

The 30th Edition of Thinking about Peace

Afterword

We are presenting the 30th Elementary and Junior High School Students' Essay Collection: "Thinking About Peace." This year, we received 107 writings in total: 38 from elementary school students, and 69 from junior high school students. We have a great variety of writings about peace, the war, nuclear weapons, and so on. All writings are seriously concerned about peace.

Numazu City issued the "Declaration of Peace and the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons" in 1987. Since then, Japan has given The United Nations the suggestion of "Destruction of All Nuclear Weapons" for 24 years since 1994. The suggestion was also given last year (2017). However, the number of agreements to abolish were from 144 countries, which were 23 less than the previous year, and the number of abstention from voting was 27 countries, which were 10 more than the previous year. Although the suggestion was adopted, Japan was the subject of criticism one major reason of the result was that Japan adopted the opposite position against "The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons" which was adopted at United Nation in that year. Japan was also criticized at the point of view that the content of "The Destruction of All Nuclear Weapons" was taking a backward step because the word "every" was taken away from the wording of "every usage of nuclear weapons will bring fatal humanitarian results."

Everyone is wishing for a peaceful world; however, positions and speculations of each country make the problems more difficult. Social structure is extremely changing because of the progress of globalization and continual technical innovation. Children should survive in this unpredictable age. It is necessary for everyone, as a bearer of sustainable society, to think multilaterally and multidirectionally, accept a diversity of ideas, and have a will to a build better society.

Through this essay collection, we hope that elementary and junior high school students in Numazu City will discuss what a true peaceful world is with people in the world to pass down for hopes of the future. Students are expected to accept the weight of responsibility to "protect our beautiful Earth and peaceful life to the end of our future generations" as Numazu City declared in "The Declaration of Peace and the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons." They also need to make an effort.

Finally, we would also like to express our sincere gratitude for the readers of this essay collection.