

On the publication of the 35th Collection of Essays by Elementary and Junior High School Students Contemplating Peace

Numazu City

Numazu City Board of Education

On March 20, 1987, Numazu City made the Declaration of a Peaceful City for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons by a resolution of the city council. The abolition of nuclear weapons is a common desire of the people of the world, and it expresses the desire for peace based on the will of citizens and city councils in response to the danger of nuclear war.

This collection of essays contains works by elementary and junior high school students in the city that express their feelings about peace in essays and poems based on lessons, various media, and the experiences of people close to them. We received many works and were able to publish it as the 35th volume. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the elementary and junior high school students, and everyone involved for their understanding and cooperation during this publication.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which suddenly began in 2022, shows no signs of ending, and the Palestinian issue, which has a complex historical background, is causing loss of precious lives, including civilians, every day due to clashes between Israel and Palestinian armed forces.

Our country will soon be celebrating 80 years since the end of the war. As opportunities to hear directly from those who actually experienced the war are gradually disappearing, it is also our mission as people living today to pass on to future generations the tragedies that occurred in our country in the past.

In the essays, there were some that actually visited battlefields such as Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Okinawa, learned about the tragedies that occurred in the past, and once again felt how fortunate our current, ordinary, peaceful lives are; some that it is important for us to first learn about the tragedies of war and atomic bombings and then pass them on; and some that vow to practice what we can do to work toward peace in our daily lives.

The desire for peace remains unchanged throughout the ages. I believe that elementary and junior high school students will never forget the feelings they have expressed through this collection of essays, build a peaceful future, and pass it on to the next generation.

I hope that the voices of peace-loving children will be heard by as many people as possible.