



The Children's Peace Monument, surrounded by paper cranes from around the world, taken using a 360-degree camera. (Hiroshi Takahashi)

Peace built from Hiroshima

HIROSHIMA Summit 
 5.19~21

中國新聞
The Chugoku Shimbun

The multilingual, Chugoku Shimbun Peace Media Center website carries 35,000 free, full-text articles in Japanese and 7,500 in English on A-bomb survivor experiences and the reality of the bombing. French, Chinese, and Russian pages are also available.
<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?lang=en>

This is our cry
This is our prayer
For building peace in the world

The Children's Peace Monument in Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park was the result of pleas from classmates of Sadako Sasaki, who experienced the atomic bombing at the age of two and died of leukemia 10 years later, for establishment of a monument in memory of the teenage girl. With support and donations from Japan and overseas, the monument was completed in 1958. Folded paper cranes

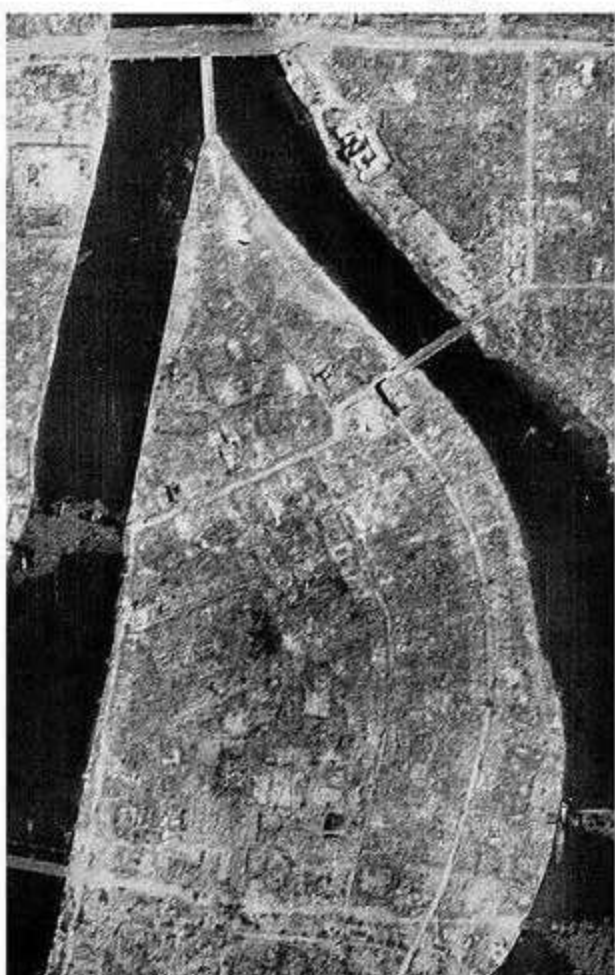
have been donated from around the world, reminding us of the preciousness of the peace achieved after the A-bombing tragedy and of our hope for the future, sentiments that can be found inscribed on the monument.

In conjunction with the summit meeting of the G7 (Group of Seven industrialized nations), scheduled to take place in Hiroshima May 19-21, the Chugoku Shimbun has created a special, summit-themed edition for archival purposes. In this effort, we aim to focus on people's everyday

lives before they were destroyed with the single atomic bomb dropped by the U.S. military on the morning of August 6, 1945; the pleasant cityscapes that have been restored through citizen-based efforts; and a Hiroshima that is working to achieve a world free of war and nuclear weapons, with reflection on a past in which Japan inflicted great pain and suffering on people both at home and abroad. We hope to play a role with everyone in spreading the feelings children have placed in their folded paper cranes for building peace in the world.

Hiroshima on that day

Cityscapes and people's lives erased instantly



After A-bombing

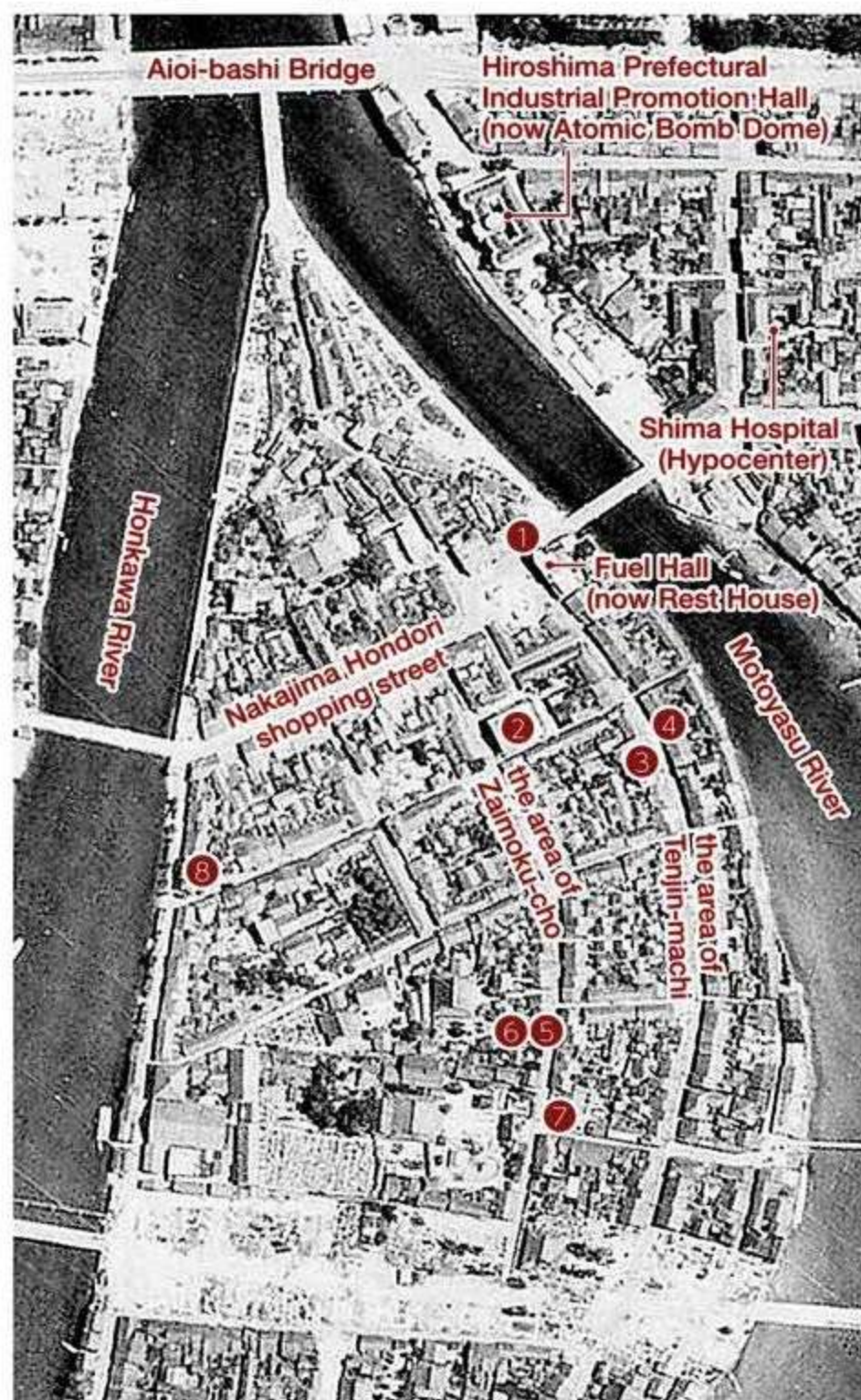
The Nakajima district photographed by the U.S. military on August 11, 1945, five days after the atomic bombing.



