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**FOCUS: BEYOND NUCLEAR POWER**  
**What development should we pursue for?**

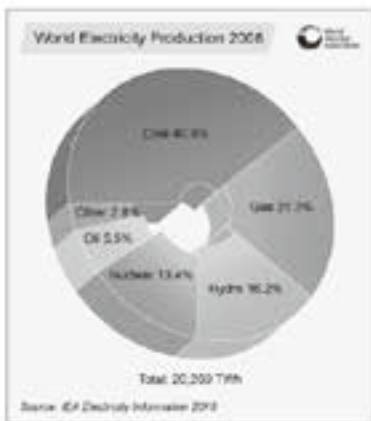
*From your Editor Ms. Joy A. Bastian*

Nuclear technology was developed in the 1940's, which left a scar to the World War II survivors. In the 1950's, the first commercial nuclear power stations began in operation to generate and supply electricity. As of November 2013, there are 430 commercial nuclear reactors in 31 countries including Japan, South Korea, India, Pakistan and China. These reactors have the capacity of 370,000 MWe or megawatts. Upcoming 70 more reactors are under construction. According to the World Nuclear Association, Nuclear Power supports 11% of the world's electricity as continuous, reliable base-load power, without carbon dioxide emission. Base-load is the minimum amount of power that must be made available to its customers.



*ILDC 2013 participants around A-bombed Tree sapling given by UNITAR through ANT-Hiroshima (see p. 18), planted in front of AHI office.*

The writers: Mr. T. N. Manjunath of India rallies the people's movement against nuclear power and Ms. Enebish Tulгаа of Mongolia capsules the price of modernization. Ms. Tomoko Watanabe and Mayor Taue of Japan refreshed our memory of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Peace initiatives in Japan are also highlighted.



*Source: World Nuclear Association*

The intention of Nuclear power is good but horrible nuke-related disasters should be our lesson. Let us seriously reflect and act while humans are yet not extinct by nukes.

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## People's Movement for Anti-Nuclear Power Plant

*Mr. T.N. Manjunath, ILDC 1987, India*



*Mr. Manjunath*

### 1. Introduction

Nuclear power is the fourth-largest source of electricity in India, after thermal, hydro electric and renewable sources of electricity. As of 2012, India has 20 nuclear reactors in operation in six power plants, generating 4,780 megawatts (MWe). While

seven other reactors are under construction and are expected to generate an additional 5,300 MWe. In October 2010, India drew up an ambitious plan to reach a nuclear power capacity of 63,000 MWe in 2032. Several Nuclear installations are planned in many states of India. Kowada in Andhra Pradesh, Jaitpur in Maharashtra, Mithi virdi in Gujarat, and Gorakhpur in Haryana. Koodankulam in Tirunelveli district, Tamilnadu was the longest Peoples Movement against Nuclear Programs. The fisherfolks, farmers, shopkeepers, Dalit workers, beedirolling women and others near the southernmost tip of India, have been fighting against the Koodankulam Nuclear power Project (KKNPP) since 1980s.



*People's movement against nuclear power plant in Koodankulam, India.*

*Photo: <http://www18.ocn.ne.jp/~nnaaf/113a.htm>*

### 2. Non-Violent People's Protest

Local people in Idinthakarai Village gathered and protested against the Nuclear installations in 2011. They were arrested, beaten by Police and dispersed by force. People started the agitation in a peaceful, non-violent way of Mahatma Gandhi following his footsteps of Ahimsa. Songs against the installations were sung by local activists and women. Gandhian way of Hunger strike by the local people and others

were part of the agitation against Nuclear Power plant in Koodankulam, Tamil Nadu. Indefinite Hunger strikes made people faint and weak. National media covered the peaceful agitation and activists stated that "Our right to life and livelihood be honored and respected! We want to make our country a world leader with New Energy, Appropriate Technology and Sustainable Development and not a slave of other countries. We want to leave a safe and healthy Earth, Seas and Sky for our children and their children not nuclear bombs and waste dumps."

This is a classic David-Goliath fight between the ordinary citizens of India and the powerful Indian government supported by the rich Indian capitalists, Multinational Companies, imperial powers and the global nuclear mafia. They promise Foreign Direct Investment, nuclear power, development, atom bombs, security and superpower status. We demand risk-free electricity, disease-free life, unpolluted natural resources, sustainable development and harmless future. They say the Russian nuclear power plants are safe and can withstand earthquakes and tsunamis. But we worry about their ill-effects. They speak for their scientist friends and business partners and have their eyes on commissions and kickbacks. But we fight for our children and grandchildren, our progeny, our animals and birds, our land, water, sea, air and the skies.

Kovvada in Srikakulam District in Andhra Pradesh is another story of future devastation. The proposed plant has an area of 2,375 acres; 2,000 acres for the plant and 350 acres for the township of employees. Large tracts of land will be taken away. But nobody is ready to explain the likely impact on people's lives and health; a marginal farmer rues.

Authorities made rounds to several villages of Kovvada and neighboring villages with an assurance that the youth would be given jobs once the N-plant is commissioned. Revenue officials said Kovvada and Chinna Kovvada villages would be completely wiped out and the displaced people get Rehabilitation and Resettlement package.

Jaitpur in Maharashtra, west coast of India, adds to the Nuclear power plant list. This site is located in a Seismic Zone. Konkan Bachao Samithi (Save konkan committee) activists are agitating against the damage this plant may cause if there is any





**Ms. Medha Patkar, center, is a social activist against the nuclear Plant in Kovvada. Photo by Joe Athialy, CC-by-nc-sa.**

Earthquake in this area. Its proximity to the Arabian Sea, any Tsunami kind of incident may damage all the villages around Jaitpur. Some reports mentioned the irreparable damage to the environment around the location. Nuclear Power plant is expected to use Sea water for cooling and released warm water to the sea may cause damage to marine life.

Mithi Viridi in Bhavnagar district of Gujarat is also affected by Nuclear power plant. Vast fertile agricultural land is being acquired for the nuclear power plant. Livelihoods of the local villagers are going to be snatched by this nuclear power plant. The area around Mithi Viridi is blessed with alluvial soil and beautiful weather. The rich farming activity of the area supplies fruits, vegeta-



**Photo:**  
<http://2.bp.blogspot.com>

bles and grains all year round to the nearby urban centers of Bhavnagar and Talaja. Bhavnagar district is highest producer of onions in India after Nashik in Maharashtra. Villages to be affected by the Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) grow onions on large scale. Even some proponents of nuclear power honestly believed that nuclear energy is essential to the country but no such project should be set up in this area. It is a battle between power security and food sovereignty, and corporate profit versus livelihood.

The much touted Kalpasar project of the government of Gujarat is also proposed in close proximity to the proposed NPP. The largest ship breaking yard

of Alang is adjacent to the proposed site. According to the documents of Atomic department Alang, ship breaking yard would be affected by the NPP, which means thousands losing their jobs and loss of revenue for the country. The villagers of Mithivirdi, Jaspara, Khadarpar and Mandva have been resisting to the proposed NPP since 2007. Various protests, rallies and public meetings have been organized since then. Villagers have twice thwarted governments and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) effort for land survey.

Regular village level meetings are organized in and around Mithi Viridi. On 23rd of September 2013 a huge tractor rally has been organized from Jaspara-Mithivirdi village to Bhavnagar the district headquarters and an important city of Saurashtra. More than 50 villages participated. The affected villages who would be losing their lands and those who are dependent on the village commons have submitted affidavits expressing their protest to not allow the project here.

