an earthquake just like we were taught. Thus I quickly crawled under a desk when I heard “Whatch out!” After the

blinding flash, I heard an explosion and the bomb blast blew in. It's quite natural because light travels faster than sound. The instant we crawled under a desk, we heard the sound of a huge explosion. The bomb blast smashed windows, but the sound was so huge that we couldn't hear breaking of windows. After that, there was complete silence, and it was an eerie tranquility. Getting out from under the desk, the classroom was full of dust. The ceiling board came off, and dust in the ceiling fell all over there. Glass fragments also littered there. If someone had not said "Watch out," I would be tossed by the bomb blast and be seriously injured from glass fragments while wondering what happen. Some people got injured by glass fragments, but it was just a scratch. We didn't know what happened. Since we thought a bomb might have been dropped, we liked out of window. If the bomb had been dropped, there would be a hole, and houses around the hole would collapse. We knew from experiences. However, there was nothing something like it. Instead, roof tiles burst into fragments, and there were nothing but pillars especially upstairs part of the houses. The neighbors also came out of their houses and fidgeted. Nobody knows exactly what was happening. I was scared that the bombing would start, so I was in the school until about noon. I couldn't go out from the school. Then, teacher came into the classroom at about noon saying "We can't work today. You can go home." We began to go home.

Usually it took one hour to go home, but after leaving the school, I became aware that it would take longer than usual. When I walked toward the Nagasaki station as usual, the area was a sea of fire. I thought that backtracking and crossing the Mt. Kompira could get me the other side of the station. Since I thought only around the Nagasaki station was burnt down, I crossed the mountain. I could get a view of the whole city from the top of the mountain. The entire city was engulfed in flames.

I was shocked because I had never seen such a horrible scene. I couldn't believe my eyes. At the same time, I became aware that I would not be able to get home even if I continued in this direction. I went down to the middle of the mountain and went by a prison. The prison was in present-day the Peace Park. I reached behind the Yamazato Elementary School. On the way there, I encounter the so many injured people mobbing the mountain. And I reach Ohhashi. Ohhashi is still there.

The city was crowded with injured people, and dead bodies were left thrown everywhere. I was getting worried about my family. In the face of such horrible sight, I couldn't stop worrying about them. Reading the experiences of the A-bomb survivors or listening to them talk about their experiences, I admire their observations. They remember how people had died and what injured people were doing. Some say a mother was running with her hair carrying a headless baby. I didn't remember anything like that. I remember people were lying or sitting around there, but I didn't really care about how they look. I tried to enter our residential area from the south, but there were all aflame. I went around the back of the Gokoku Shrine and approached the house.

Many houses at the foot of the hill were burning, but there were no burning house in the hill. These had only collapsed, and there was not a soul. Since we had a collective bomb shelter with a neighbor, I thought they had taken refuge at there. It was 4 p.m. when I got the shelter. On August 9<sup>th</sup> is the heat of the summer, and usually it is still light out around 4 p.m. In spite of that, it was so dim, and hard to recognize my family who collapsed on the ground. It made a strong impression on me. The smoke was ascending to the sky leaving the sun in dun. It was such a poor light. Finally my brother found me saying "He is coming back," and I looked up and found my family. Looking back at it now, I think their injuries

were very serious, but I didn't think so at that time. Because I saw many people on the way there who were more dead than alive, I thought it could be worse. My mother was surprised as I unexpectedly turned up. She couldn't believe that I could safely return home. She was prepared for the worst. She was covered in blood. Even so, it seemed a lot better than others. My baby brother was fine without a scratch as he was wrapped in futon.