7 Temples in Zaimoku-cho

Yasuko Onishi (left) and a neighbor standing on the grounds of Keizoin Temple, in Zaimoku-cho. The photo also shows the gate of Seiganji Temple, located across from the Keizoin Temple, in the background. Ms. Onishi, who lived with her family in Zaimoku-cho, experienced the atomic bombing at the location to which she and her classmates had been mobilized and thus narrowly escaped death. However, her parents and two younger sisters died in the bombing. Photographed around 1938. (Photo courtesy of Ms. Onishi)

According to the *Record of the Hiroshima A-bomb War Disaster* (1971), an estimated 4,370 people in 1,330 households lived in the former Nakajima district before the bombing. There were seven neighborhood associations in what is now Peace Memorial Park and areas to its south: Nakajima-honmachi, Tenjin-machi Kitagumi, Tenjin-machi Minamigumi, Zaimoku-cho, Kobiki-cho, Motoyan-



Before A-bombing

The Nakajima district on the triangular delta photographed by the U.S. military on July 25, 1945.



8 Motoyanagi-machi

Motoyanagi-machi, lying along Honkawa River. The Western-style building in the center of the photo with a sign reading "Chocolates" served as headquarters of the Geibi Bank (now Hiroshima Bank) until 1927. The building was the Hiroshima branch of the food producer Morinaga Shokuryo Kogyo (now Morinaga & Co., Ltd.) at the time of the atomic bombing. (Photo courtesy of the archives department of Morinaga & Co., Ltd.)

agi-machi, and Nakajima-shinmachi. Nakajima-honmachi, making up the northernmost part of the district, was one of the busiest shopping areas in Hiroshima starting from the end of the Tokugawa Shogunate of the Edo era (1603-1867) until the early Taisho period (1912-1923). Many retailers continued operations even after the shopping area's

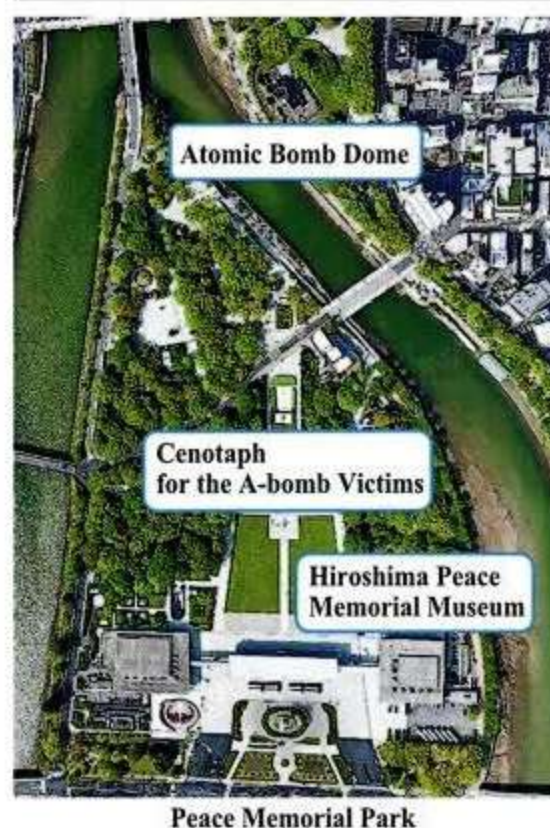
heyday. In 1929, Taishoya Kimono Shop opened in a three-story reinforced concrete building on Nakajima Hondori shopping street, with other retail outlets lining Tenjin-machi-suji and Zaimoku-cho-suji streets, which ran north and south. Temples in the area served as playgrounds for children.

Nearly 100 percent of the people within a

Kyosuke Mizukawa
Senior Staff Writer

The verdant Peace Memorial Park, on the upper triangular delta between Motoyasu River and Honkawa River in Hiroshima's centrally located Naka Ward, is situated on what was once known as the "Nakajima district." Before the atomic bombing, the area was crowded with stores, theaters, temples, and residences. Located close to the hypocenter, the district was

Looking west from in front of Taishoya Kimono Shop, on Nakajima Hondori shopping street. The photo shows a restaurant on the right and a toy store in the background. Photographed around 1939. (Photo archived by Katsuhiko Okuno; provided by Hiroshima City's Cultural Promotion Division)



6 Inside Imanaka family home, on Zaimoku-cho-suji Street

The family's living space, in the rear of Imanaka Shokai. The street was lined with long, combined home/shop buildings, similar to the Imanaka's. (Photo courtesy of Mr. Imanaka)

500-meter radius of the hypocenter at the time of the bombing were killed instantly or died soon thereafter. The lives of many residents of the Nakajima district, most of which lied within this range, were wiped out along with the town.

The Hiroshima City government started construction in 1950 on Peace Memorial Park, which later became a symbol of

reduced to incinerated ruins by the powerful blast and thermal rays from the atomic bomb dropped by the U.S. military, leaving almost no trace of its former appearance. Some photographs of the district that show the streetscapes and the lives of people before the bombing were spared from fires by residents who had evacuated elsewhere. When comparing those photos with others of the post-bombing ruins, a picture emerges of the terrible reality of war and nuclear weapons.