Conventions and Seminars have been organized in Ahmedabad and Bhavnagar. The Mithi Viridi resistance has been actively participating in other Anti-NPP movements in India like the Jaitapur. The movement has built alliances across various issues of land acquisition nationwide.

Situation at the Ground is not different at Gorakhpur in Haryana State. Plant site is fertile land and sustains 10,000 people. Farmer sit-in protest in front of the Fatehabad mini-secretariat in Haryana completed 525 days on January 25, 2010. It has yielded little result. Yet the farmers from Gorakhpur, Kumaharia and Kajalhedi villages of Fatehabad district who are opposing acquisition of 608 hectares of their land for a nuclear power plant are determined to fight till the end. Since August 17, 2010, these farmers under the aegis of non-profits Kisan Sangharsh Samiti and Parmanu Urja Virodhi Morcha (Farmers Agitation Movement and Movement against Nuclear power ) have been asking the state government to stop construction of the Gorakhpur nuclear power plant on the fertile agricultural land.

### 3. Legal action

Finally, in January this year they decided to file public interest litigation (PIL) in Punjab and Haryana High Court, following which notices were issued to the Department of Atomic Energy, Union Ministry of Environment and Forests, NPCIL, Haryana government and others seeking a reply on the contentions raised on the project. The petition was filed by 59 residents of Gorakhpur village asking



the judicial body to quash the land acquisition notices. Raising concerns about health and safety, the petitioners asked the court to shift the project to some barren or less fertile land in other districts. The fertile land gives two to three crops per year and the only source of livelihood for them.

A local resident says 30 villages in the Fatehabad district planned to hold a big protest so that the government takes note of the situation. He alleges that no public hearing was held for the project and the farmers were slapped with land acquisition notices. "The government is offering us Rs 32 lakh INR per acre (0.4 ha). **But we don't want money! We want our land!** Around 10,000 people sustain on this land," says a Local voice. On January 16, several non-profit and organizations like the Socialist Front, Samajwadi Jan Parishad, wrote to the chief minister of the state, asking him to withdraw land acquisition notices. They said new land acquisition bill is being

considered by the Parliament and it would be presumptuous and premature for the state government to push through forceful land acquisition using the old Act.

Kaiga near river Kali in Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka is fighting against Nuclear power plant to save local environment for several years. There are reports about health hazards related to Power plant. There has been consistent demand for a health survey by competent health authorities of the villages around Kaiga. Com-

plaints of people getting affected by cancer and other skin diseases are major concern of Kaiga Horata Samithi. Kaiga affecting the Western Ghats is another major concern by environmentalists. Save Western Ghats agitation is spearheading the movement against the destruction of local flora and Fauna by NPP.

#### 4. Conclusion

The bottom line of all these power plant affected areas and population is loss of livelihood, loss of fertile agricultural land, destruction of local environment and deprivation of human health.

### Community Building through People's Participatory Activities for Environmental Improvement

*Ms. Enebish Tulгаа, ILDC 2011, Gender Center for Sustainable Development (GCSA), Mongolia*



*Ms. Tulгаа*

Ms. Enebish Tulгаа is now studying in Japan. She visited Iwaijima, a small island in Japan, where a nuclear plant was planned to be constructed.

*Original version of this article is in Japanese. English translation by Ms. Asuka Kawaguchi, AHI Intern.*

#### 1. Introduction

Globalization has spread modernization, industrialization and westernization throughout the world. The more this process advances, the more it increases social difference, unemployment, poverty, environmental destruction, and conflicts over natural resources, between and within countries. Developed countries label the countries less modernized, industrialized and westernized as developing and eagerly support their modern state building. However, this worsens social problems such as environmental destruction, urbanization, poverty, social difference and corruption. It is developmental aid to support developing countries in solving those problems caused by modern state building.

Economy-modernity-led development policies began to be questioned in the Third World in the 1970s, and it started to consider that development should be based on the nature, production, lifestyle and culture of the community concerned, reflecting the people's needs. It also claimed that the people should participate in development and enhance their capacities.

Although such claims are often neglected in developmental policies and thus the global issues remain unsolved, the people in developed countries have begun community building to tackle the problems particularly on environmental destruction and pollution caused by modernization and industrialization.

This article dwells on what development should be, referring to Japanese cases of community reconstruction by the people affected of pollution and environmental destruction, caused by modernization



*Photo:*

<http://www.dianuke.org/nuclear-power-myths-about-low-cost-safety-and-emission/>





and industrialization. It regards that developing countries that aimed to be modernized and industrialized may learn many things from the cases in which the people play a central role in overcoming the failures of modernization.

## 2. The process of modernization in Japan and its problems

In the process of rapid modernization after the Meiji Restoration, Japan incurred pollution which is harmful to its ecosystem and nations' health. For example, the cases of air pollution by the smoke from Hitachi Mine and other chemical substances from Osaka Alkali Co., Ltd. and Sumitomo Metal Mine in Shisakajima. Such pollution suffered people along with the worsened public health, natural disasters and industrial accidents<sup>1</sup>. This was led by the poor conditions of housing and living due to the delay of city planning by the government; Japan at that time was carrying out the policies of strengthening the national economy and defense force, without creating any regulation for industrial accidents and pollution. It may be the long-lasting protest movement by the affected farmers what finally make government take some actions to the damage.

Japan after the Second World War has urged the centralized development, eagerly pursuing a rapid economic growth through industrialization. The government has established the Comprehensive National Land Development Act in 1950, the First Comprehensive National Development Plan with the principle of Growth Pole Strategy between 1962 and 1968, the Second New Comprehensive National Development Plan for the Large-scale Development Plan between 1969 and 1976, the Third Comprehensive National Development Plan for the Integrated Residence Plan to Review the Rapid Economic Growth between 1977 and 1986, and the Multipolar-distributed Land, Infrastructure and

Construction (the Fourth Comprehensive National Development Plan) between 1987 and 1997.

In the process to enforce these developmental policies, Japan again encountered environmental destruction and pollution that damaged human health. The worst cases are: Minamata Disease, Itai-itai Disease (Ouch-ouch Disease), Niigata-Minamata Disease, and Yokkaichi Asthma<sup>2</sup>. According to the city planning, the land was reclaimed from the sea so as to build factories and ports, and mountains and wild forests in suburban areas were deforested to create new towns. The Inland Sea, which used to have the most beautiful scenery in Japan, lost its view as a result of the increased reclamation. The people in rural areas have kept protesting against the government's policy which appointed their lands as special industrial area and brought environmental destruction and pollution, in order to protect their traditional industries such as agriculture, fishery, light industry and tourism<sup>3</sup>.

