



Keynote Report

Masao Tomonaga

Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Nagasaki Global
Citizens' Assembly
for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

Hello, everyone, and welcome to Nagasaki from overseas and the various parts of Japan. Thank you for attending the 5th Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

While citizens worldwide are united in their desire for a world free of nuclear weapons, we still have a long way to go to realize this goal. The nuclear disarmament measures of the nuclear weapon states have produced only the most meager of reductions.

As a result of the dropping of the second nuclear bomb on August 9, 1945, Nagasaki suffered utter annihilation with more than 70,000 individuals losing their lives. It produced in excess of another 70,000 nuclear bombing victims. Even though this occurred 68 years ago, deaths due to cancer and leukemia caused by the bombing continue on with no end in sight. Having endured the mass, indiscriminate destruction and radiation caused by nuclear weapons, survivors are living proof of the utter inhumanity of nuclear weapons. These victims have continued to make the case for over half a century now on the inhumanity of nuclear weapons, and there is no doubt that this has been a major cornerstone in the world's recognition that nuclear weapons are never again to be used.

However, even as they are aware that nuclear weapons will eventually need to be abolished, the nuclear states and their allies that are dependent on this nuclear presence continue to believe that they are an effective means of guaranteeing security for themselves. As a result, there has not been one such country to date that has renounced its policy of nuclear deterrence. Given this state of affairs, there has been a sudden increase in more direct actions aimed at recognizing the inhumanity of nuclear weapons by non-nuclear countries.

The Oslo Conference held by the Norwegian government in April of this year involved scientific discussions on the inhumanity of nuclear weapons, with representatives from 137 countries in attendance to open the event. The second conference is scheduled to be held by Mexico in February of next year. What's more, another 80 countries submitted the statement on the inhumanity of nuclear weapons at the NPT Review Conference held in April of this year in Geneva. It is regrettable that Japan did not provide its signature to this proclamation. We protested to the Japanese government using the Nagasaki Peace Declaration and other means.

In this way then, even as the global movement against nuclear weapons continues to expand, at the United Nations First Committee hearing of October 22 another joint statement on the humani-

tarian consequences of nuclear weapons was issued. The Japanese government has already signed on to this. We are highly appreciative of the fact that the Japan – itself a victim of the use of nuclear weapons – has added its signature to this statement that the use of nuclear weapons is unacceptable under the any circumstances. Moving forward, we will ask for the commencement of the next steps aimed at ridding the world of magnified nuclear deterrence measures.

Seizing on these worldwide trends, the current Nagasaki Assembly will serve to gather together nuclear specialists from Japan and the international community, NGOs and students along with residents of Nagasaki who want to see the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

This will occur in Nagasaki, the site of the last nuclear bombing, where these stakeholders will discuss putting together some kind of an international standard for recognizing the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and search out specific methods for putting together a legal framework for banning nuclear weapons based on this status. For nuclear powers and their allies, the idea that the continued gradual nuclear disarmament carried out in stages is the only way forward seems to be firmly rooted. When it comes to the current situation where there is not yet an international security guarantee, the thinking is that the hasty banning of nuclear weapons would conversely invite crisis; this is the nuclear deterrent force way of thinking.

As members of the human race, we must do whatever it takes to establish the recognition of the inhumanity of nuclear weapons on a global level and successfully establish a legal framework as well. With the substantive two-day assembly that begins today, I'd like to see everybody roll up their sleeves and get down to the nitty-gritty on this topic with the results forwarded to the rest of the world in the form of the Nagasaki Appeal.

Whether we can realize a world free of nuclear weapons in the 21st century is without a doubt the most pressing issue in need of settlement for the young generation who will be responsible for supporting this century. I hope for a thorough discussion covering just what young people think of nuclear weapons, as well as how they think these are to be abolished.

The Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant Accident that transpired as a result of the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011 and tsunami that occurred shortly thereafter resulted in more than 1 million people being exposed to radiation. This was a big shock to the citizens of Nagasaki, who had similarly been exposed to radiation some 68 years earlier. Nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons are both based on the same principles of nuclear fission and I believe that it has been proven without a reasonable doubt just how incredibly difficult it is to perfectly control nuclear fission during a level 7 incident such as this one. We need to strive to prevent nuclear proliferation in the NPT structure that recognizes the peaceful use of nuclear energy when it comes to existing nuclear power rights and compensation when the use of nuclear power is prohibited. However before addressing the very real threat of worldwide nuclear proliferation, we cannot but have the fundamental question of whether the future is really safe with such an NPT structure that includes both nuclear prohibitions and nuclear rights.

With the implementation of nuclear power, high-level nuclear waste could very well be used as a

raw material for nuclear weapons. Effective processing methods for this waste have not yet been developed but the mere potential of this is already casting a dark shadow. Through rigorous discussions at Work Shop II “The Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant Accident and the Atomic Bombing in Nagasaki”, we should somehow stand close to the people of Fukushima who were exposed to radiation, and think about the future utilization of nuclear energy as well as the problem of nuclear waste.

All of us here at this venue are as representative of the citizens of the earth. Without even harkening back to President Obama’s Prague speech of some four years ago, all countries including nuclear states, as well as the citizens of these states conclude that nuclear weapons need to eventually be abolished. Present world conditions are one of conflict between nuclear powers as well as their allies who are predisposed to fight this, and a rapidly growing core group of non-nuclear states and NGOs that recognize the inhumanity of nuclear weapons, with these two sides having just now started to struggle. It is my hope that this assembly held here in Nagasaki – fortunately being the last place as the atomic bombed city, even during the Cold War with risky equilibrium of nuclear – will serve as a forerunner that will achieve a breakthrough and constitute a new effort to abolish nuclear weapons. This concludes the keynote address.