1 Nakajima Hondori Street



5 Outside Imanaka family home, on Zaimoku-cho-suji Street

Keisuke Imanaka (right) riding a tricycle with others on Zaimoku-cho-suji Street. The building in the background is Imanaka Shokai, a trading company managed by his father that also served as their home. The structure was located at what is now a corner of the grounds of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. Photographed between 1937 and 1940. (Photo courtesy of Mr. Imanaka)

postwar recovery, completing the park five years later. However, remains of the devastated district still lie 60 centimeters underneath the park. The former Taishoya Kimono Shop building, which had been used as the Fuel Hall during the war, stood alone after the atomic bombing. It has since been restored and now welcomes visitors to the park as the Rest House.



2 Showa Cinema

Showa Cinema (former Sekaikan) was a movie theater located around the north side of the present-day Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims. The sign's display is for the Austrian movie "Maskerade in Vienna" (1934) and the German film "The Csardas Princess" (1934). (Photo archived at Hiroshima City Archives)



3 Tenjin-machi-suji Street

Tenjin-machi-suji Street, lying along Motoyasu River. A musical band in front of the Okita footwear retailer markets traditional Japanese socks. Photographed around 1941. (Photo courtesy of Shigeru Mita)



4 Yoneda Kyoto-style dyed goods shop

The Yoneda Kyoto-style dyed goods shop, on Tenjin-machi-suji Street. Four members of the family who managed the shop, including owner Yoshikiyo Yoneda, died in the atomic bombing. Yoshikiyo's remains were found inside the shop's ruins. Photographed around 1930. (Photo courtesy of Seiso Yoneda)

Introduction of website



On its webpage "Striving to fill voids in Hiroshima," a project launched in 2019, the Chugoku Shimbun displays about 1,300 photographs of Hiroshima taken before and after the atomic bombing. The cityscapes at the same location before and after the bombing can be compared with photos on a Google map.

Hiroshima on that day

Lives of teenagers cruelly brought to an end

Belongings and photo portraits form core of museum display

Kyosuke Mizukawa
Senior Staff Writer

The death toll from the atomic bombing of Hiroshima is estimated to have reached 140,000 (±10,000) victims during the period from August 6 until the end of December 1945 alone. Even after that initial timeframe, survivors were plagued by health effects from A-bomb radiation. The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, located in the city's Naka Ward, positions at the focal point of its exhibitions the belongings of individual A-bomb victims as evidence of each of their lives. That exhibit style informs viewers of the significance of the lives lost in the bombing and the endless thoughts and emotions of the families and classmates left behind by the loss of the victims. To help understanding of

what happens when nuclear weapons are used, the Chugoku Shimbun herein introduces exhibited personal items of victims in the museum's "Voices of the voiceless."

In 1955, ten years after the atomic bombing, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum opened its doors in Peace Memorial Park. The Hiroshima City government established the museum, which is now managed by the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, an extra-governmental organization. The museum has collections of more than 20,000 A-bombed items including belongings of victims for display in two spaces, the museum's Main Building and East Building.

The Main Building's exhibitions convey the horror of the atomic bombing through displays of victims' belongings and their photographic portraits. A journal written by Tomiko Umekita and a lunch box that belonged to Shigeru Orimen are exhibited in the "Cries of the Soul" section, in which personal belongings left behind by

victims are displayed together with their portraits, expressions in writing or words, and more. In the same building, on display throughout the exhibition space, are school uniforms and trousers that junior high school students and girl students killed in the bombing wore on August 6, 1945.

The East Building features the history of nuclear weapons development and proliferation and Hiroshima's road to reconstruction and recovery after the war. Hiroshi Harada, 83, an A-bomb survivor and former director of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, explained his expectations for the Hiroshima Summit. "I hope the G7 leaders will accept the experiences of the A-bomb survivors and each of the items the victims left behind as their very own," said Mr. Harada. "The question then becomes how the leaders will incorporate their experiences in Hiroshima into their own politics at home." Visitors who have learned about the past at the museum are clearly expected to take action for the future.



Collection exhibition that displays throughout the exhibit space school uniforms and trousers that the mobilized students wore on August 6, 1945. (Hiroshi Takahashi)

Victims' belongings, #1 Girl student's journal

On August 5, 1945, Tomiko Umekita, a first-year student at Hiroshima Prefectural First Girls' High School (present-day Minami High School), who was 13 at the time, made an inscription in her journal, as she always did. Her log that day begins, "Sunday, Weather: Sunny, Wake-up time: 6:02 a.m., Time spent in study: 4 hours and 3 minutes." She bathed her two-year old sister and cooked dinner for her family on that Sunday, a day off from school.

Tomiko wrote, "When I bathed Michiko today, she looked happy ... (redacted).



"I want to be better at taking care of my sister" (from her April 13 journal log); "I made beanbags for my sister" (from June 26 journal log). Ever since entering high school on April 6 in 45, Ms. Umekita had kept her journal, writing every day about her love for her family. But the log dated August 5 was her last entry. Is it acceptable that human life and the future of young people were interrupted in such an unjust way? Her journal's blank page from August 6 poses that question.

Photo of Tomiko Umekita (in background) and the journal she left behind, displayed side by side. The journal's last entry is dated August 5, 1945, on the right page. The left page is blank. Michiko Umekita, Tomiko's younger sister, donated the journal to the museum.

The dinner was udon noodles. I seasoned the soup and made the dish. Both mom and dad said it was very delicious." She added, "I thought then that anything I did with all my effort was fun."

On the morning of August 6, the following day, Ms. Umekita left her home, in the area of Yoshijima-honmachi (now part of Hiroshima's Naka Ward), and participated in building demolition work to create fire lanes in the Koami-cho area (now part of Naka Ward), about 800 meters from the hypocenter. She was exposed to the bomb's thermal rays from behind her and died on August 8 at a munitions factory to which she had been carried. None of the 223 first-year students from her school who were at the demolition site survived the bombing.



The lunch box that Shigeru Orimen had brought with him to the building demolition site where he had been mobilized. The food in the lunch box was charred black. Donated by his mother, Shigeko Orimen

Victims' belongings, #2 Scorched lunch box

The lunch box contained rice mixed with barley and soy beans as well as sautéed hashed potatoes. The contents in the aluminum box were incinerated and charred black. A mother had prepared the meal for her son, who was headed to the central area of Hiroshima, the location to which he had been mobilized for the war effort.

