



Report: I was her age.

April 12, Sunday – July 25, Saturday (105 days)
onboard Peace Boat's 87th Global Voyage,
Culminating in the 70th anniversary commemorations in
Hiroshima (August 6) and Nagasaki (August 9), 2015

A young mother is taking a stroll in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park with her daughter. They encounter an elderly woman and the mother strikes up a conversation with her. It soon emerges that the elderly woman was in Hiroshima on 6 August 1945. After hearing some of her experiences from that day, the mother asks, "So, how old were you?" The elderly woman, gesturing toward the girl, replies.

"I was her age."

Over 15,000 children, aged 5-11, died in Hiroshima.

Over 5,000 perished in Nagasaki.

This year, as the world commemorates the 70th year since the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, *Mayors for Peace* and

Peace Boat launched a unique collaborative project focusing on the child survivors of the bombings.

"I Was Her Age."



A Global Voyage for a Nuclear-Free World

Eight child survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki travelled the globe onboard Peace Boat's 87th Global Voyage, visiting 24 ports in 23 countries onboard Peace Boat's vessel, the Ocean Dream. During this voyage, they gave testimony at 25 cities in 19 countries.

Collaboration with Mayors for Peace

Events were held in host cities around the world which are members of the global network of Mayors for Peace, focusing on the child survivors meeting local parents with children who are now the age the survivors were in 1945, as well as their teachers. Poster sets and/or messages from the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were delivered to 11 cities throughout the world.



Participating Hibakusha (child survivors)

Mr MIYAKE Nobuo (Hiroshima)
Mr HORIE Soh (Hiroshima)
Mr MORITA Hiromitsu (Nagasaki)
Mr ITO Masao (Hiroshima)

Ms KOTANI Takako (Hiroshima)
Ms MITAMURA Shizuko (Nagasaki)
Mr HIRONAKA Masaaki (Hiroshima)
Ms KAMADA Hiroe (Hiroshima)

(Yokohama-Copenhagen)

Participating Youth Communicators for a Nuclear-Free World

Mr HASHIMOTO Akihiro (from Ibaraki)
Ms SUZUKI Keina (from Kanagawa)
Ms IWAMOTO Manami (from Kyoto)

Videographer Ms Emma BAGGOTT (UK)

Contact

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<http://www.peaceboat.org/english/>
<http://bit.ly/pbhibakusha>
<https://www.facebook.com/IWasHerAge>

Peace Boat Voyages for Peace and Sustainability

Peace Boat is a Japan-based international non-governmental organisation that works to promote peace, human rights, equal and sustainable development and respect for the environment. We pursue this through the organisation of global educational programmes, responsible travel, cooperative projects and advocacy activities in partnership with other civil society organisations around the world. Peace Boat carries out its main activities through a chartered passenger ship that travels the world on peace voyages, serving as a neutral, mobile space allowing people to engage across borders in dialogue and mutual cooperation at sea, and in the ports that we visit.



Global Voyage for a Nuclear Free World - Peace Boat Hibakusha Project

Peace Boat has been conducting “Global Voyages for a Nuclear-Free World” since 2008. To date, more than 150 Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors) have traveled around the globe to appeal for a nuclear-free world. This marked the 8th Global Voyage for a Nuclear-Free World. The Hibakusha were accompanied by three youth activists who worked with them to spread the message of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and to appeal for a nuclear-free world. The Hibakusha and youth were appointed by the Japanese Government as “Special Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons” and “Youth Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons” respectively.

Cooperation of Mayors for Peace Member Cities

Peace Boat is pleased and honoured to work with Mayors for Peace and its local member cities in this historic project. As members of the network, these cities have pledged to make every effort to create an inter-city solidarity to achieve the total abolition of nuclear weapons and avert the recurrence of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki tragedies. They hosted the child survivors and organize activities to enable their stories to be heard locally and nationally.



A Significant and Historic Project

The 8th Global Hibakusha Project and I Was Her Age Project was held in the months proceeding the 70th anniversaries of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and serves as both a tribute to the Hibakusha and a reminder of the suffering that they have been through.

A Call to Action in the Midst of Rising Awareness

The projects take place in the context of an increased awareness and concern about the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons to which the testimonies of survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki have contributed. Throughout the voyage the Hibakusha called on political leaders to support the Humanitarian Pledge (Austrian Pledge), which promised to “stigmatise, prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons in light of their unacceptable humanitarian consequences and associated risks.” Testimonies were given in the nuclear weapon states of Russia, the United States, France and India, for mayors, local officials and the community. The Hibakusha, together with Dr Kathleen Sullivan (Hibakusha Stories), called for enhanced collaboration with civil society, mayors and governments worldwide to drive further momentum for the beginning of negotiations for a treaty to ban nuclear weapons. A testimony event was held at Hofdi House, location of the US-Russia talks regarding the reduction of nuclear arms during the Cold War.