When the comprehensive development plans led by the government failed and the people's protest against those plans came to its peak, the traditional development policies became a subject to reconsider. A new approach to development began to be sought, as a result of the failure of the local promotion which was expected to be subsidiary to a series of government-led development. In addition, the ideas of mass-production, mass-consumption and unified local promotion became controversial in relation to the rise of regionalism with local autonomy. The Act for Community Reconstruction was established and implemented in April 2005. The "Fundamental Principle" in Article 2 states that;

*The promotion of community reconstruction shall fundamentally pursue a community to live and to feel proud and attached, by building a prosperous*

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<sup>1</sup> Miyamoto, K. (2010) Introduction for the History of Japanese Pollution in "Doctor Tatsuo Naruse Retirement Commemoration Essay Collection"

<sup>2</sup> Minamata Disease, which was broke out in Minamata City of Kumamoto Prefecture in 1956, was caused by the organic mercury drained into Minamata Bay, which was secondarily produced in the acetaldehyde production of Chisso Ltd.. The seafood polluted by the organic mercury damaged the health of the people who consumed it. More than thirty thousands of people were affected. In 1964, Niigata Prefecture also suffered from Minamata Disease with over a thousand victims. Itai-ital Disease (cadmium poisoning) was caused by the industrial waste from Mitsui Metal Kamioka Mining Station, which polluted drinking water and rice. It damaged kidneys and bone marrow of human. There were 195 victims. Yokkaichi Asthma was broke out in 1960. It was resulted from the air pollution by heavy chemical complexes fueled by petroleum in Yokkaichi City. More than a thousand people suffered from the asthma. (Miyamoto, K., "Introduction for the History of Japanese Pollution")

<sup>3</sup> Miyamoto, K. (2010) Introduction for the History of Japanese Pollution in "Doctor Tatsuo Naruse Retirement Commemoration Essay Collection" (No. 382)



living environment with creative ideas. It shall aim at creating more appealing employment through dynamic activities that fully utilize geographic, environmental characteristics and cultural properties of the community and creativity of diverse human resources. It shall also aim at strengthening economy base which reflects the characteristics of the community in question, and comprehensively and effectively providing comfortable, attractive living environment<sup>4</sup>.

This emphasizes that a community should prosper from their own natural and human resources.

### 3. Case Stories: People playing central role in building community in harmony with nature

This section depicts people's capabilities to build their community based on the nature and characteristics of their land.

#### 3.1 The case of Iwajima

##### 3.1.1. Community building through anti-nuclear power activities

The people in Iwajima have been long protested against the plan to build a nuclear plant and pursued the way of life without the use of nuclear power. Iwajima is an island in the Inland Sea, with about 470 residents and rich nature. The Inland Sea used to have beautiful beaches, but in the 1960s, those beaches have disappeared due to the reclamation, the bank protection and the sand extraction for industrialization. In addition, the number of plankton and fish in the Sea has decreased because of the ocean pollution by industrial waste water from factories and synthetic detergent from households. Only Kaminoseki area including Iwajima has been keeping its environment unpolluted. Iwajima has benefitted from its rich nature, but since the early 1980s, it has been encountering a threat of a plan to build a nuclear plant near the island.



*Heart-shaped Iwajima island, Yamaguchi, Japan.*

In 1982, Chugoku Electricity Ltd. made the plan public, which was to build Kaminoseki Nuclear Plant on another island four kilometers from Iwajima. There is a rich fishing ground between the two islands and it provides most people in Iwajima with livelihood. Moreover, an ecosystem which almost deserves to be a world heritage remains around Iwajima. For example, Tanoura, the land planned for the nuclear plant, is inhabited by the shellfish which is rare all over the world. Once the nuclear plant comes into use, this ecosystem of the sea would significantly be damaged by the hot waste water discharged from the plant, and the life of the people in Iwajima would also be damaged<sup>5</sup>. The islanders facing such threat raised voiced against the plan of Chugoku Electricity Ltd. over 30 years. They tried to keep their society independent from nuclear power and pursued community development which encourages the local nature, culture and tradition.

##### 3.1.2 New Product Development Utilized Island's Resources

People who opposed building a nuclear plant organized the "Iwajima People's Association for Preventing the Ueshima Plant Building" and been pursuing a life without nuclear power. In the first few years, they sacrificed all of their lives for the protests. However, they realized that their challenge required longer time to settle. They began to reduce their commitment to the activities so that they can afford their lives and maintain mental health. Besides protests, they also started to encourage traditional cultures of the island in order to avoid becoming economically dependent on nuclear industry; they estimated that the revival of tradition attracts tourists and strengthens their economy. They have begun to perform the traditional festival of Kamimai (God's dance) again, and they have also started to excavate and preserve cultural heritages of Nurikabe (traditional wall painting) and Tanada of Ishigaki (rice terrace separated by stone walls); the unique stone cultures of the island. The number of tourists to the island has successfully increased.

The people in Iwajima are now developing their activities by creating new employment and strengthening partnership with urban areas through each project of Food Eco-tourism Art. They are also struggling to solve some other issues such as nursing care. Moreover, they launched a new project aimed at achieving the life which is 100 % based on renewable energy, although their way of life is al-

<sup>4</sup> Mori, M. (2011) "Community Reconstruction: The Challenge of Shiga - Eco-life, Community Reconstruction, Human Development", Shinhyoron, pp.1-15

<sup>5</sup> Association to Preserve the Nature of Nagashima, from the field work on the 27th April 2013





ready nature-friendly as they earn their living by pole-and-line fishing, chemical-free production of loquats (Japanese plum), and cyclic pasturage in abandoned rice fields or patches.

Everyone in Iwajima plays a main role with each characteristic in the community building and respects each other. This enables them to fight long against the plan of the nuclear plant. It is assured that they will manage the future of the island.



*An islander (left) painting the wall and the painted walls (right).*



*Rice Terraces*



*"Kamimai", a traditional festival.*

### 3.2. The case of Minamata

#### 3.2.1. The background of the rise of "Local Studies" and the activities of Minamata

In Minamata City, Kumamoto Prefecture, in 1956, organic mercury secondarily produced acetaldehyde production of Chisso Ltd.<sup>6</sup> was drained into Minamata Bay. The seafood polluted by the organic mercury damaged the people's health who consumed it. More than 30,000 people were affected, and the world came to know the name of Minamata with the pollution disease. The pollution also affected people's life; sales in agricultural products of Minamata dropped. Some of them experienced breakoff of their engagement due to their origin. They became unable to keep a good relationship with their neighbors and the city started to lose its liveliness.

In the 1990s, Mr. Tetsuro Yoshimoto, one of the civil servants of Minamata City at that time, realized that the only way to solve this issue was "to understand each other's differences and have dialogue". He started Local Studies which revalues the potentiality of the land so that the case of Minamata will never happen again. Local Studies is to

learn from local life. It is to enhance the capacities of the land and people, which would lead to the development of local manufacturing, lifestyle, and the region as a whole, by combining things that already exist. It is based on the idea of self-help attained by understanding the history of the life of the land and rebuilding trust with the land and the people.

Minamata City has then begun promoting a new agricultural production friendly to human health and the environment. Production is based on the idea



*A solar panel producing renewable energy.*

that "health harmed by food can be cured by food". Producers ranked high in the "Environmental Meister System" of the city. Minamata has also adopted ISO Environmental Management System earlier and simplified it in order to introduce the system into households and schools. Carrying out the "Construction of a Model City Friendly to the Environment", Minamata is drawing public attention as an advanced environment-friendly city today.

### 4. Conclusion

Time has come to reconsider what development should be in the increasingly globalized world in the 21st century after the trend of economy-led development in the previous century has gone. It may be well supported by the facts that economic development through modernization and industrialization has resulted in environmental destruction and inequality. This may happen in developed and developing countries alike. Japan has, in fact, experienced failures of economic development led by modernization and industrialization. People in Japan are overcoming the failures through bottom-up activities. As Japanese cases show, development should be by the people and based on their needs. It should pursue human development in the region concerned, which agrees with the nature, production, lifestyle and regional culture.