The boy who left home with the lunch box that day was Shigeru Orimen, then 13, a first-year student at Second Hiroshima Prefectural Junior High School (present-day Kanon High School). Students from the school gathered on the east bank of Honkawa River, about 500 meters from the hypocenter, to help demolish buildings for the creation of fire lanes. After the atomic bombing, his mother, Shigeko Orimen, traveled from the city's



outskirts to that area, turned into a burned ruins in the bombing, to look for her son. She found his body lying face down near the building demolition worksite. His lunchbox was underneath him.

In the place of his father, who had been drafted into the military, Mr. Orimen had set about farming the neighboring mountain area and bamboo forest for his mother. Crops grown in those fields were used as side dishes for his lunches. Shigeko expressed her sorrow in a note she had written seven years before her death at the age of 88 in 1996. "The more I tried to suppress my recollections or thoughts about him, the more I felt a hot lump in my throat, which made me cry, and that is where I am even today."

The names of the 323 first-year students are inscribed on a memorial monument dedicated to the victims of the bombing from the Second Hiroshima Prefectural Junior High School, which stands on the banks of Honkawa River on the west side of Peace Memorial Park. Including Mr. Orimen, all of the students who had gath-



Paper cranes folded by Sadako Sasaki before her death from leukemia ten years after the atomic bombing. Donated by her father, Shigeo, and her brother, Masahiro

ered on that river bank for demolition work were killed in the bombing.

Victims' belongings, #3 Paper cranes

The exhibition lighting clearly highlights the contours of the colorful paper cranes. The smallest of the cranes measures around one or two centimeters. Sadako Sasaki, in remembrance of whom the Children's Peace Monument was erected, folded the paper cranes in a wish for her recovery from leukemia. She began folding the paper cranes using small pieces of paper in which her medicine was wrapped and any other paper available. Eventually, she grew too weak to move her fingers with dexterity but continued to fold small paper cranes with a needle.

Two-year-old Sadako experienced the atomic bombing at home, about 1.6 kilometers from the hypocenter. In February 1955, when she was a sixth-grade ele-

mentary school student, she was diagnosed with leukemia and admitted to the Red Cross Hospital (present-day Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital & Atomic-bomb Survivors Hospital, in the city's Naka Ward). She began folding paper cranes in the summer of that same year. She is said to have folded more than 1,000 paper cranes in less than one month. Her wish for recovery failed to materialize, however, and she died in October that year at the age of 12.

The cranes she made poignantly convey the inhumanity of the nuclear weapon used on Hiroshima, which destroyed the peaceful lives of children even after the war ended. Incidence of leukemia among A-bomb survivors peaked around 10 years after the bombing, reaching at a level of about four or five times higher than the incidence in those who had not experienced the bombing, or several tens of times higher when only children were considered in the analysis. It is believed that the onset of leukemia was triggered by the DNA damage in survivors caused by A-bomb radiation.

A-bomb Dome

Victims' quiet pleas still resonate today

Rina Yuasa, Staff Writer

The A-bomb Dome, a symbol of the A-bombed city of Hiroshima and located in the city's centrally located Naka Ward, was built in 1915 as the Hiroshima Prefectural Commercial Exhibition Hall but was known as the Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall at the time the city was destroyed in the atomic bombing 78 years ago, on August 6, 1945. Along the way at some point, the structure began to commonly be referred to by its current name. The A-bomb Dome's

appearance and name continue to serve as a powerful symbol for the world of the devastation caused by the atomic bombing.

The three-story, steel-framed brick building with its five-story central section was designed by Czech architect Jan Letzel (1880–1925). The Western-style building used to bustle with visitors for a variety of products and arts exhibitions. In 1919, an exhibition was held of confectionery and sausages and other specialty items produced by German prisoners of war

that were imprisoned during the First World War in a camp on Ninoshima Island, located off the coast of Hiroshima. Story has it that Karl Juchheim, a confectioner, baked the first baumkuchen in Japan at that time.

The A-bomb Dome has always been a reflection of the times. As the situation in the Pacific theater of the Second World War deteriorated, Japan's wartime structure domestically became increasingly stringent, and the building was used mainly as offices for government agen-

cies and associations for the management of rationing.

On August 6, 1945, the building, located 160 meters from the hypocenter, was destroyed in the bombing. Around 30 people inside are thought to have been killed instantly, although those details are unclear. The building escaped total collapse because the blast hit from virtually straight overhead.

After the war, some wanted the building removed because it evoked painful mem-



Courtesy of the Hiroshima City Archives

ories of the atomic bombing. However, a journal written by Hiroko Kajiyama, a high school student who died of leukemia 15 years after being exposed to radiation from the bombing, proved to be a turning point. "Only the forlorn Industrial Promotion Hall will continue to convey to the world the story of the horror of the

atomic bombing long into the future," she wrote. Moved by her words, elementary, junior and high school students and members of the public launched a signature drive that led to preservation of the A-bomb Dome. In 1996, the A-bomb Dome was registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Learn from photographs taken before atomic bombing and now

The A-bomb Dome, devastated by the bomb's powerful blast, thermal rays, and radiation, has endured long years of winds and rain. Only a few photographs of 'everyday life' lost in the bombing remain today. We took photographs on the building's grounds today from the same locations and angles as were used in those photographs with a 360-degree camera and a monopod that extends up to a length of eight meters to find out what the view would be like now.



Courtesy of the Hiroshima City Archives

Banners that read "Morinaga Cocoa Hall" hang from two columns. A national fair of confectionery and candy held at the later-named Hiroshima Prefectural Products Exhibition Hall in April 1921 attracted a total of about 140,000 visitors, close to the city's population of 160,000 at the time. The morning edition of the Chugoku Shimbun dated April 8, 1921, indicates that Morinaga Shokuryo Kogyo (now Morinaga & Co.) was ready to serve 50,000 cups of cocoa during the event.

Looking up from the ground where bricks are scattered to around the third floor of the central part of the building, two Ionic classical Greek columns can be seen. Beyond the columns, the steel beams of the oval-shaped dome are visible.



① Classical Greek columns

Hiroshi Takahashi, using a 360-degree camera



Courtesy of Hideharu Kokawa



Hiroshi Takahashi, using a 360-degree camera

② Visible from window on 2nd floor of hall's north wing, Aioi Bridge, U.S. military's target for A-bombing

This photo was taken between 1941 and 1942, around the time the Pacific theater of the war began, by Hideo Kokawa, who worked at the Hiroshima branch of the Japan Trade Promotion Association, located on the second floor of the hall's north wing. Aioi Bridge can faintly be

seen from the mullioned window. Mr. Kokawa had been called away from Hiroshima Prefecture at the time of the atomic bombing but was exposed to radiation when he later entered the city looking for his younger sister, who it turns out was killed in the bombing.

