



## Peace Boat Global Voyage for a Nuclear Free World

August 18 – November 30, 2016

### **Peace Boat's Voyages for Peace and Sustainability**

Peace Boat is a Japan-based international non-governmental and non-profit organization with consultative status with the United Nations. It works to promote peace, human rights, equal and sustainable development and respect for the environment. This aim is pursued through the organization of global educational programmes, responsible travel, cooperative projects and advocacy activities in partnership with other civil society organisations. Peace Boat carries out its main activities through a chartered passenger ship that travels the world on peace voyages. The ship creates a neutral, mobile space and enables people to engage across borders in dialogue and mutual cooperation at sea, and in the ports visited. Peace Boat's 92<sup>nd</sup> Global Voyage will depart from Yokohama on August 18 and return on November 30, 2016.

### **Global Hibakusha Project**

Since 2008, Peace Boat has invited Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors) of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to participate in the "Global Voyage for a Nuclear-Free World: Peace Boat Hibakusha Project." As of June 2016, over 150 Hibakusha have travelled around the world giving personal testimonies about the effects of the atomic bombs and calling for nuclear abolition. The messages from Hiroshima and Nagasaki have the potential to deeply move people around the world. This project is held annually onboard Peace Boat's global voyages. As the average age of the Hibakusha is now close to 80 years old, the time remaining for them to directly send out their urgent message is very limited. Peace Boat's 92<sup>nd</sup> Voyage will host the 9<sup>th</sup> Global Hibakusha Project. Five Hibakusha from Hiroshima and Nagasaki will travel together with two second generation Hibakusha and two Youth Communicators to share the individual experiences of the effects of nuclear weapons.

### **Sharing Testimonies – passing to the next generation**

As part of Peace Boat's Hibakusha Project, survivors have met with Presidents, Foreign Ministers, City Mayors and other governmental figures. One of the key aims of the project has been to pass the stories to the younger generations. As such, Peace Boat's Hibakusha Project has visited numerous schools and universities since 2008. In 2015 to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Peace Boat collaborated with Mayors for Peace to undertake the "I was her Age" project. Child survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki connected with children and their parents who were the same age that they were when they experienced the bombings. The 9<sup>th</sup> Hibakusha project taking place between August and November 2016 aims to continue to connect survivors to young people so they can hear first hand their experiences.

### **Understanding history, understanding global issues**

Many students study the events of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as part of their history lessons in school and have seen pictures of the mushroom clouds over the two cities when the bombs were dropped. But to truly understand what it was like to be underneath those mushroom clouds, we must listen to the stories of those who survived those events in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Hibakusha project aims to link the personal experiences of individuals to these key historical events to enable young people to understand better one of the world's most pressing global issues.



## Activities with schools in 2015, the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries of the Bombings



Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivors visited schools around the world to share their testimonies



Danderyds High School in Stockholm, Sweden



Workshops with youth of Teltow and the youth council of Grigny, in France.



Exchange with young students at the European Solidarity Centre, hosted by the City of Gdansk. The session was broadcast live on the website of the Solidarity Museum.



*"We were very moved listening to your story in the first person. We studied about the atomic bombs being dropped, but it is completely different to hear directly from someone who has lived that history and who we see in front of us",*

Alba Murcia and Celia Jimenez, (15yrs old) to Mitamura Shizuko who was 3 years old when the bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. Francisco Javier de Burgos Institute of Secondary Education, Motril, Spain May 18, 2016