

An Urgent Message of Peace from Hiroshima, Japan: “No More Hiroshimas.”



The Atomic Bomb Dome

The 26th Association of Southeast and East Asian Catholic Colleges and Universities (ASEACCU) Conference was held at the Elisabeth School of Music in Hiroshima, Japan on August 23 – 25, 2018. The theme of the Conference was, *Catholic Education and Peace Initiatives*. The Conference was extremely important because it reminded administrators, professors and students of the importance of peace building among all people of the world and that each individual has a significant role to play in the peace building process. Kazumi Matsui, Mayor of Hiroshima, emphasized this in his address, *From Hiroshima to Our World Free from Nuclear Weapons – Beyond Human Atrocities*. Dr. Seung Chui Kim uniquely supported the ideas of Mayor Matsui in his lecture, *Traces of the Divine: Peace and Reconciliation in the Novels of Shusaku Endo* and Fr. Jose Ramon T. Villarín, S.J. also made a significant contribution to the theme in his speech, *Making Peace with Creation*.



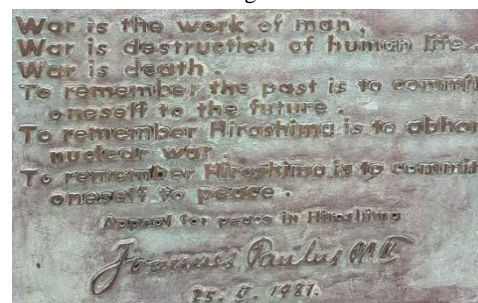
Pictured: Kazumi Matsui, Mayor of Hiroshima



Pictured: Dr. Seung Chui Kim



Pictured: Fr. Jose Ramon T Villarín, S.J



Words of Pope John Paul II in 1981

In addition to hearing from excellent speakers at the Conference sight, participants also had the privilege of visiting the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and of hearing a moving personal testimony of the tragic consequences of war from Keiko Ogura, a survivor of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. At the time of the bombing, she was only eight years old and the memories of that catastrophic event have remained with her throughout her life.

A single atomic bomb indiscriminately killed tens of thousands of people, profoundly disrupting and altering the lives of survivors. Through belongings left by the victims, A-bombed artifacts, testimonies of A-bomb survivors and related materials, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum conveys to the world the horrors and the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons and spreads the message of “No more Hiroshimas.”



Far left standing: Keiko Ogura



Left to right: Sophal Phon, Chris Riley, Sr. Anne Therese Falkenstein, Mark Lysaght

On the last evening of the Faculty Conference, students who attended the Student Camp were invited to share the work of their groups that centered on peace initiatives. Providence University students, Kuo Mei Hsuan and Pei-Nung Wu were among those who addressed the group.



Centered: Kuo Mei Hsuan



Centered: Pei-Nung Wu

The entire event was well planned and successfully implemented. May we all heed the lessons of Hiroshima and work to resolving conflicts peacefully.