

Closing Remarks

Once again, I am Noriyuki KAWANO, Director of the Institute for Peace Science at Hiroshima University.

I would like to thank you all very much for taking time out to attend today's symposium. I would also like to thank the presenters—Prof. Hitoshi ABE, Director of the UCLA Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies, Prof. Hongkyu PARK, Director of the Korea University Peace and Democracy Institute, and Kate FEARON, Special Advisor to the Civilian Operations Commander at the European External Action Service—for coming from overseas to speak here today, despite their busy schedules. On behalf of the organization hosting today's symposium, I once again express my gratitude to the presenters, who have a wealth of experience and keen insight, for leading such valuable talks today.

When a society has been destroyed, whether by natural disasters or by large-scale domestic disputes, the most essential thing is undoubtedly that its people once again develop trust in each other and gather as a community to revitalize and build a peaceful society that will stand the test of time. Revitalization is more than the restoration of infrastructure; another important prerequisite is how to nip social division, mutual distrust, and hatred in the bud. At the same time, we must not cast aside the issues of revitalization and peace-building as the

problems of faraway places, but rather recognize them as our own. Today's symposium reminded me of this fact.

“The Pursuit of Peace” is the first of Hiroshima University's five guiding principles. The research activities of the Institute for Peace Science, which was established according to this mission, has been, and will continue to be, anchored around two research areas—one being so-called “Hiroshima Peace Research” on issues in international relations atomic bombs, radiation exposure, and nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament; and the other being “Global Peace Research,” which studies issues such as structural violence. On August 2nd, we held an international symposium on inheriting the experience of the atomic bomb and memories of the war. Today's symposium was organized as part of the second research area, “Global Peace Research.” It has fostered discussion of the important and pressing issues of revitalization and peace-building among the presenters, who have come from abroad, and all of you who have come as participants, and it has been a very rewarding event. Once again, I would like to express my gratitude for your active participation and cooperation throughout the long day. Thank you very much.

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