

Statement on International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) Winning the Nobel Peace Prize

I was both surprised and extremely happy to hear that the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). I am currently onboard a plane and do not yet have information on the Nobel Committee's reasons for awarding the prize to ICAN. I believe that this award pays homage to every person and group, including the Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors) of Hiroshima and Nagasaki for their courage and efforts in realizing a world free from nuclear weapons. I also believe this award honours people around the world that have been exposed to radiation from nuclear tests and people employed in nuclear facilities. In July of this year, the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty was adopted at the United Nations as a result of the unrelenting efforts of the Hibakusha, nuclear test survivors, and others exposed to radiation, along with the grassroots movement, and the devotion of many governments around the world.

This award encourages all governments who have not yet done so to ratify the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty. Consequently, this award has shed light on many of the issues within Japan that need answering. Japan is the only country to fall prey to the atomic bomb during wartime, and has since sworn to never again take part in warfare. However, Japan has refused to ratify the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty and is in the process of amending Article 9 of the constitution to allow Japan to partake in war. As citizens of Japan, we need to face these issues head on and rethink our position as a country. Lastly, I would like to pay my deepest respects to all of the Hibakusha who have passed away and could not live to see a world free of nuclear weapons.

October 6, 2017 (7PM Japan Time)

From the plane, on his way to a Hibakusha testimonial session in Iceland

Peace Boat Executive Committee Member and ICAN International Steering Group
Member

KAWASAKI Akira (48 years of age)