

Foreword

Aspiring to create a unique and the best research institute of its kind

I am honored to have been appointed the director of the Institute for Peace Science, Hiroshima University, on April 1, 2017.

Hiroshima university was founded on the principle of the Pursuit of Peace and the IPSHU plays a vital role in this effort. Since its establishment in 1975, the IPSHU has developed a significant track record through its endeavors. We will continue building on this legacy which is firmly based on what we call the principle of Hiroshima, namely the commitment to keep alive the memory of the catastrophic Atomic experience in order to disseminate Hiroshima's anti-nuclear weapons message. Concurrently, we will strive to pursue peace from a more global and universal perspective, with special focus on upgrading and expanding two of our core research areas.

The first of these is Peace Studies, founded on the principle of Hiroshima. This involves studies on Atomic-Bomb disasters and international relations with regard to nuclear abolition and disarmament. These research domains reflect the concept of a nuclear free world, which is the underlying

philosophy of the principle of Hiroshima. The other area of focus is Global Peace Studies, which covers a range of topics, including the urgent issues of today, such as the plight of refugees and problems of immigration. Also under the umbrella of Global Peace Studies is structural violence, which takes into consideration a variety of issues such as poverty, as well as the environmental challenges faced by developing countries. Focusing on these two pillars - Hiroshima Non-Nuclear Peace Studies and Global Peace Studies - the IPSHU strives to attain a pre-eminent position in the research field of Peace Studies, delivering results of a unique, unrivalled, nature. Our aim is to lead this specialized field of research as pioneers of hitherto unexplored research questions and to establish new theoretical frameworks and methodology. There may be many relevant studies, but very few are trailblazing. I am convinced that, by pursuing only the very best research outcomes, we will be able to establish Hiroshima Peace Studies as a new research field, drawing on the

expertise of Hiroshima. I have faith that every member of staff in our institute will do their utmost to help achieve this dream.

The philosophy of Hiroshima is founded on the principles of a non-nuclear world, underpinned by the heart-rending experiences of Atomic-Bomb survivors and shaped by their unwavering conviction and constant efforts to fight against the use of nuclear weapons. Regardless of the Japanese government's position on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, when Atomic-Bomb survivors stand on a podium and pour out their hearts, relating their first-hand experiences, they are received with applause. This is because their real-life experiences strike a chord with the audience. These hibakusha (Atomic-Bomb survivors) and their

original experiences form the backbone of the Hiroshima principle. We will not, however, enjoy the privilege of their presence for much longer, due to their advanced age. Thus, I believe it is urgent that we review the position of Hiroshima and its future role in the global effort for peace. This is an essential mission of the IPSHU, grounded in the soil of Hiroshima, the city that survived the world's first nuclear attack.

I would, humbly, like to call on your continued support and cooperation with our institute.

Noriyuki Kawano, PhD.

Professor and Director
Institute for Peace Science,
Hiroshima University (IPSHU)