A Message to Future Generations

Creative means including poetry, song, theatre, readings, puppetry, clay animation, comedy, ventriloquism and more were explored in collaboration between the youth and Hibakusha, to pass the message to a wider audience. A documentary film will be released in August 2015, to preserve the message years after the official end of the project. This film, “I Was Her Age” will premier in the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the bombings, and will be made available for public screenings in Japan and internationally. Social media has also been actively used to document the project in real time to a global audience, with posts regularly reaching more than 5000 people.

I Was Her Age and Hibakusha Project Activities and Events in 2015

Throughout Peace Boat's 87th Global Voyage, both onboard and in ports of call, the Hibakusha engaged in numerous activities in order to share their experiences and spread the message of peace. These activities include lectures, workshops, testimony sessions, press conferences, meetings with local or national authorities or NGOs and sharing sessions with local families. The timeline below shows an overview of activities conducted, including the special activities co-organised with Mayors for Peace (indicated with ).

	Yokohama, Japan 12 April 2015	Departure of Peace Boat's 87 th Global Voyage and Press Conference
	Singapore, Singapore 21 April 2015	Visit to Singapore National Museum to learn of war history, testimony session on-board Peace Boat with local youth in cooperation with UN Association of Singapore
	Kochi, India 27 April 2015	Testimony session and interaction with students, hosted by the Mayor of the city of Kochi, in collaboration with SEEDS-India and YMCA Kerala State Region Delivery of peace flame from City of Hiroshima to City of Kochi
	Piraeus and Athens, Greece 13 May 2015	Peace Ceremony at port of Piraeus, hosted by PADOP and Greek IPPNW Affiliate Meeting with the President of the Hellenic Republic, Prokopis Pavlopoulos Testimony and speeches at Greek Parliament
	Catania, Italy 15 May 2015	Testimony session and press conference at City Hall, hosted by the City of Catania Cultural performance and meeting with students at a local school
	Motril, Spain 18 May 2015	Testimony session at a local school, meeting with Mayor Organised in partnership with the City of Motril
	Lisbon, Portugal 20 May 2015	Testimony session and cultural exchange with local primary school children, in collaboration with the city of Lisbon
	Gonfreville L'Orcher 23 May 2015	Meeting and press conference with the Mayors of Gonfreville L'Orcher and Grigny, participation in an exchange with youth including kickoff of friendly soccer match.
	Bruges, Ypres and Brussels, Belgium 24-27 May 2015	Testimony sessions in Bruges, Ypres (secretariat of Mayors for Peace and "sister" city of Hiroshima) and Brussels, organised by local governments Visit to Ypres as the site where chemical weapons were first used.
	Gdansk, Poland 27 May 2015	Testimony session and exchange with youth at the Solidarity Centre, hosted by the City of Gdansk. Utilising film, storytelling and creative means.
	Stockholm, Sweden 29 May 2015	Meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, testimony events at local high schools. In collaboration with civil society groups ICAN and IPPNW Sweden.
	Saint Petersburg, Russia 31 May 2015	Discussion with local NGO representatives and journalists Visit to Nagasaki Peace Bell at Piskarevsky Memorial Cemetery Testimony hosted by City for youth learning Japanese language
	Helsinki, Finland 1 June 2015	Testimony Session and exchange with local disarmament activists, organised in partnership with the Finnish Peace Union
	Warnemünde, Hamburg and Berlin, Germany 3-4 June 2015	One group of survivors travelled to Hamburg for an event meeting with survivors of WWII air raids. Another representative spoke at a symposium in Berlin in cooperation with the Heinrich Boell Foundation and ICAN Germany
	Bergen, Norway 6 June 2015	Testimony session and public "Art for Peace" cultural exchange including Japanese traditional dance and drumming in the square, organised with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) Bergen. Presented request for Norway to support Humanitarian Pledge.
	Reykjavik, Iceland 10 June 2015	"I Was Her Age" session with children and their parents at Hofdi House, where the 1986 US-Russia Summit on the reduction of nuclear weapons took place. Presented request for Iceland to support Humanitarian Pledge.

La Guaira, and Caracas, Venezuela	Hosted by the Venezuelan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, meetings with Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Education and other senior government officials.
22-23 June 2015	Unveiling mural in Vargas State to mark 70 th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. A testimony session was also organized
Panama City, Panama	Testimony for United Nations related representatives at the "City of Knowledge" site, a former military base now a centre for learning and culture. Together marked 70 years since the atomic bombings and the establishment of the UN.
26 June 2015	
Puerto Quetzal and Antigua, Guatemala	First presentation of testimony through ventriloquism with Spanish subtitles. Testimony for local civil society including women's and indigenous groups.
30 June – 1 July 2015	
Honolulu, USA	Exchange and cultural event with local citizens groups including Hibakusha living in Hawaii, youth arts and UN Association of Hawaii.
12-13 July 2015	Visit to Pearl Harbour, followed by meeting with Mayor of Honolulu.
Yokohama, Japan	The return of the 87 th Global Voyage to the port of Yokohama, Japan and Press Conference
25 July 2015	
Hiroshima, Japan	Commemorative Events including report session and launch of film
5-6 August 2015	
Nagasaki, Japan	Commemorative Events
9 August 2015	Peace Boat docks at the Port of Nagasaki – large scale event onboard

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