

Closing Remarks

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Thank you for your kind introduction. Good afternoon. I am Toshiyuki Sato of Hiroshima University. May I also thank the speakers and panelists for their contributions. Thank you. Now, I had prepared closing remarks for today, but I feel like doing it without...

I was born in Senda-machi just across the city tramlines from here. I went to the Senda elementary school followed by the Kokutaiji Junior-High school, so I was literally nurtured and brought up in Hiroshima. During the symposium today, I kept thinking about my first-grade classroom teacher at the elementary school. The young teacher was a *hibakusha*, a “survivor-teacher.” What I have felt strongly throughout today was this. I am not a first-generation *hibakusha*, but a member of the generation of citizens who learnt about the Atomic-bomb experience directly from them. I have already passed the mark of my sixtieth birthday,

and I do not know how much time is left for me in this life, but today’s symposium struck deep into my heart the need to seriously consider what we can do for the next generation now. As Professor Kawano said earlier, what we can, and must, do for future generations – that’s what I thought about today as a citizen of Hiroshima and as a member of Hiroshima University. I presume each of the participants of this symposium today, who gathered together in this room, also have their own personal thoughts and ideas for how to discuss, transmit, and grapple with the issues of the Atomic-bombings and Peace. So, what we need is a forum of opportunity where anyone can join and discuss them freely, for our mission, Professor Kawano’s mission. To create such a forum is, I believe, Professor Kawano’s mission, the mission of the Institute for Peace Science Hiroshima University. As I said earlier, I have been asking Professor

Kawano to actively plan and promote occasions such as this symposium where any member of the public can freely participate and discuss issues to attain peace. In that regard, this has been a very successful symposium, indeed. Thank you to everyone.

On a practical note, as you will find in your symposium pack, there is a leaflet about a public lecture by Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, the Vice Secretary General of the United Nations. The event will be held on August 6th in this very room. We look forward to welcoming a large audience here. Another piece of information... Dr. Reibun Kayō, a researcher at Hiroshima University, is working with members of Funairi-Mutsumi-en, Hiroshima-city's nursing home with many *hibakusha* residents, on making ceramic monuments of doves. The ceramics are created from A-bombed roof tiles collected from the river-beds in Hiroshima. Creating such monuments of peace with *hibakusha* was an initiative started by President Ochi of Hiroshima University and the opening ceremony of the monuments will also be held on August 6th in this building. The ceremony will be followed by an event planned and run by the students themselves, an open debate by the students of Hiroshima University

and the overseas students studying at the university. I would like to invite you to participate in all these events. Thank you.