<sup>6</sup> The company of electrical and chemical industry



## FLASH ARTICLE

### Militarization and Effects to Women in the Asia Pacific Region

Ms. U. M. Geetha Luckmini Fernando, ILDC 2002, National Fisheries Solidarity (NAFSO), Sri Lanka



Ms. Fernando

Since 1997 to now, Ms. Fernando has been the Administrative Secretary of NAFSO. From 2006, she became a member of the organizing committee of the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Low and Development (APWLD) Network. She was selected as Regional Coordinator of South Asia of Field Hearings, Initiative for Equality (IfE), a

non-profit organization in the United States; a global network of activists and academe working on issues related to social, economic and political equality in June 2013. In October 2013, she was chosen as advisory member of Urgent Action Funds for Women in the World. She has been working enthusiastically and globally from the standpoint of glass-roots, especially women. Last February, she was invited in a conference as one of the panelists, which was held by the Commission on the Status of Women of United Nations, in the US, focusing on "Militarization and Effects to Women in the Asia Pacific Region". Below is the statement she made in the conference, and a short case story on how she tackles the issue as NAFSO.

#### 1. Introduction

Militarization is an increasing problem worldwide, and the Asia Pacific Region is no exception. Military culture not only prevails in security forces and mainstream political parties, but is spread in the form of identity politics in different classes, groups, communities and institutions. Militarization impacts the definition of gender identity, by equating masculinity with warriors or violence, and comes at the expense of the realization of human rights.

In the Asia Pacific Region, various levels of militarization range from outright military dictatorships like Myanmar and Fiji, to military rule in India, and to armed civilian populations in Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Nepal. Post conflict areas like the Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka remained the impact of militarization deeply embedded in the continued violence against civilian populations, particularly women and children.

Military conflicts within the Asia Pacific Region have ranged from those caused by secessionist movements (Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Kashmir-with the roots for such conflicts to be found in colonialism); the pretext of national security (Fiji); ethnicity issues (Solomon Islands); conflict over resources (Bougainville-PNG (mining)) and the use of armed forces by private companies.



Ms. Fernando (right) joins APWLD campaign in New York.

#### 2. The increase in militarization impacts on women in a myriad of ways, including:

- **Greater acceptance and tolerance of violence** in society generally, with exposure to daily reports of violence causing a shift in community perceptions regarding violence. This leads to increased violence against women and children,
- **Legal space** available to women to access justice for violations of their human rights is drastically reduced.
- **Emergency regulations and anti-terrorism laws** allows for long periods of detention, limited access to lawyers and limited rights to bail. These regulations impact those who seek to resist militarization, and are characterized by arrests, disappearances and arbitrary detentions. Such arbitrary detentions mean that an increase in single parent families headed by women are a common feature in militarized societies, increasing the vulnerability of women and children to violence.
- **Increased vulnerability to kidnapping and abductions.** For example in Sri Lanka, there are several reported cases of abductions of women and children.
- **Loss of importance of the individual and human life.** This is related to the acceptance or greater tolerance for violence, and is evident in practices such as "encounter killings".





- **Erosion of the Rule of Law**, with contempt shown by military dictatorships for the judicial and legal system. This is evident in practices such as the wholesale promulgation of Decrees by the military government in Fiji which render all government decisions non-justiciable. The erosion of the Rule of Law removes safeguards for the personal liberty of citizens and opens avenues for abuse of power by the police and military. Women are particularly vulnerable to such abuse of power.
- **Undermining of Civilian Policing**: with militarization, police are called upon to carry out military acts or assist the military. This undermines the law-based habits of civilian policing and leaves the populace vulnerable to abuse. In some instances, police and the military are used as death squads, and police then carry these acquired habits into their normal routines. For example, Tamil ethnic minorities in Sri Lanka often face such situations under the militarized regime. The transfer of impunity from military operations to civilian policing means that those tasked with investigating abuses and violence against women may themselves engage in violations of human rights. Women who are arrested face increased possibilities of being molested or raped. Rape, and forced prostitution, of women by security forces leads to reproductive health issues and increased transmission of STD's.
- **Development burden** faced by women during periods of conflict. Conflicts lead to populations being forced to flee their homes and their access to earn a living is severely curtailed. With men being called up to join militaries, or joining the resistance, the burden of finding shelter and food for the family falls upon women.

### 3. Recommendations to combat the impact of militarization on women include:

- **Reduction in military budgets**. Military budgets consume enormous proportions of the wealth of Asia-Pacific nations. The money saved by reducing military budgets can be used to empower women and children through education; provide basic universal health care to improve the well-being of women and children; provide improvements in housing (thus removing women from overcrowded homes where their vulnerability to violence is increased); reduce poverty and create jobs to allow women to be independent and able to remove themselves from violent situations.
- **Documentation of incidents of abuse** and the development of databases and information centers. Such documentation will allow women to

seek justice, including compensation, post recovery and will assist in the recovery process.

- **Strengthening of legal systems and the Rule of Law** through open transparent legal processes. The military must remove itself from civilian policing, and civilian policing must be conducted according to law and under the scrutiny of the judiciary. The judiciary must be allowed to inquire all government decisions and Decrees removing any sector of governance from the scrutiny of the judiciary must be revoked.
- **Provision of services** to women impacted or displaced by conflict - a holistic approach to rehabilitating women impacted by conflict including the provision of housing, work opportunities, access to health care and education.

### 4. The case of Sivarajani

NAFSO is working for the marginal communities mostly affected by war for the last 30th years. It continuously does animation and mobilization activities among women, health care training, and related legal awareness programs. Income generation and networking activities are also present.

Sivarajani (pseudonym), 41, widow living in Kappalthurei, China Bay Trincomalee. She has five children, whiling away a poor life with the protection of her parents in the village. She is living lonely since her husband was killed by unknown group on 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2006. She has to face many difficulties to survive her children without family breadwinner.



**Ms. Sivarajani**



**Destroyed house of Sivarajani.**



The police and the army group informed her that there were some hidden weapons under the ground of her house. So they have to excavate the ground to get them out using an excavator on 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2012. They claimed to have had a court order to do that. It forced her and five children to vacate the house since it was impossible to dwell there without flooring, wall and roof.



*Excavated floor left bare by police forces.*

After her house was destroyed, Sevarajani went to the China Bay police to complain against that incident on August 20, 2012. Instead of hearing her cry for help, the police summoned her to repair the house getting support from NGOs. Sevarajani approached relevant Division Secretary but was ignored. Worse enough, the rests of the furniture, doors and windows of the house was stolen after the forces excavated the house.

The forces did it for security reasons. But why Sevarajani was not given any compensation? Why her complain was not heard by authorities? What will happen to their own future and security? Nobody is concerned for her survival with five children. Who should be responsible? Not only that, she also got unknown phone calls and threats on some nights, as well as invitations from unknown forces asking to be with her. As a young widow she was suffering from a very insecure and bad situation in her village due to heavy militarization and harassment.

Sometimes her neighbors treat her badly as an unlucky woman who lost her husband. She was not invited in any cultural functions. She should wear white clothing to be publicly identified as a widow. She was not allowed to put on pottu and any colorful clothes or accessories, either. She is now in deep frustration; unable to complain of her injustice because of fear. Her story is not alone. Thousands of Asian women suffer the same.