The floor supporting the office at that time fell through, exposing walls of brick. Through the reinforcement bars can still be seen Aioi Bridge, the target used by the U.S. military for dropping the atomic bomb because of its distinctive T-shape.



Courtesy of Hideharu Kokawa



Manabu Hamaoka

③ Fountain

A man in a suit, smiling, sits by a fountain in a Western-style garden on the south side of the hall. This photo was taken by Hideo Kokawa between around 1941 and 1942. A fountain spout, sculpted in the shape of a lion's head, is visible in the photo. This corner in particular seems to have been loved by citizens as a place for recreation and relaxation.

No traces of the sculpture remain in the ruins of the fountain photographed today from the same angle. There were apparently 12 sculptures before the bombing, some of which are now preserved at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

A-bombed city poses questions to the world

Tetsuya Okahata, President,
Chugoku Shimbun

Take action based on contact with Hiroshima's reality

About 30 years ago, when he was in elementary school, my son developed a high fever. Purple spots appeared on his abdomen. The physician's diagnosis startled me. My son was suspected of having leukemia. The words "atomic bombing" crossed my mind. Leukemia is one of the most representative aftereffects of radiation exposure. My wife and I are both second-generation A-bomb survivors, making our son a third-generation survivor.

Genetic effects from radiation exposure have not yet been identified. Ultimately, tests ascertained that my son was not suffering from leukemia. Nonetheless, each time A-bomb survivors and their children experience a health issue, they naturally suspect that the cause might be radiation exposure. It is easy to brush off such concerns as fantasy or preconception on some level. However, into this city has been etched an immeasurable fear of radiation exposure.

The Chugoku Shimbun lost 114 employees, or one-third of its workforce, in the atomic bombing of August 6, 1945. The company's head office and printing presses were incinerated, leaving the company's recovery in doubt. De-



spite the hopelessness of the situation, surviving employees put certain staff together to report news to the public. Orally, the reporters conveyed information about aid and support for survivors amidst the burned ruins. Three days later, the newspaper resumed publication by outsourcing its printing operations to other companies. After one month, the company was able to once again print the newspaper on its own. During the 78 years since that time, the Chugoku Shimbun, as the newspaper of record in the A-bombed city of Hiroshima, has worked to confront the devastation caused by the first wartime atomic bombing in human history.

"Have the atomic bombs come to be known for their power, or for their human tragedy?" That question was posed by Toshihiro Kanai, an editorial writer for the newspaper, at the time the nuclear arms race was heating up in the 1960s. Mr. Kanai also made an appearance in *Hiroshima Notes*, written by Kenzaburo Oe, the winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature who passed away earlier this year in March. Mr. Kanai was angered by the reality of international politics, in which nuclear weapons were only discussed in terms of their destructive power.

Significance of the Summit

Michiko Tanaka
Senior Staff Writer

The history of the summit meeting of the G7 (Group of Seven industrialized nations) spans nearly half a century. With origins as an economic forum, the summit has expanded to include political and security issues. The upcoming gathering, the first summit to be held in the A-bombed city of Hiroshima, will feature nuclear disarmament as one of its main agenda items. A focus moving forward is whether the summit can lead to heightened momentum for nuclear abolition. The G7 summit got its start in 1975, when the world was mired in deep economic recession. In an attempt to rebuild the global economy, then-French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing proposed a first meeting. The leaders of the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany (then West Germany), Japan, and Italy gathered together on the outskirts of Paris. In 1976, Canada joined the group. Each year, the group takes turns serving as the chair country of the gathering, which hosts top-level deliberations involving the global issues of the

Many lives were taken in an instant. Each was precious. Some people still suffer from the aftereffects even now. In such human misery can be seen the true nature of nuclear weapons. What we need to keep in mind has not changed at all, both then and now.

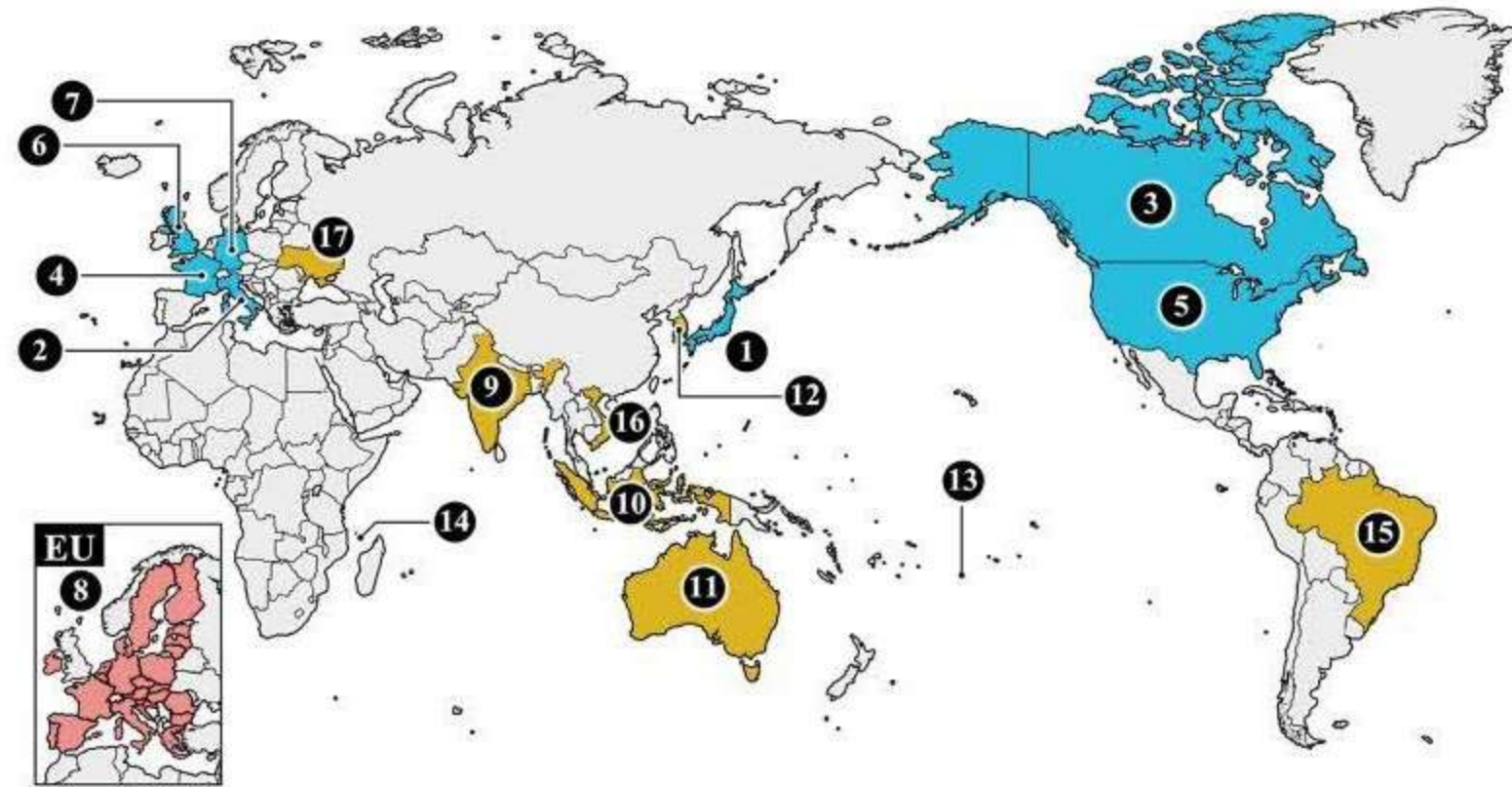
Each week, the Chugoku Shimbun devotes one full page to peace issues, an effort that is unique in the world. Reporters and a team of junior writers, junior and senior high school students asked to carry the future on their shoulders, write articles with a focus on issues related to nuclear weapons, including A-bomb survivors' testimonies. The average age of the survivors is now 84.5 years. And with that in mind, opportunities to listen to the important accounts of their experiences in the bombing are growing few and far between.

