

My Experience of the Atomic Bombing  
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When the atomic bomb was dropped on 6th August 1945, I was 13 years old. I was sick on that day, then at the moment of the bombing I was sleeping at home, about 1,400m from ground zero. Therefore I did not see the flash of the heat ray nor feel the shock wave of the blast. Everything happened instantaneously.

When I came to my senses, I found that I was trapped under my crushed house. I struggled and wiggled, and at last I was able to crawl out of the piles of broken wood and plaster. When I stood upon my crushed house, the world I found was like night—the morning sunshine blocked by dark brown air that changed to yellow and then white, and finally became clear. At that moment, I was shocked to find that all the city of Hiroshima was flattened as far as I could see. I could not grasp what had happened.

Immediately, I heard my mother call my name. Her voice seemed to come from far away, though I knew there was not much distance between her and me, that her voice came from just under my feet. So I inferred that the broken roof and piles of crushed plaster prevented her voice from reaching me directly.

My mother said that she was unable to move, that her legs were caught between big beams or pillars. I tried with all my might to pull away these beams or pillars. But it was far beyond my ability. I called out in vain to adults for help, but those wounded could do nothing more than find a safe place for themselves. During rescue work of my mother I asked her “Is this a big earthquake?” She said, “No, a huge bomb exploded very close

to our house.”

I did not notice the fires at first, but it was spreading gradually. At the instant of the atomic bomb explosion, everything to burn caught fires but was smoldering for a while. When I told my mother of the approaching fires, she told me, “You should survive, you should become a good person by studying well.” Though she could not see the fire, which was growing stronger, she said, “That’s enough, never mind your mother. Get away from here!” I hesitated in leaving my mother. But when a large fire storm arose, my mother said, “Get away right now. Escape hurry up!” It seemed faint, but strong, and so I could decide to leave without her. As I escaped, I said, “Forgive me, mother!”

That was the last conversation I had with my mother.

There was no road, and amid the flames and smoke I could see only piles of broken houses, and badly burned people escaping. Their burned skins were hanging down from their chins or nails



(illustrated by Jyo Azuchi)

which were not burned. At last I could reach the

riverside, and swam across the river, and stood up the dry riverbed watching the violently burning town from the other side. The smoke and flames became a cloud over my head. When I thought of my mother beneath the flames, my heart was broken, and I thought, "Was there not something I could have done to save her?" Even now, the same feeling comes over me whenever I think of my mother.

In March of 1954 at Bikini atoll in South Pacific Ocean, U.S.A. done a hydrogen bomb test which was 1000 times destructive power of Hiroshima atomic bomb. Appearance of hydrogen bomb gave me a great shock, because at that time I was a undergraduate student learning physics. I thought that nuclear physics was badly used eventually to construct weapon which could destroy the whole human society as well as lives on the earth. Then I began to act to abolish nuclear weapons as a student of physics belonging to the Japan Council against A & H Bombs (Gensuikyo, a member of IPB) and later as a physicist attending the Pugwash Conference since 1970).

Now I have studied the after effects of atomic bombing to the human body in relation with a collective lawsuit of survivors against the Japanese government. I found that the studies concerning to the effects of atomic radiation supported by the U.S.A. government completely ignores the effects of the residual radiation which were caused by the fallout and induced radioactive matters. The effects of the residual radiation came mainly from internal exposure and it is found that these effects cause the major obstacles among survivors at present. This ignorance of the residual radiation effects was closely related to the former U.S. administration which promoted research and development of new 'usable nuclear weapon' such

as 'earth penetrating nuclear weapon' whose use will emerge 'another hell in this world' than Hiroshima and Nagasaki due to a huge amount of residual radiation.

Now about 230,000 survivors of atomic bombing in Japan, Korea and in other countries are still struggling against physical, living and mental difficulties which grow harder with age. In the world, including U.S.A., the former Soviet Union countries, and other nuclear weapon states, more than several millions victims of radiation caused from the whole processes from uranium mining to weapon production, such as atomic veterans and down wind habitants of nuclear test. For survivors of the atomic bombing, it is obvious that using nuclear weapons is the most inexcusable crime in human history. It should never be used against anyone, for any purpose and any reason, and upon anywhere.

I have thought that I have double responsibility for all human being to abolish nuclear weapons and this will be response to my mother's last words. One is as a scientist or a physicist. The other is a survivor who had experienced the disaster of that day.

I appeal that it is the time to abolish nuclear weapon and to start faithful negotiations of the Nuclear Weapon Convention getting rid of immoral nuclear deterrence policies as well as the extended deterrence policy for allied countries because these nuclear deterrent policies assume the ultimate use of nuclear weapons and are major obligation to establish a nuclear-weapon-free world.

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