However my father did not come back even two days after. In the beginning, I was optimistic because I knew there were some areas not to be burnt down. The area where he was might be safe, and he would come home soon. However my father did not come back even two days after. We started thinking about the worst thing. On August 12th, my baby brother, who was uninjured, took his last breath in mother's arms. My mother exclaimed in astonishment, "He is not breathing." I had a look at him, but I couldn't help it. In those days there were no hospitals in Shiroyama area. We slept lying down on field. We had nothing to wear. There were no mosquito and bug. Maybe these were wiped out, so we could lie down without resistance. We were very tired. My mother slept holding the baby. The next day my sister sleeping next to me was cold when we woke up. Her foot was swollen, but it was not so serious. I didn't know why she died. We couldn't leave her. There were littered with the dead bodies all around the place. These dead bodies were decomposing after a few days. It's no wonder because it was a hot summer day. Things like oil were spilling on the ground from naked dead body with a swollen belly. The stench was overpowering. I couldn't stand to see my dead brother and sister would be like that, so we had to take care of them. I could see people were burning dead body everywhere and learned how to burn them. There was a mountain of burnt timbers in two steps down from where we

were. Picking up the timbers, I laid the dead brother and sister down on them and set fire. It took a long time. The timbers burned slowly. Clothes caught fire first and then the bodies did. The cremation started around noon and ended at the evening. The bones remained in the ember. These were left there overnight to be chilled. The next day, August 14th, we picked up the bones, but we didn't have something to put them in. I went to the collapsed house to look for a bucket to use as an urn. I couldn't find a bucket but a empty powdered milk can. A can of baby powdered milk was larger than the ordinary one. There was only one can. It was impossible to put all of their bones in it. We put in as many ones as possible and buried the rest of them in a corner of field.

We couldn't live in there any longer. My father did not come back. My paternal grandmother was living in Isahaya. The train was already running. We wrapped the can containing the bones in cloth and took a train from Urakami to Isahaya. When we went to my grandmother's, she told us that my father was in hospital. I went there right away, but I didn't feel so glad that I could meet him. His skin didn't survive and earlobes melted away. He also got a great cut on his back, and it had continued to bleed. Therefore rather than being delighted to see surviving father, I thought about the rest of his life when I met him. It was not the thing that a son thought about seeing father suffering. "How long will he live?" I thought.

He was in a private hospital first. After the war, women and children were persuaded to evacuate, and nurses were gone. The private hospital couldn't do without nurses, so it was closed. But a Navy Hospital remained. He transferred to the Navy hospital which gave better cure. My mother and brother were also hospitalized in there. My brother had bloody diarrhea when he came into the hospital. A doctor diagnosed

him as bloody flux, and he was placed in an isolation ward. My father and mother were placed in a shared ward by four others. Mother said that she started out going there in order to take care of father. A few days later brother and mother became unable to move. Both of their conditions became progressively worse. I asked the doctor whether brother was obviously bloody flux. He said that brother did not carry the shigella. It was the first case in the skin. She died on August 23rd, and brother died on the next day. In September I was summoned to the doctor. He needed to consult with me. I guessed it was about father's condition, but it was totally different. The US forces would use the hospital, so they had to vacate. Therefore they wanted my father to go out of there if he could transfer to somewhere. If we were really unable to find somewhere to get medical attention, they would refer to another hospital, though it might be in a remote area. They forced me to make a decision. At that time I thought that US forces had been still dispatched to Japan even after the war was over. In spite of the fact that there were many sick people and injured people, we Japanese didn't have a choice. I conferred with my grandmother. I thought he wanted to stay with his mother because he would die sooner or later. I guessed she also wanted to be with him when he passed away, so I thought he didn't have to be taken away to a distance. She said "Take him home. We have a room he can sleep in." We took him home. The neighborhood physician made a house visit. Although he couldn't get satisfactory treatment, he was getting better gradually. At the end of the year he could get up, and the next spring he could move around. As summer approaches, he could take a walk around the neighborhood, and he said he wanted to go to a school. The school was located about one kilometer from the hypocenter. Many students were working at there with my father, and more than half of them had died. One

third of the teachers had also died. There was a shortage of teacher. There was much work piled up. He heard such a thing and returned to work from August the following year. He commuted for an hour by train to work. After getting off the train he walked to school. It was not so easy, but he was continuing to do so. My father left his teaching job at the age of 57, and he was spending a relaxed time at home.