In contrast, close to 13,000 nuclear warheads exist in the world, with the capability to annihilate the human race many times over. Even their use in the war in Ukraine is growing more probable by the day. Is humanity on the road to its own ruin? We fear so.

The summit meeting of the Group of Seven industrialized nations (the G7 Hiroshima Summit) will soon begin in the city. The leaders of four nuclear nations, including India, a nation invited to the upcoming expanded summit meeting, will gather in Hiroshima. My hope is that they listen carefully to the voices of people of the city into which is etched the unfathomable horror of nuclear weapons. I ask them to see with their own eyes the reality of nuclear weapons. And I ask them to act to save humanity from the depths of our despair. We all will be watching.



A- and H-bomb Sufferers Organizations. "So long as the leaders are in Hiroshima, I hope they face up to the horrors of nuclear weapons and sincerely address the issue of nuclear abolition, while avoiding platitudes about the issue," said Mr. Mimaki. Mr. Kishida will incorporate such issues as energy and food security, climate change, and health as major agenda items for the summit meeting, as well as hold an expanded meeting with leaders from countries other than those belonging to the G7. Eight nations are to be invited to participate in the more inclusive meeting—India, Indonesia, Australia, South Korea, Cook Islands, Comoros, Brazil, and Vietnam. Ukraine will also participate online. Many emerging and developing countries in the so-called "Global South" have taken a neutral stance toward Russia because of their dependence on that country for its energy and other resources. The aim of the expanded meeting appears to be to draw representative countries of the region over to the side of the G7 by inviting their participation. Heads of international organizations are also expected to attend.



G7			
 Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida	1	 Italy Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni <small>Reuters / Kyodo</small>	2
 Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau	3	 France President Emmanuel Macron <small>Reuters / Kyodo</small>	4
 USA President Joe Biden	5	 UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak <small>AP / Kyodo</small>	6
 Germany Chancellor Olaf Scholz <small>© Bundesregierung / Thomas Köhler</small>	7	 EU European Council President Charles Michel <small>Delegation of the European Union to Japan</small>	8
 EU European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen <small>Delegation of the European Union to Japan</small>	8		

Invited Guest Countries			
 India Prime Minister Narendra Modi <small>Kyodo</small>	9	 Indonesia President Joko Widodo <small>Kyodo</small>	10
 Australia Prime Minister Anthony Albanese <small>Parliament of Australia Website</small>	11	 Cook Islands Prime Minister Mark Brown <small>Cook Islands Government</small>	13
 Comoros President Azali Assoumani <small>Beit Salam - Présidence de l'Union des Comores</small>	14	 Brazil President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva <small>Getty / Kyodo</small>	15
 Vietnam Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh <small>Kyodo</small>	16	 Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy <small>Kyodo (online)</small>	17

Invited Guest International Organizations			
United Nations, International Energy Agency (IEA), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO), World Trade Organization (WTO)			



Smile for Peace Project
From here to the world, from here to the future



G7 HIROSHIMA SUMMIT 2023

From Friday, May 19 to Sunday, May 21, 2023

The International Group of Seven (G7) is an international forum consisting of the heads of government or state of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as the President of the European Council and European Commission. At the G7 Summit, the heads of government or state of the G7 countries, as well as other leaders, discuss and coordinate their policies on a wide range of global issues. G7 Hiroshima Summit 2023 marks the seventh time the summit has convened in Japan.

To welcome the world to Hiroshima in connection with G7 Hiroshima Summit 2023, the Smile for Peace Project created a work of mosaic art composed of 6,237 photographs, capturing the feelings of the people of Hiroshima Prefecture and others. An earlier mosaic, published in the February 8, 2023 morning edition of the Chugoku Shimbun, Hiroshima's regional newspaper, depicted Hiroshima's spirit of peace, expressed as an origami crane taking flight from the palm of a hand, with the beauty of scattered islets and islands of the Seto Inland Sea in the background. On this occasion the Smile for Peace Project created a mosaic depicting seven origami cranes taking flight from Hiroshima to the world. When the two mosaics are placed side by side, they complete a panorama of the beautiful Seto Inland Sea, carrying the thoughts of the people of Hiroshima "from here to the world, from here to the future" (Some of the photographs collected for this project are published on Buntouch, an online service for children provided by the Chugoku Shimbun.)