## AROUND JAPAN

### JAPANESE INITIATIVES ON FUKUSHIMA

*In March 11, 2011, Japan had a Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear disaster, which is called 3.11, following gigantic earthquake and Tsunami in North-east Japan, with a series of equipment failures, nuclear meltdowns and releases of radioactive materials at the power plants. It is the largest nuclear disaster since the Chernobyl disaster of 1986 in Ukraine.*

*Now, the decontamination work is getting stacked up and 150,000 evacuees have not been able to go back to their homes. There are residents in “the inhabitable areas”, however, many questions against the safety standards which the government set exist.*

*The contaminated water is still leaking up from the nuclear plants and polluting the underground and sea. Radiation is expanding even at this very moment. Not only the laborers to handle the accidents and failures and people in Fukushima, but some people in the world also suffered by their health.*

*Up to now, many Japanese people, in and out of Fukushima, are tackling various issues in the aftermath. They are working voluntarily and some of them are AHI supporters. Here, we would like to introduce three initiatives.*

#### (I) From Past, Now to Future: Learning to Disengage a Nuclear Power Society Ms. Kyoko Shimizu, AHI

##### 1. Do not forget Fukushima

During two and a half year from March 2011, many people out of Fukushima are slowly losing the memory of the incident. Media is starting to report less news on Fukushima. Radiation is invisible. Ordinary people thought that what happened on March 2011 does not concern their daily lives. Some people who had the sense of crisis tend to believe that everything would return to normal. The same is felt in Nissin, where AHI is located 600 kilometers away from Fukushima.

In winter 2012, “Jisedai no Kodomo-tachi no Inochi, Kurashi, Energy wo kangaeru kai”, which





means “people who concern children’s lives and energy in the next generation” was organized by around 15 people in Nissin. Some of them are mothers, teachers, municipal councilors, and those who commit to people’s groups, including women’s groups, peace building groups, children’s musical groups, etc. A mother who evacuated from Fukushima with her children to Nagoya is a member. AHI also sends a staff as one of the members.

## Nuclear reactors in Japan



*There are 54 reactors in 17 power plants in Japan (3rd in the world) along the seaside; 48 are now stopped, but the Japanese government is starting to investigate to restart them.*

*Map source:*

*<http://www.whatsonxiamen.com/news25022.html>  
[a.php](http://www.whatsonxiamen.com/news25022.html)*

### 2. Do not owe our sin to our children

The members realized that the extent of radiation contamination was much more serious than reports by the company, the government and mainstream media. The damage would continue for over 300 thousand years. Another nuclear plant is placed in the neighboring prefecture, which would have security barriers which is not high enough to prevent the same scale Tsunami as the one in Tohoku earthquake. Moreover, human beings are not equipped to stop the reactor perfectly. They feared that the same thing would happen to their families in their communities again. “Having nuclear power is our mistake. If we leave the present situation as it is, our children will keep suffering more and more in the future. We, in this generation, should know what happened in the past and what is happening at present.

### 3. What should we do?

Since then they have had various programs in Nissin, such as film shows, lectures, study meeting and photo sessions, by inviting filmmaker, researchers on this issue, a nurse for supporting orphans in Fukushima, and some evacuees in Aichi from Fukushima. Through these programs, the members and audience know the truth which people could not get from TV or newspapers. They learn the political and economic reasons why and how the nuclear plant has been promoted in Japan. They feel for the people in Fukushima. They are energized by the activists’ energy and reflect on their own lives.



*One scene of Iwajima from “Ashes to Honey” (Mitsubachi-no-Haoto-to Chikyū-no-Kaiten) film, directed by Hitomi Kamanaka, 2010.*

*Photo: <http://888earth.net/staffblog/>*

In the 1<sup>st</sup> program, over 500 people gathered in the city hall to watch “Ashes to Honey”, a documentary film on people’s movement against the construction of nuclear power plant in a small island in Japan (see page 4) and the use of natural energy and the system in Sweden. Now, the members are planning the next program for getting more friends who think “what should we do for our children” in this community.



*Members surrounding the speaker taking refuge in Aichi from Fukushima and two Performers researching on the contaminated water leaking from the power plants.*



**(II) Nissin Citizens' Commitment for Mothers and Children in Fukushima**  
*Ms. Kagumi Hayashi, AHI*



**Families from Fukushima, Organizing group members in Nissin and AHI staff in AHI office.**

Upon seeing such a tragedy of the earthquake and tsunami in March 2011, almost all people in Japan became so keen in asking themselves what they

could do all over Japan. They felt they have to do anything they could.

People in Nissin was among those. The people who worked for the victims of Kobe earthquake in 1995 formed a group, and organized the study meetings and programs to inform more people of the reality and think how they could respond such a problematic situation. One of the activities they thought was to organize summer vacation program, by which people in Fukushima could take a leave from their own place and stressful daily life. They are afraid day to day of being affected by radiation.

AHI was also involved. The first program was organized in August 2012, and the second was in August 2013. Each time, 10 to 15 visitors from Fukushima stayed at AHI for six days. They played in the dairy farm just in front of AHI, visited aquarium and other places. It was just very important for them that children could play outside freely not being afraid of radiation risk. The children also underwent the health check in the hospital in Nagoya.

More than 50 Nissin people supported the programs either by financial contribution or by doing some works to carry out the program. The members are mainly women who would share the feeling of mothers in Fukushima. Some male members in their 60's and 70's were also actively involved.

This is an opportunity for both visitors and Nissin people to have understanding and build mutual relationship. They say that "We would like to continue this program. We like to keep our efforts to let more people concerned about the situation of Fukushima, which we think would lead to our own community building."

**(III) Foster Care for Infants in Fukushima by AHI Supporter Ms. Kazumi Sawada**  
*Mr. Takahiro Nakashima, AHI*

**1. Introduction**

Ms. Kazumi Sawada is a supporting member of AHI, and worked as a nurse at AHI hospital from 1981 to 1983.



**Ms. Kazumi Sawada (center) meeting with FICAF staff.**

She is the founder and co-director of Foster Care for Infants, Children and Adolescents in Fukushima (FICAF), an organization that aims to protect children in government care and children's home staff in Fukushima from health hazards by radiation.

During her time at AHI hospital, she became aware of unfair political and economic systems by participating in study meetings in AHI, and joining an exposure trip to the Philippines arranged by AHI staff. Subsequently she spent several years in developing countries, as a JICA expert in Senegal and supporting her husband, an NGO worker, in Bangladesh.

After returning to Japan, Kazumi lived comfortably in Tokyo, working as a teacher at various nursing schools. However, in March 11, 2011, her comfortable life was literally shaken by the Great East Japan Earthquake. The quake devastated northeast Japan and triggered a serious accident at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plants (FNPP). This man-made disaster victimized people in Fukushima, a relatively remote area, to provide electricity for Tokyo area. Realizing that her affluent lifestyle had been supported by the nuclear plant, a big question grew in her mind as to how she could share her compassion with the disaster victims. In March 2012, she resigned from her teaching jobs to concentrate on founding FICAF.

**2. Divided Society in Fukushima**

Social divisions are a major issue in Fukushima; inside Fukushima, and between Fukushima and other parts of Japan. In most of the areas affected by the earthquake and tsunami, suffering from the disaster is ending while in Fukushima, it is just the beginning. Fukushima will continue to suffer radiation hazards from FNPP for decades or centuries. This causes a big gap between affected areas of Fu-



kushima and other parts of Japan.

In Fukushima, society is divided between people who evacuated to other places and those who stayed, and between people who received monetary compensation and those who did not. Society is divided between people who speak out and those who stay quiet. In families, there is division between mothers and fathers, since many mothers want to protect their children by leaving the region while many fathers want to continue their work at FNPP related companies.

