

Activity Report



Nagasaki Peace Messengers and the Executive Committee of the 10,000 High School Students Signatures Campaign

We are Nagasaki Peace Messengers and the Executive Committee of the 10,000 High School Students Signatures Campaign toward the abolition of nuclear weapons and the realization of world peace playing an active part mainly in Nagasaki.

This action started from the moment when nuclear experiment in India and Pakistan in 1998 took place. "Nagasaki Peace Messengers" are the ones being dispatched by Nagasaki's civic group appealing the crisis of nuclear proliferation to the United Nations.

My name is Kokoro Aso, Year 12 from Kassui High School being the 16th Nagasaki Peace Messengers. My name is Momoka Nishino from Hokuyo High School being also the 16th Nagasaki Peace Messengers.

Every summer, "Nagasaki Peace Messengers" visit United Nations Headquarters located in Geneva to appeal nuclear abolition and the world peace. The number of high school students dispatched until now reached more than 100. Nowadays, they are being dispatched not only from Hiroshima and Nagasaki but also from all over the country. When the 16th Nagasaki Peace Messengers visited U.N. to deliver the signatures, they also made a speech on peace in English. Also they received commission from the Minister for Foreign Affairs as the first "Youth communicator for a world without nuclear weapons" set up newly by the government.

"The 10,000 High School Students Signatures Campaign" is having its 14th year of activity following this slogan of "little is not powerless". I am a member of the Executive Committee of the 10,000 High School Students Signatures Campaign; my name is Ayaka Takeuchi from Nagasaki East High School. I am from Nagasaki Nanzan High School, Kouhei Wakasugi.

At the 13th activity, the number of signatures collected within a year reached 195,704 which is the highest number in the past. Total number of signatures is 1,041,679. This activity is being spread home and abroad. Started from Nagasaki, it's now being spread all over the country from Hokkaido to each Kyushu Prefecture. Also Brazil, Korea and the Philippines are participating in this activity. U.N. considers these signatures as "UN authorized signatures" and being put on the shelf at the place where a disarmament conference takes place. By being looked at by "Each country's disarmament ambassador" these signatures are watching us to fulfill the world peace as early as possible even for one day.

This year's Nagasaki Peace Messengers are 20 which is the highest number in the past visited U.N.

They appealed to U.N. to fulfill the world where there is no nuclear weapon so that none of us will ever have to go through again the horrible experiences in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Nagasaki Peace Messengers' appeal seems to have reached to the world starting from U.N. The youth's serious speech and action have become a huge power. Mr. Sareva from United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in Geneva expressed that "The speech is full of spirit. I highly appreciate your dedication towards a world without nuclear weapons" At the conference on disarmament in the morning, Ambassador Mari Amano the Head of the Delegation of Japan mentioned about this year's Nagasaki Peace Messengers' activities and introduced the number of signatures reached 1 million.

As for the Youth communicator for a world without nuclear weapons, Mr. Sareva valued it saying "At Hague conference in April, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. Kishida announced as a new initiative that younger generation will create a world without nuclear weapons and will discover what should be done to achieve it, which lead to deliver to the world. This will be a starting point of efforts for nuclear disarmament in the world".

At this visit, there was a discussion as to the reason why Japanese Government did not sign "the Joint Statement on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons" Because Nagasaki Peace Messengers repeated requests, Ambassador Amano expressed his opinion as "we will sign next time". Our activists will still go on up till the moment when there is a peaceful world without nuclear weapons although Nagasaki Peace Messengers or the 10,000 Signatures Campaign produced a result. Our slogan is "little is not powerless". We would like to keep making small efforts.