When he was 61 years old, I took him to the neighborhood clinic because he had a cough. He was diagnosed with bronchitis. However, I noticed something odd in him. I took him to the Japanese Red Cross Nagasaki Genbaku Hospital to be evaluated by a specialist. He was required immediate hospitalization. Since one of my ex-classmates worked at the hospital, I asked him to let me know his condition exactly. Seeing a X-ray, he said "I'm sorry, but he has little time left to live." My father had terminal lung cancer. His life expectancy was about three months or less. I was so shocked. In December of that year, he died at the age of 64. My entire family died leaving behind me. I had worked at an evening high school, Nagasaki High School until 1990. In those days a retirement age system was already adopted, but I had retired in 1990 before reaching retirement year. 1990 was very important year for A-bomb survivors. Until then, I was an executive officer of the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Survivors Council from 1953 while I work. I was not interested in campaign for A-bomb survivors' support. That was not to say that I was completely mute to the campaign. I just didn't feel like being actively supportive. Since they were looking for a successor to an executive officer, I took it with a light heart. It has been quite some time since then. There was one thing that pricked my conscience. Why did my father have to leave the Navy hospital? They kicked A-bomb victims out of the hospital for US forces. I thought there was no choice for us because Japan was defeated. The head of the

Navy hospital was in Sasebo. And its branch hospitals were in Kawatana, Omura, and Isahaya. All of those hospital threw A-bomb victims out of there. I wondered if there were so many injured or sick American soldiers. As I did some research, every first-aid center were forced to be closed after two months of dropping A-bombs. On October 8th in Nagasaki, and on October 5th in Hiroshima. There is something to do with it, I thought. Why were the first-aid centers closed only two months after? It did not mean there has been a shortage of patients. If anything, it was about the time when the number of new patients started to increase. Patients having an unknown disease started to increase after two months. That's when hospitals were closed.

There was a decent law called Wartime Damage Protection Law. The more the war heated up, the more houses burned down and people were killed. When that happens, government couldn't afford to ignore them. When an entire house burned down, they paid up to 2,000 yen. When a head of a family died, they paid 1,000 yen. That was chicken money. There was a clause saying establishment of the first-aid centers, and it expired in two months after the war. The present Nagasaki City Library was built on the site of Shinkouzen Elementary School. The elementary school was located three kilometers away from hypocenter. Therefore reinforced concrete school building remained. The classrooms changed into a hospital room. A bunch of injured and sick people were taken there and were dying one after another. That was what's happened there. It was closed on October 8th. There is a small monument next to the gate of Shinkouzen Elementary School, which remains in a garden of the library, saying "The Site of the Temporary First-Aid Center." There is nothing written about the reason why it was closed. It says "Temporary First-Aid Center had been set up here from August to October." Strictly speaking, it

had been set up from August 9th or 10th to October 8th. But there is no mention of such details. I think it must be recorded. On October 8th Wartime Damage Protection Law expired, and the temporary first-aid center was closed. I still think that it's a matter of course to write down the details.

It's talking about Japan here, but it is quite unlikely to have done at the discretion of Japanese government. Upon doing research, I found out. Brigadier General Thomas Farrel was the Chief of Field Operations of the Manhattan Engineer District. On September 6th, 1945, he read a statement to foreign correspondents as the American forces. He said that every people who had to die had died, and as of September, no one suffered from the A-bomb or radiation. Every victims had died, so there were no more victims. It would turn out not to be truth when visited to Hiroshima or Nagasaki. Therefore they forbade foreign correspondents to enter Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Even so, journalists entered there. They wanted to know the damage of the world's first A-bomb attack even if it costed their life. More and more journalists entered there. And these article appeared after another. The controlling became all the more strict. On September 15th, 1945, General Headquarters (GHQ) announced a new regulation called "Press Code" that implemented a strict censorship. The regulation had remained legally in force until Japan signed the San Francisco Peace Treaty.

