



International NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC)

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**2017 Nobel Peace Prize Awarded to the International Campaign
to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)
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Peace Boat warmly welcomes the Nobel Committee's decision to award the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) - a network of over 450 organizations in over 100 countries.

For the last 72 years, survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (known as Hibakusha) have bravely shared their horrific experience to raise public awareness about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and the urgent need to abolish them to ensure nobody ever has to endure what they have suffered.

It is thanks to their tireless efforts and to the mobilization of people, organizations and governments that the groundbreaking Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted on July 7 and opened to signatures on September 20 of this year.

ICAN, strong in its wide and diverse membership, has led civil society efforts on the humanitarian disarmament initiative that paved the way to this treaty.

In this time of international tensions, we welcome the Nobel Committee's recognition of the importance of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as a step towards a nuclear-weapon-free world, and of the crucial role played by Hibakusha and civil society in making it a reality.

“By acknowledging the significance of the treaty, this prize will encourage governments that have not yet signed or ratified the treaty to do so. It will also encourage us, members of ICAN and of civil society at large working towards nuclear abolition to continue working relentlessly until the treaty becomes a strong international norm with global adherence and nuclear weapons are eliminated at last,” comments Peace Boat Executive Committee Member and ICAN International Steering Group Member, Mr. Akira Kawasaki.

Japan-based international NGO Peace Boat has been working with Hibakusha since 2008, as part of its *Global Voyages for a Nuclear-Free World: Peace Boat Hibakusha Project*, and has had the honour of being part of ICAN and its leadership since its inception.

“This year the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty was adopted. This is the first step in achieving what the Hibakusha have been working towards for 70 years. Being awarded this prize during this monumental year holds extreme significance. We are deeply humbled that our testimonies may have played a small role in the Nobel Peace Prize being awarded to the Hibakusha.” said Mr. Nobuo Miyake, who was exposed to radiation from the atomic bomb at the age of 16 in Hiroshima.

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