Among marginalized people in Fukushima, Kazumi identified children in government care as the most affected people. They cannot move out from the prefecture by their own will since the governor of Fukushima makes decisions on their behalf. Health hazards due to low dose radiation only appear after decades, when they will be adults. Aside from radiation effects, children in government care are mostly victims of abuse by their parents, so it is likely their parents do not protect them from radiation. Another issue is understaffing at children's homes, resulting in insufficient care for children under this difficult situation. She found the necessity of health management by health professionals.

### 3. FICAF Activities

Since 2011, FICAF has been implementing holistic health management like minimizing health hazards due to low dose radiation, early detection and treatment of health hazards through monitoring health status of children in children's homes in Fukushima. In addition to the above, she provides health care and education for staff working in children's homes, and gives lectures and other events to raise public awareness about children's homes in Fukushima.

### 4. Renewing Our Commitment

Though FICAF was started by just Kazumi and one friend and she had few contacts when she began, many people are now supporting FICAF. Kazumi shared that Dr. Kawahara's life road inspired her to start her new mission in her life since he too started AHI when he was in his 50's.

Kazumi's story reminded me of AHI's story. At AHI we are fighting for the right to health of the marginalized in Asia, just as her and FICAF are working for marginalized children in Fukushima. Both "target groups" are victims of structural violence. We have the same compassion and solidarity although our fields are different. Inspired by her ideals and compassion, we at AHI renew our commitment to work for the marginalized in Asia, including Japan.

## Message for Peace from Nagasaki, the 2<sup>nd</sup> A-Bombed City in the World



**At 11:02 on August 9, 1945, an atomic bomb exploded over the sky above Nagasaki. It was three days after the explosion of the first atomic bomb over Hiroshima. Praying for the victims and the world peace, this year, too, the 68th peace memorial ceremony was held in Nagasaki City. There were 6,300 attendees, including survivors and their families, gathered with 45 representatives from foreign countries. The following is the "Peace Declaration" presented by City Mayor Tomohisa Taue in the ceremony on August 9, 2013.**

Sixty-eight years ago today, a United States bomber dropped a single atomic bomb directly over Nagasaki. The bomb's heat rays, blast winds, and radiation were immense, and the fire that followed engulfed the city in flames into the night. The city was instantly reduced to ruins. Of the 240,000 residents in the city, around 150,000 were afflicted and 74,000 of them died within the year. Those who survived have continued to suffer from a higher incidence of contracting leukemia, cancer, and other serious radiation-induced diseases. Even after 68 years, they still live in fear and suffer deep psychological scars.



*Mayor Taue*

Humankind invented and produced this cruel weapon. Humankind has even gone so far as using nuclear weapons on both Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Humankind has repeatedly conducted nuclear tests, contaminating the earth. Humankind has committed a great many mistakes. This is why we must on occasion reaffirm the pledges we have made in the past that must not be forgotten and start anew.





call on the Japanese government to consider once again that Japan is the only country to have suffered a nuclear bombing. At the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, held in Geneva in April 2013, several countries proposed a Joint Statement on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons to which 80 countries expressed their support. South Africa and other countries that made this proposal asked Japan to support and sign the statement.



again that Japan is the only country to have suffered a nuclear bombing. I call on the Japanese government to enact the Three Non-Nuclear Principles into law and take proactive measures to exert its leadership by creating a Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone, thus fulfilling its duty as the only nation to have suffered an atomic bombing.

Under the current NPT, nuclear-weapon states have a duty to make earnest efforts towards nuclear disarmament. This is a promise they've made to the rest of the world. In April of 2009, United States

President Barack Obama expressed his desire to seek a nuclear-free world during a speech in Prague. In June this year, President Obama stated in Berlin that he would work towards further reduction of nuclear arsenals, saying, "So long as nuclear weapons exist, we are not truly safe." Nagasaki supports President Obama's approach.

However, the Japanese government did not sign it, betraying the expectations of global society. If the Japanese government cannot support the remark that "nuclear weapons [should never be] used again under any circumstances," this implies that the government would approve of their use under some circumstances. This stance contradicts the resolution that Japan would never allow anyone else to become victims of a nuclear bombing.

Yet, there are over 17,000 nuclear warheads still in existence of which at least 90% belong to either the United States or Russia. President Obama, President Putin, please commit your countries to a speedy, drastic reduction of your nuclear arsenal. Rather than envisioning a nuclear-free world as a faraway dream, we must quickly decide to solve this issue by working towards the abolition of these weapons, fulfilling the promise made to global society.

We are also concerned about the resumption of negotiations concerning the Japan-India Nuclear Cooperation Agreement. Cooperating on nuclear power with India, who has not signed the NPT, would render the NPT meaningless as its main tenet is to stop the increase of the number of nuclear-weapon states. Japan's cooperation with India would also provide North Korea, which withdrew from the NPT and is committed to nuclear development, with an excuse to justify its actions, hindering efforts toward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

There are things that we citizens can do to help realize a nuclear-free world other than entrusting the work to leaders of nations only. In the preface of the Constitution of Japan, it states that the Japanese people have "resolved that never again shall we be visited with the horrors of war through the action of government." This statement reflects the firm resolution of the Japanese people to work for world peace. In order not to forget this original desire for peace, it is essential to impart experiences of war and atomic devastation to succeeding generations. We must continue to remember war has taken many lives and cause the physical and mental anguish of a great many survivors. We must not forget the numerous cruel scenes of the war in order to prevent another one.



*Preparatory Committee for NPT Review Conference held in Geneva in April 2013.*

People of younger generations, have you ever heard the voices of the hibakusha, survivors of the atomic bombings? Have you heard them crying out, "No more Hiroshimas, no more Nagasakis, no more wars, and no more hibakusha?"

I call on the Japanese government to consider once



You will be the last generation to hear their voices firsthand. Listen to their voices to learn what happened 68 years ago under the atomic cloud. Listen to their voices to find out why they continue to appeal for nuclear abolition. You will find that, despite



*Candle lanterns with messages for A-bomb victims and peace, made by citizens decorated the venue of the ceremony.*

much hardship, they continue to fight for nuclear abolition for the sake of future generations. Please consider whether or not you will allow the existence of nuclear weapons in the

world today and in the future of your children. Please talk to your friends about this matter. It is you who will determine the future of this world.

There are many things that we can do as global citizens. Nearly 90% of Japanese municipalities have made nuclear-free declarations to demonstrate residents' refusal to become victims of a nuclear attack and their resolution to work for world peace. The National Council of Japan Nuclear Free Local Authorities, comprising of these municipalities, celebrates its 30th anniversary this month. If any members of such municipalities plan to take any action in accordance with the declaration they have made, they shall have the support of the National Council, as well as that of Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

In Nagasaki, the Fifth Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons will be held this coming November. At this assembly, residents will play the key role in disseminating the message for nuclear abolition to people around the world.

Meanwhile, the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant operated by Tokyo Electric Power Company, Inc. has yet to be resolved and radioactive contamination continues to spread. In an instant, this accident deprived many residents in Fukushima of their peaceful daily lives. They are still forced to live without a clear vision as to their future. The residents of Nagasaki truly hope for the earliest possible recovery of Fukushima and will continue to support the people there.

Last month, Mr. Seji Yamaguchi, a hibakusha who called for nuclear abolition and for better support for hibakusha, passed away. The number of hibakusha continues to decrease with their average age

now exceeding 78. Once again, I call for the Japanese government to provide better support for these aging hibakusha.