In high school and university, I belonged to the newspaper club. We had to submit school papers to the GHQ. I thought the underclass members couldn't keep a tight rein on school papers, so they just trifled with them and threw away if there were no problems. However, the papers are on file at National Diet Library. National Diet Library has taken over the documents from GHQ that gives my name as an editor in chief of Nagasaki Nishi High School paper and its date issue. I was

amazed. They started to restrict freedom of speech and press. The US was intimidated by leaking information of the damage of A-bomb. Usually, when they invent amazing powerful bomb, it is common for them to show off to the world. However it was too cruel. This was no different than Nazi Germany and Japan. Japan was criticized for bombing Chongshin, but the US had done this and much more. If this situation came to light, it would cause inconveniences to them. That's why they restricted freedom of speech and press. Atsuyuki Matsuo, a former school teacher, known for a poet was in Nagasaki. He wrote "lost everything... four pieces of air-raid death certificate in my hand." His poems were soulful. He could not publish poetry books until Japan gained independence from the US. Right now we can read them freely. After the bombing, A-bomb victims should have gotten appropriate treatment in specialized medical institutions. Those people, who must be given such opportunities, were forsaken out by the US forces or Japanese government. They all had nowhere else to go, so they were forced to live in dugouts or in self-made huts. Then their clothes got dirty. People detest A-bomb survivors saying "They are coming! Beast it!" Survivors was unable to walk with their chin up.

In 1954 when the US carried out nuclear tests around Bikini Atoll, such survivors reached a turning point. Many Japanese fishing boats were affected by the nuclear fallout from the test. By far the most famous of boat is the Daigo Fukuryu Maru. In September of that year, Aikichi Kuboyama, the boat's chief radioman, died. The US announced that his cause of death was liver ailment. From our perspective, he obviously died of an acute radiation syndrome caused by the death ashes. It was true that he ruined his liver, but it was common knowledge that radiation harmed the liver. The US says that his condition preexisted the accident, and he took a sudden turn for the

worse. Japanese people were quite angry. It was the third time to suffer from nuclear weapons, following Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We couldn't let this go on. Especially, women worked toward the elimination of nuclear weapons. An anti-nuclear weapons campaign was started from Suginami-ward. The campaign were beginning all over Japan and immediately developed into the nationwide movement. It is recorded that approximately 32 million 80 thousand people signed a petition. The population of Japan in those days was 90 million. The numbers of signatures exceeded one-third of the population. It was not easy matter. You can see from this how much the bomb test incurred the wrath of public opinion.

Against this backdrop, the first World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs was held in Hiroshima in August the following year of the hydrogen bomb testing. This conference is held every August. Some people say it's like a festive event, but I think it's a matter of course to raise voices against A-bomb and nuclear weapons on August 6th and 9th. Nagasaki A-bomb survivor delegation took part in the conference in 1955. So far we were not allowed to tell our A-bomb experience because it was also forbidden especially during the US occupation. At last, people who were put up with such suppression could speak their A-bomb experience in public. Not only the person who spoke but also other A-bomb survivors were really impressed. And attendees were shocked at their talk. Then it was decided to hold the conference in Nagasaki in the next year. A-bomb survivors scattered across Japan formed the Group of A-bomb Victims in many parts of the nation. In May 1956, a group of A-bomb victims was formed in Hiroshima, and the group was formed in Nagasaki in June. The group in Hiroshima is called "The Hiroshima Prefectural Confederation of A-bomb Sufferers Organizations. The group in Nagasaki is called "The Nagasaki Atomoc Bomb

Survivors Council.”

