

# *Editorial Calling and Connecting Cities for Peace*

*A Participatory Action Program for a  
Nuclear Free World*

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As I write these lines a very special ship has just docked in New York. Starting from the Japanese port of Yokohama on Sept 1 the worlds largest passenger ship sailing around the globe for peace, visiting port cities in 23 countries, arrived in New York on October 29, 2018 to coincide with a meeting of the United Nations First Committee on Disarmament and International Security , where, together with the permanent missions of Austria and Mexico, it presented the theme of “Building Momentum for the Entry into Force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons”.

This 99th 8th mission of the Peace Boat is host to the “Peace Boat Hibakusha Project: Global Voyage for a Nuclear-Free World,” in which a delegation of Hibakusha, the name given to the survivors of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, travel onboard to give personal testimonies and calls for the abolition of nuclear weapons. During the entire voyage they have been giving testimonies on how the bomb affected them and their families in the years that followed.

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Mr. Koji Ueda, born 15 February 1942 was exposed to the atomic bomb at age 3. He suffered from radiation after he entered Hiroshima City with his mother to check on the damage on their home that had stood only 400 meter from the epicenter. In Japan he speaks about his experience to many groups, including students from elementary age to university level.

Ms. Terumi Kuramori from Nagasaki was 1 year old when she and her mother experienced the bomb just 5.8 km from the epicenter. Fortunately the family had already taken shelter and survived. She has devoted herself to ensuring that Nagasaki is the last place nuclear weapons are ever used.

Peace Boat's first voyage was organized in 1983 by a group of university students. While always a key theme, activism to support the movement for the banning of atomic weapons has been a particular central aim of voyages since 2008, when the Hibakusha Project was launched. Since then over 170 Hibakushas have participated. The awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize for 2017 to ICAN - The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons meant a special encouragement for the Peace Boat NGO that has worked in partnership with ICAN since its early years, and is a member of ICAN's International Steering Group.

Mr. Kawasaki Akira, Peace Boat Executive Committee member, served as ICAN co-chair from 2012- 2014 and played a significant role in negotiations to strengthen the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons that was adopted by the UN last year and so far has been signed by 69 nations with Thailand among the 19 ratifying nations.

At the official 2017 Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in Oslo Mr. Kawasaki headed a group of 30 atomic bomb survivors who participated in numerous social events.

The Peace Boat agenda includes a comprehensive educational program both on board in ports visited. It includes a Global University where topics studied include world conflict areas and innovative approaches to peace. An international student program in peace activism and conflict resolution includes giving scholarships to students from opposing sides of conflict to participate in a program of conflict transformation. Every day on the ship lectures and workshops are offered on contemporary issues like conflicts, human rights and the environment.

For additional information about the Peace Boat program please see [www.peaceboat.org](http://www.peaceboat.org) or contact via email at [pbglobal@peaceboat.gr.jp](mailto:pbglobal@peaceboat.gr.jp).