We offer our sincere condolences for the lives lost in the atomic bombings, and pledge to continue our efforts towards realizing a nuclear-free world, hand-in-hand with the citizens of Hiroshima.

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To support the Nagasaki Peace Declaration, please visit the website below and click.

<http://www.city.nagasaki.lg.jp/peace/english/appeal/index.html>

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**Spreading Hiroshima's Spirit of Peace**  
*Ms. Tomoko Watanabe, Executive Director,*  
*ANT-Hiroshima (AHI Supporter)*

*\*ANT-Hiroshima is the host organization of AHI-ILDC Hiroshima Exposure every year. To contact ANT-Hiroshima, visit <http://www.ant-hiroshima.org/> Blog: <http://antnews.hiroshima-nagasaki.net/>*

**1. The A-bomb Experience**

I was born in 1953, eight years after the atomic bombing. My parents are A-bomb survivors. During my childhood, the scars of the war and the atomic bombing were everywhere and became part of our daily lives.



**Ms. T. Watanabe**

I grew up in a large family of 15 and learned the importance of family ties and compassion for others. One day, when I was 20, my grandfather was working in the fields and suffered a stroke. He died right in front of me. He had been the patriarch of our family and his loss shook me deeply. I began to question the meaning of life, and death, pondering my purpose on earth. It was the first time that I felt keenly aware of the fact that I was born in Hiroshima to parents who were survivors of the atomic bomb.

When Hiroshima was attacked, in August 1945, my father was 27. He was riding on a train that had stopped at the city's main station. This shielded him from the bomb's heat rays so he wasn't burned alive when the bomb exploded.

My mother was 15 at that time. She was a student at the Red Cross Nursing School, and managed to survive the blast by quickly diving under her desk.



My father wouldn't tell me about his experience of the bombing in any detail, but I recall one story where he gave some oil to the survivors to help treat their burns. His words still come back to me: "There was nothing we could do but keep on going, keep on living."

My mother wouldn't discuss her experience of the bombing, either. But when I was in college, I organized a screening of a film about Hiroshima. At that point, she slowly began sharing her account with me. She told me about a classmate who couldn't be rescued from the wreckage of the building; a baby crying in its dying mother's arms in front of the Red Cross Hospital; a patient she helped carry from his hospital bed; the relief efforts she made, without rest, to assist the survivors.

And as I heard these moving stories from my mother, and from others, I became motivated to learn more about the atomic bombing and the significance of Hiroshima. I even decided to make this the subject of my graduate thesis. For my research, I spent many hours listening to the accounts of people who were part of Hiroshima's history. From them, and their way of living, I was able to learn so much. I gained the courage to endure difficulties and the firm belief that we must never give up.

The more familiar I became with Hiroshima's A-bomb experience, the more profound its meaning grew. I came to feel that I wanted Hiroshima to be at the heart of my work for the rest of my life. And ever since, hand in hand with many others, I have pursued activities which I hope can impact people's lives for the better while spreading Hiroshima's spirit of peace.

## 2. Destruction and Rebirth

On August 6, 1945, at 8:15 a.m., an atomic bomb exploded above the city of Hiroshima. It is estimated that, out of a population of roughly 350,000 at the time, about 140,000 people were dead by the end of December 1945. Among the victims, along with Japanese residents, were people from a variety of other nations, including around a dozen American prisoners of war (POWs).

This widespread death toll and destruction was caused by a number of factors, which combined to

create a staggering catastrophe. The heat rays from the huge fireball in the sky charred human flesh and ignited fires throughout the city center. The blast released a shock wave which blew people into the air like rag dolls, toppled buildings, and sent shattered glass and debris flying like projectiles. People were exposed to the radiation emitted by the bomb, poisoning their bodies and creating a range of damaging effects which have lasted to this day. Those in the city suffered primary exposure to the radiation, while others, who entered the city in the aftermath, experienced secondary exposure.



*Ms. Tomoko Watanabe (2nd left standing) with ILDC 2013 participants.*

Despite the overwhelming destruction left by the world's first nuclear attack, the survivors of Hiroshima, along with generous support from other parts of Japan and from the world, were able to gradually reconstruct the city through the postwar period. At the same time, Hiroshima was transformed from a military city to a city of peace, which has come to serve as a touchstone for peace in the world.

Behind Hiroshima's rebirth were three key factors: 1) Human dignity was restored through efforts to meet basic needs, including shelter, clothing, food, water, medical care, meaningful work, and the personal expression of opinions and emotions. 2) Hope rose again, and a positive outlook grew, as war came to an end; nature itself showed new life with trees, plants, and flowers growing amid the ruins; support arrived from others, near and far; and the beauty of life could again be appreciated through music, the arts, sports, and social activities. 3) The reconstruction of the city was realized through a national law and funds which facilitated the reconstruction work, assistance from other parts of Japan and overseas, and a vision for transforming Hiroshima into a city of peace, with Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park at the heart of this effort.

Meanwhile, the survivors of the atomic bombing were able to overcome their own suffering to promote the abolition of nuclear weapons and war for the sake of the whole human race. As witnesses to the horror of nuclear arms, their voices have been vital in the worldwide campaign to eliminate these weapons from the earth.





### 3. A Fortress of Peace

However, the number of A-bomb survivors, as well as those who witnessed the process of reconstructing the city after the war, has been declining steadily as the years pass. To hand down their experience to the future, and prevent the memory of the horrific destruction to fade in people's minds, Hiroshima has an important mission.

This mission consists of the following five actions: 1) Convey the reality of the A-bomb damage to people in Japan and around the world, 2) Make efforts to advance the goal of abolishing nuclear weapons from the earth, 3) Pursue peace-building activities in places of need, 4) Promote peace education and peace culture, and 5) Develop new generations of peace builders

These are large aims, and they can only be advanced with the people of the world working together, each doing their own small part.

When I was writing my thesis, I received a lot of good advice on this point from Mr. Seiichi Nakano. He was a professor at Hiroshima University during the time of the city's reconstruction, and he opened his home to children who became orphaned as a consequence of the atomic bombing. The "Ayumi Group" was Professor Nakano's effort to care for these children in place of their parents. With a warm heart, he considered how best the children could live, and he did everything he could for them.

The motto of the Ayumi Group was "take baby steps together" and "peace is part of daily life." Professor Nakano cherished human ties and was often heard to say, "Build a fortress of peace in your mind." His words, and the way of life he and his wife led, have strongly influenced the person I am today.

In order to find peace in our daily lives, we need to reflect on whether the state of our minds, our behavior, and our relationships with others are peaceful or not. At the same time, the words "take baby steps together" encourage us to move forward with others by our side, even if our pace is slow. And as we pursue Hiroshima's mission, we mustn't forget the task of building that "fortress of peace" in our minds, the same aim that Professor Nakano held for the Ayumi Group.

Through my work, I've met many young people who want to learn more about the world today and help build a better world for tomorrow. I hope they will take steps to put their enthusiasm into action. By being proactive, the world around you can

change. And don't be afraid of failure; you can learn a lot from your mistakes, lessons that will enable you to grow and become more effective.

If you continue your efforts--even if those efforts seem very small--your network of like-minded people, and the impact of your work, will expand. This is exactly the thinking behind my organization, ANT-Hiroshima.



*Sharing "Paper Crane Journey" with children in Afghanistan, Nepal, Cambodia and Chile.*

### 4. ANT-Hiroshima's Work

ANT-Hiroshima, an NGO based in Hiroshima, Japan, draws its inspiration from the experience of the A-bomb survivors who, together with international support, worked to rebuild their shattered city in a spirit of peace and reconciliation. In a similar spirit, ANT-Hiroshima is involved in a range of international peace activities, international cooperation activities, and educational activities.