Sponsored by: Citizens Council for the Hiroshima Summit Cooperation by: Chugoku Shimbunsha



Athletes & cultural leaders

Source of local pride: Public figures spreading their wings from Hiroshima to the world

Kota Yamanari and Aya Nishimura,
Staff Writers

A variety of human talent nurtured, cultivated, and fostered in Hiroshima has enchanted people around the world. Herein, we introduce athletes as well as people associated with the arts and education who have worked to connect Hiroshima with the world.

Hajime Moriyasu, 54, manager, Japan national soccer team, former manager and player, Sanfrecce Hiroshima FC

Hajime Moriyasu has spent most of his life in the two A-bombed cities. He grew up in Nagasaki, and came to Hiroshima with the aim of becoming a soccer player after graduating from high school. Achieving success and now serving as the manager of the Japan national soccer team, Mr. Moriyasu often repeats his “deep appreciation for the peace that allows us all to play sports.” With that determination, the national team competed in the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, advancing to the final 16 teams for the second tournament in a row, a first for Japan.



Coach Moriyasu has spent most of his life in the two A-bombed cities. Kyodo

Mr. Moriyasu first joined the Mazda Soccer Club, predecessor to the present Sanfrecce Hiroshima FC in the Japan professional football league known as the “J. League.” An unknown, he began to distinguish himself as a defensive midfielder and ultimately rose to become a member of the national team. After retiring as an active player, he returned to Hiroshima to manage Sanfrecce, leading the team to three league titles. On the mornings of home games, he would walk to Peace Memorial Park. “The club with deep roots in this community carries a history on its back that is different from that of other teams,” he said. When the club achieved its first league championship, he visited the park to offer flowers at the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims.

Even after his talents resulted in his selection as manager of the national

team, he has not changed his thoughts about Hiroshima. Mr. Moriyasu served as manager of Japan’s soccer team in the Tokyo Olympic Games 2021, holding the two managerial posts simultaneously. The game for the bronze medal that included the Japanese team was held on August 6, the day marking the anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. At a press conference the day prior to the match, he said in a trembling voice with tears in his eyes that it was a “special day,” an image that spread around the world.

Japan’s victories in the Qatar tournament over Germany and Spain, previous World Cup champions, surprised the world. As the first person in the history of the Japan national team to continue managing the team after conclusion of the World Cup tournament, he continues to challenge

himself to reach even greater heights, aiming for vistas as yet unseen.

Kenta Maeda, 35, pitcher, U.S. major league franchise Minnesota Twins, formerly, Hiroshima Toyo Carp

A former ace on the Hiroshima Toyo Carp baseball team, Kenta Maeda continues to think of Hiroshima even after becoming a major league baseball player in the United States. Every year on August 6, Mr. Maeda posts a message in remembrance of the victims of the atomic bombing on his social media accounts, remarking on the “important day.”

Mr. Maeda joined the Hiroshima Toyo Carp in 2007, after graduating from PL Gakuen High School, in Osaka. While in Hiroshima, he learned that the team he played on for nine seasons served as a symbol of recovery for the people of Hiroshima, a city that had been left a burned ruins by the atomic bombing.

In 2016, Mr. Maeda was picked up by the



Major leaguer Kenta Maeda takes the mound with thoughts of Hiroshima. Kyodo

Los Angeles Dodgers, a U.S. major league club, and he has now made his way to the Minnesota Twins. At the time of the MLB Japan All-Star Series in 2018, he and other major leaguers visited Peace Memorial Park and offered wreaths of flowers at the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims. “One of the reasons I decided to join this All-Star Series is the fact that one of the games is being held in Hiroshima. Through baseball, I want to convey the message to the U.S. and Japan that this is an important place for people in Hiroshima,” he said.

Ayako Okamoto, 72, woman professional golfer who lives in Higashihiroshima City

Ayako Okamoto is a pioneering woman athlete who succeeded spectacularly overseas. In 1987, Ms. Okamoto became the first non-American to top the money list on the Ladies Professional Golf Asso-



Ms. Okamoto rides on shoulders of a U.S. player in celebration of her topping the LPGA Tour money list in 1987. Kyodo

ciation (LPGA) Tour, winning four tournaments over the course of the season. She made a name for herself and became known by the moniker “World-class Ayako.”

Ms. Okamoto is from the town of Akitsu in Higashihiroshima City. She switched from being an ace player on a company softball team to becoming a golfer when she was 21 years old. In 1975, she won her first domestic tour title in her initial year as a professional, and in 1981, she became the domestic tour’s top money winner. Ms. Okamoto was the first Japanese woman to compete full-time on the LPGA Tour, and she won her first title in 1982. Despite persistent lower back injuries, she racked up 17 victories during her career.

She was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2005. Her speech at the induction ceremony concluded with her saying, “The important thing I have learned from my years on the LPGA Tour is this spirit of giving.” She currently lives in her hometown and works to teach the next generation of golfers.

Mami Hagiwara, 36, third-generation A-bomb survivor pianist

Mami Hagiwara became a popular pianist as soon as she won an international piano competition. Besides performing collaboratively with renowned conductors and orchestras in Japan and overseas, Ms. Hagiwara is engaged in peace activities and efforts to benefit the international community as a third-generation A-bomb survivor pianist.

After graduating from Hiroshima Music High School, Ms. Hagiwara studied at the Paris Conservatory. In 2010, she captured top prize for piano at the Geneva International Music Competition, in Switzerland, the first Japanese performer to win the award.

In 2013, Ms. Hagiwara visited Venezuela and performed together with an orchestra comprised of young musicians who developed their skills through El Sistema, a music education program for economically challenged young people. She also



Mami Hagiwara

performed when that orchestra toured Japan in the same year to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Venezuela.

Her maternal grandfather and grandmother are A-bomb survivors. During her studies in Paris, Ms. Hagiwara became aware of her calling as a third-generation A-bomb survivor. “Whenever I mentioned where I was from, everyone knew about Hiroshima,” she said.

About ten years ago, Ms. Hagiwara began to perform on the A-bombed piano left behind by Akiko Kawamoto, a female student who was killed in the

atomic bombing of Hiroshima, as part of her work for peace. Together with the Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra, she performed the world debut of the piano concerto “Akiko’s Piano,” written by composer Dai Fujikura in memory of Ms. Kawamoto, in August 2020, the year marking the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing.

Yoko Morishita, 74, pioneer Japanese ballerina

Yoko Morishita is a pioneering Japanese ballerina who actively performs through-



Yoko Morishita

out the world. Ms. Morishita continues to perform today after a career spanning more than 70 years.

