



Since its establishment in 1974, Nara Coop has been promoting various projects and activities with the understanding and cooperation of its members “for peace and a better life”. In this context, we are working to pass on the experience of the atomic bomb victims and war to the future generations with peace as our theme. In particular, the center is dedicated to listening, learning, talking to each other, fellowship, and broadening the circle of relationships for peace which we cherish.

“Nara Coop Heiwa Library Opening Lecture”

On Sunday, October 6, 2019, we held a lecture to celebrate the opening of Heiwa Library "Towards Nuclear Abolition". This event was held under the theme of "Learning about the atomic bomb experience and passing it on to the next generation”.

Mr. Jiro Hamasumi, Deputy Secretary General of the Japan Confederation of A- and H-bomb Sufferers Organization (Nihon Hidankyo), was invited to give a keynote speech on the theme of “The experience of the atomic bomb as In-Utero Hibakusha, the situation regarding nuclear weapons, and the past and future of the Atomic bomb survivors' movement”.

Mr. Hamasumi was the youngest survivor of the atomic bomb at the time, having been exposed to the bombing while in his mother's womb in Hiroshima. When I thought about the tragedy of my father, who lost his life in the atomic bomb at the age of 49, leaving his family behind, I felt compelled to live to take his place, even if it meant living a day longer. Even in 2019, 74 years after the bomb was dropped, the bomb is still plaguing Hibakusha. In 2014, Japan In-Utero Hibakusha Network was established and created a booklet about their experiences. In-utero survivors are those “branded as hibakusha before birth”. They were born, but some people have suffered with ^{※1} microcephaly and other disabilities all their lives.

(※1 microcephaly: When the head circumference is more than twice the standard deviation smaller than the average head circumference for the same age, it is called microcephaly. The incidence of microcephaly was particularly high among those exposed in utero at less than 16 weeks of age.)

Mr. Hamasumi said that as the Atomic bomb survivors grow older, a major issue is how to preserve the memories from the atomic bomb and carry on the anti-nuclear bomb movement in the future.

This Heiwa Library will be a base for carrying on .The Movement in Nara and Beacon of Light for Many People.

Next, Mr. Masanao Iritani, who has been digging up records of Hibakusha in Nara Prefecture, gave a report on the theme



Recording and Passing on the atomic bomb victims and war experience at the Nara Coop Heiwa Library



of "Understanding the Value of the Things Left Behind by Hibakusha".

In the bulletin of the "Wakakusa no Kai", a student from a school included his impressions of his atomic bomb experience and his impressions of the school trip. I wanted to learn more about it, so I visited the school to see if there was anything left of the school, such as the annual storytelling club for Atomic bomb survivors and the school trip to Hiroshima that they had studied in advance. But there was nothing left to be found there. I felt the fading of memories. If we don't keep a record, it will be as if all the Hibakusha's efforts to date never happened. We should not leave it to the Hibakusha alone to carry on the activities of the Atomic bomb survivors, but we need to know the value of the atomic bomb victims' memory and pass it on to the next generation. I hope that the Heiwa Library will become a place that talks about peace, he said.

Participants said, "I learned the importance of communicating and connecting with others." "We will continue to pass on Mr. Hamasumi's valuable stories without interruption."