In one sense, "ANT" denotes the insect because the name represents our belief that, as individuals, our power is small, but by working together, we can move the world. At the same time, it stands for "Asian Network of Trust." We believe that the foundation for all our activities is the feeling of trust between people.

In 2013, ANT-Hiroshima marked its 25th year. Highlights of our work over the past quarter-century include:

#### 4.1. International Peace Activities

##### 4.1.1 international efforts for nuclear abolition and peace-building

Pursuing a vision locally and globally, ANT-Hiroshima is a strong supporter of organizations and



individuals seeking to abolish nuclear weapons and promote peace in the world, including Mayors for Peace and writers, journalists, and peace activists.

#### 4.1.2 Producing films and DVDs about A-bomb survivors

ANT-Hiroshima is a consulting producer for two award-winning documentaries by U.S. filmmaker Steven Okazaki: “White Light/Black Rain” and “The Mushroom Club.” In our efforts to record the past for future generations, we have also produced a series of DVDs which feature the life stories of A-bomb survivors and sufferers of war.

#### 4.1.3 Donating “Sadako” books to the world

ANT-Hiroshima produced two children’s books about the life of Sadako Sasaki, a girl from Hiroshima who died of leukemia, an aftereffect of radiation from the atomic bomb. These books are available in a wide range of languages and thousands of copies have been donated to nations around



*Calling for translators of this book to your own languages. Email to [ant@ant-hiroshima.org](mailto:ant@ant-hiroshima.org).*

the world, particularly in places hit by conflict or disaster. Sadako’s story, with its message of courage and hope, is an inspiration to the hearts of children everywhere.

#### 4.1.4 Establishing the Green Legacy Hiroshima Initiative

In cooperation with UNITAR or United Nations Institute for Training and Research, ANT-Hiroshima has established the Green Legacy Hiroshima Initiative to spread



*Saplings of A-bombed Tree*

the seeds and saplings of A-bombed trees to places throughout the world. The planting and growth of new generations of A-bombed trees serves to promote Hiroshima’s spirit of peace.

#### 4.1.5 Supporting peace efforts in Mindanao, the Philippines

ANT-Hiroshima is an active partner in peace education efforts in Mindanao, helping to create “Peace Crane Centers” in secondary schools to cultivate peace culture among young people in the area.

### 4.2. International Cooperation Activities

#### 4.2.1 Constructing a new health care facility in Pakistan

In cooperation with HOPE ‘87-Pakistan and other organizations, we helped construct a new health care facility in the Shamshatoo District, located in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, for Afghan refugees and local Pakistanis. The successful outcome of this project can be attributed to the trust-building that took place over 12 years of efforts.

#### 4.2.2 Sponsoring an elementary school in Kashmir

Provided financial support for the operating costs of Sadako Primary School, a school inspired by the story of Sadako Sasaki and constructed by the Sadako Foundation, a Pakistani NGO, in the wake of the devastating earthquake in Pakistan in 2005.

#### 4.2.3 Constructing a new water system in Mindanao, the Philippines

Provided financial support for the construction of a water system and sanitary facilities in Lanao Province, a project pursued by RIDO Incorporated to address poverty and conflict. The shared need for safe water and sanitation among all parties serves as a vehicle for cooperation and trust-building.

#### 4.2.4 Providing support for victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake

Played a central role in coordinating support from Hiroshima organizations for the relief and reconstruction efforts in eastern Japan following the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 2011. This support, intended to address the physical and psychological needs of those affected by the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster, includes assistance to displaced families and individuals who have left the area and resettled in Hiroshima.

#### 4.2.5 Organizing Art Party

For ten years, starting in 2003, ANT-



Hiroshima organized Art Party, a benefit art exhibition held annually in Hiroshima. Every December, artwork created by children in need from countries around the world—each time, about 300 pictures from 15 countries—was displayed and sold at a large gallery and 100% of the proceeds were returned to the participating children’s groups as a donation. Art Party was not only a fundraising effort, it was a way to use art to advance global education.

### 4.3. Educational Activities

ANT-Hiroshima has four major activities under education. They are: 1) Facilitating scholarships for education; 2) Organizing peace education and peace culture activities like lectures, workshops, film screenings, concerts and art exhibitions with peace-related themes, coordinating exchange programs, and supporting youth groups in their own peace initiatives; 3) Arranging internships and volunteer experiences local and international; and 4) Providing professional services in education settings, where I serve as a lecturer in schools, a workshop facilitator, and a media commentator.

### 5. Message from Koji Hosokawa, A-bomb survivor

Mr. Hosokawa has long been active in ANT-Hiroshima’s efforts to convey the reality of the atomic bombing to residents of Japan and visitors from overseas.

*War is state terrorism. War drives people to insanity, and the extreme end of this madness is the use of nuclear weapons. The atomic bombs were not dropped only on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, they were dropped on humanity as a whole, spurning the very existence of human beings. We must continue calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons by conveying the reality of the atomic bombing to the world from Hiroshima, the city that suffered the first nuclear attack in human history. The survivors of the atomic bombing, however, are aging and will soon all be gone. I hope that the generations which follow will carry on our mission and give voice to our message.*

**“Let us hand down peace, lasting peace, to the children of the world.”**



## HERE AND THERE

**The International Course on  
Community Health and Development  
Leadership (ILDC) 2013**  
*Ms. Kyoko Shimizu, AHI*



**ILDC 2013 Participants with Dr. Hiromi Kawahara (sitting).**

The International Course on Community Health and Development Leadership was held on September 8 to October 14, 2013. The theme was “People’s Participation in Local Governance in Health”. Twelve participants (4 females, 8 males) from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor Leste came.

Participatory process and methods re-affirmed their roles in facilitating community programs. By analyzing and discussing the health issues in Japan and their own countries, they found some commonalities as well as the impact of globalization in their communities. The concept of Gross National Happiness deepened their understanding on true richness or happiness. Post-Millennium Development Goal, Right Based Approach, social enterprise sessions were helpful for them to rethink their missions. Unique this year was the “after session feedback sheet”, where they exchange comments. It was a useful tool to reflect on their own behavior.

In Hiroshima, they exchanged experiences with many civilians working for peace and nuclear-free society; highlighting the tragedy in Hiroshima and Fukushima. ILDC participants recognized the importance of documenting how lives were destroyed by nuclear power and the effect of radiation. It is an effective way to deliver peace message to the next generation. Health workers can be peace-builders in the community. Through these learnings peace promotion was incorporated in the plan of action.





Exposures and exchange meetings formed part of the 5-week ILDC. They visited Owariasahi City and observed the local government's health promotion program; using multi-sectoral approach involving health volunteers who are mostly elders.



***ILDC participants join Health Promotion Activity in Owariasahi, the Healthy City.***

After the course, ILDC participants Ms. Archana Biswas, Joyoti Society, and Mr. Shailendra Nath Das, Jagorani Chakra Foundation of Bangladeshis, and Mr. Hector Nihar, AIDS Awareness Society of Pakistan extended their stay in Japan for the speaking tours in Aichi and Kyoto. Over 2000 Japanese attended the 15 meetings where they share their in-country activities and ILDC learnings.



***Ms. Biswas at Shukutoku University.***

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for Peace Builders!  
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