You may think why the word “Hibakusha”, a Japanese word for explosion-affected people, is not used in the name. In those days, we didn’t use the word. It might be used in the sense of war victims, but it was not used in meaning of A-bomb victims. Their campaign made a law called Atomic Bomb Survivors’ Assistance Act in July the following year, and “hibakusha” was first used in the law. Those their campaign and people who help them created the word “hibakusha” which is taken for granted. I do want you to know it. Seven months after the act was enacted, on August 9th 1956, a national group of Hibakusha was formed in Nagasaki. The movement to compensate A-bomb victims had become very active. This is how an act was enacted in March the following year. This is rapidly advance. There are several reasons why. One of them, the campaign around A-bomb survivors was growing momentum. The other reason is the government feel threatened by being required to make a law called Atomic Bomb Victims’ Relief Law that condemn national accountability. Therefore they made a rough-and-ready act called Atomic Bomb Survivors’ Assistance Act to suppress the movement. Thinking about it now, it is a despicable act. Under the act, certain areas were set as the bombed areas, and only people who were in the area defined as Hibakusha. The painted in black area had been designated the bombed area. The areas were within four kilometers north, west, and east, and 12kilometers south of the hypocenter. The areas have changed now. There is a circle with dot-line. This is the circle with a radius two kilometers. Only people who had been exposed in this area can be covered under the act. They are called special Hibakusha. People are not qualified to receive those compensation unless they are special Hibakusha. Some compensations have been continued today. Under current law,

Japan make amends for Hibakusha who developed diseases caused by radiation or “A-bomb disease”. They recognize their diseases caused by radiation. It’s often in the newspaper.

I’m hard to understand why they cover only caused by radiation. What situation A-bomb spoil our health. When they enter elementary school, everyone in Nagasaki know that the horrors of the bombing are blast, heat wave, and radiation. But they cover only caused by radiation. Japan don’t make amends for people how much they suffer the aftereffects of heat blast because it is not caused by radiation. For example he/she was tossed by the bomb blast and broke his/her leg. Since he/she couldn’t receive adequate medical treatment, his/her life is restricted. Japan make a unified response as well. “This is not caused by radiation. We don’t compensate the injuries caused by blast.” Can you guess what happened if they recognize the diseases or injuries caused by blast or heat wave? They would also have to compensate victims by fire bomb. This would be an untoward circumstances for the government. We cannot help us and the people who have died in the A-bomb unless the political system in Japan is changed. Moreover many victims of war also cannot be helped. They are getting old and will die in a few years. I think all victims of war should be rescued. Otherwise we can’t pledge never to go to war again. Talking the government’s wartime responsibility, we, Hibakusha, want to make Atomic Bomb Victims’ Relief Law in the real sense as soon as possible. Thank you for your kind attention. Do you have any questions?

## **Q&A**

—What does peace mean in this modern society?

**YAMADA:** It is difficult to explain the meaning of peace. I have reflected on the nuclear power plant accident. I have called for

the abolition of nuclear weapons. I never allow the nuclear weapons, but somewhere in my heart, I thought using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes was fine. Therefore I was unconcerned about the plan for building new nuclear power plants. Knowing the accident at Chernobyl, I felt so. The accident makes me think that it is absolutely absurd to use nuclear energy under incomplete condition. And we face the problem of whether we can eliminate all nuclear weapons. In spite of hoping the nuclear-free world, I am afraid I might be told it is pipe dream. But we think it isn't that much of a challenge. For example, the nuclear weapon may be brought in Japan do not have any nuclear weapons. South Korea also does not have it. Mongolia declares anti-nuclear principles. If Japan formed an anti-nuclear alliance with Korea and Mongolia, China and Russia cannot attack those countries. And if the alliance expands across the Northern Hemisphere, the nuclear nations would give up the weapons because the preservation of it is difficult. Before that, we need to change the Japanese government. It will require enormous energy because it seems unlikely that US remains silent. They may pressure us. However US cannot conduct a nuclear attack on non-nuclear nation, Japan. I believe that once we take a step forward, the world will change. I have turned 80 years old. I want to realize a nuclear-free world before I die. Thank you.