

IPPNW World Congress  
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I am Dr. Yokokura, the Representative President of the JPPNW since this May, representing the only nation in the world that has suffered from atomic bombs.

I am also serving the President-elect of the World Medical Association (WMA) as well as the President of the Japan Medical Association (JMA).

I would like to make a few remarks at the closing of the IPPNW World Congress.

On September 3rd, we observed a nuclear test conducted while the world demands the elimination of nuclear weapons and abolition of nuclear tests.

The WMA has been also strongly condemning the use of nuclear weapons and demanding the abolition of nuclear tests for years.

The WMA, established in 1947, is a non-governmental organization of 112 national medical associations, representing physicians from all over the world for 70 years.

The WMA Declarations of Geneva, of Helsinki and of Tokyo make clear the duties and responsibilities of the medical profession to preserve and safeguard the health of the patient and to consecrate itself to the service of humanity.

Therefore, the WMA considers that it has a duty to work for the elimination of these weapons.

At its General Assembly Moscow in 2015, the WMA adopted a statement that advocates the effort to eliminate nuclear weapons.

In this statement, it condemns the development, testing, production and use of nuclear weapons, and requests that all national medical associations support this statement and urge their respective governments to work towards the elimination of these dreadful weapons.

Now, let me speak about Japan. Every year in Japan, we hold two peace memorial ceremonies - one in Hiroshima City on August 6th, another one in Nagasaki City on August 9th - to remember the victims of the atomic bomb locations and to pray for peace.

These ceremonies are also meant to appeal continuously to the world not to repeat such abominable history that instantly destroyed numerous precious lives and rich nature, and to pray for building a peaceful world in the future.

At the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony of this year, children plead against war.

Our future generations should not need to experience war, but they need to learn the facts of war, correctly.

In their simple but honest words that reach every corner of the world, children plead persistently that we should all learn the value of life of each individual and learn to value each other.

We physicians renew our awareness of the extent of the damage by a nuclear weapon when we directly face the victims of the atomic bombing in their 80's and over who still suffer health damage even after 70 some years.

The children of Hiroshima say, "Had it not been for the people who desperately survived during the time of hardship, had they given up and lost their determination and hope for reconstruction back then, Hiroshima we have today would not exist."

The survivor of the atomic bombing says, "This history, the atomic bombing, is one of the wrong doing that mankind had made, and we must overcome it, and reach out for our future. However, that fact it happened, will remain."

The family of the victims says, "The suffering and sorrow of the atomic bomb victims still continue even now, and the world should not forget that."

Even today, some survivors continue to work actively in overseas to tell this fact to the world.

In October this year, I will be inaugurated as the 68<sup>th</sup> WMA President at its General Assembly in Chicago.

Especially as the President of the WMA starting from this fall, I shall continue to advocate the elimination of nuclear weapons strongly and extensively, at every opportunity.

In closing, I wish to convey these messages yet again to all the people in the IPPNW who have been involved in the effort to eliminate nuclear weapons.

I hope this World Congress will bring a new step forward for the future activities of the organization.

Thank you very much.