Ms. Morishita is a second-generation A-bomb survivor born in Hiroshima’s Naka Ward. She began learning ballet at the age of three and won the gold medal at the Varna International Ballet Competition in Bulgaria in 1974, the first Japanese to do so. She performed with Rudolf Nureyev in London at the 25th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth’s coronation, the Silver Jubilee, in 1977. She became the first Japanese to perform at the Paris Opera in 1982.

In 2012, the year after the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Matsuyama Ballet Company, a troupe based in Tokyo for which Ms. Morishita serves as president, released “New Coppelia.” In that produc-

tion, she danced in the lead role, expressing a prayer for repose of the victims and for recovery from the disaster.

Her compassion for Hiroshima is inseparable from her performances. “Art exists for the peace of people. I always commit my art to my prayers for peace.”

Issey Miyake, Fashion designer of modern clothing (1938–2022)

Issey Miyake engaged in the creation of modern clothing based on such innovative concepts as “a single piece of cloth.” Through his work, the “Issey Miyake” brand spread around the world.

Mr. Miyake was born in 1938. As a child, he was impressed by the parapet designs of Peace Bridge and West Peace Bridge, both of which were styled by Isamu Noguchi, an internationally renowned artist. He began to design clothing as a student



Issey Miyake

at Tama Art University, located in Tokyo. In the late 1960s, he studied design in Paris and New York. His series of pleated garments, which he initiated in 1988, received high praise from around the world.

Mr. Miyake experienced the atomic bombing at the age of seven. Despite keeping that reality to himself for many years, he revealed his experiences in the atomic bombing for the first time in an article he penned for the U.S. newspaper *The New York Times* in 2009. In the article, he called on then-U.S. President Barack Obama to visit Hiroshima. His wish came true when President Obama traveled to the city in 2016. A watch designed by Mr. Miyake’s design offices was presented to Mr. Obama at that time as a souvenir of his journey to the A-bombed city.

“Island of the gods,” preserving nature and tradition

History and Culture

Tomohiro Nagai, Staff Writer

Miyajima Island, located in Hiroshima Prefecture's Hatsukaichi City, is under consideration as a candidate site for a visit by international leaders who will be in Hiroshima for the summit meeting of the G7 (Group of Seven industrialized nations). The island has been worshipped as an “island of the gods” since ancient times. Itsukushima Shrine, designated a World Heritage site in 1996, stands as the symbol of the island. The shrine was built in 593, the year Empress Suiko ascended to the throne. Surviving numerous major fires and wars, the shrine and its graceful bearing have been preserved and passed on to the present.

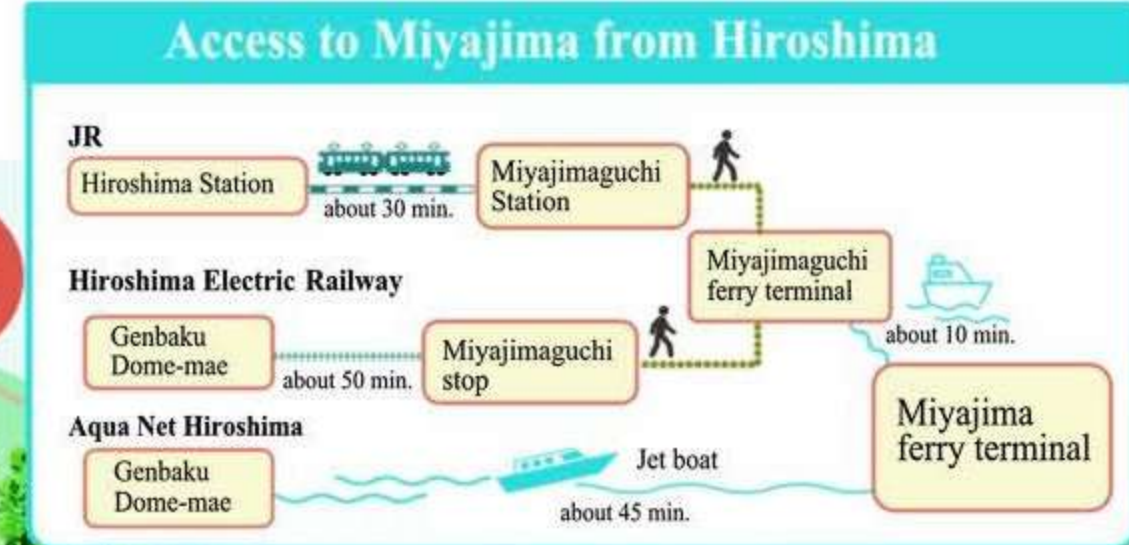
When the timeline of the shrine's establishment is compared with the chronology of Western Europe, which includes the G7 nations of the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Italy, it overlaps with the period when Christianity spread widely following the collapse of the Western Roman Empire.

Itsukushima Shrine is unique for its buildings built on the sea. The unique structure is said to have been constructed by Taira no Kiyomori, a general and poli-

tician who established the first feudal government in Japan's history. It was built in 1168 during the Heian era (794–1185). As reference, construction of the Notre Dame Cathedral, in Paris, began during the same period in 1163.

People are thought to have first started living on Miyajima in the Kamakura era (1185–1333). Following construction of lodging for shrine priests and associated workers, a town, including inns and restaurants, developed around the shrine. Now, the commercial streets of Miyajima's Omote-sando area (front entrance to the island) are crowded with visitors, but until the early Edo period (1603–1868) that district was under water as part of the sea.

The imposing, crimson Torii Gate, standing offshore from the shrine, is the ninth iteration of the structure and was completed in December 2022, as part of large-scale renovation of the shrine. Miyajima Island, a scenic spot with a focus on Itsukushima Shrine, appeared in books written during the early Edo period as one of the “three most scenic views of Japan,” along with the extended sandbar Ama-no-hashidate in Kyoto Prefecture, and the bay of scenic islands called Matsushima in Miyagi Prefecture. In 1952, Miyajima Island was designated by the Japanese government as a special place of scenic beauty and site of historical significance.



Nature

From the vantage of Mt. Misen, the highest peak on Miyajima (at a height of 535 meters), the scenic beauty of the many islands in the Seto Inland Sea can be enjoyed. A ropeway makes the trip to the top of Mt. Misen convenient. With the ropeway, travel takes about 20-30 minutes from the first stop at the base of the mountain, near Momijidani Park, famous for its beautifully colored autumn leaves, to the final stop at Shishi-iwa, including a transfer mid-mountain. After disembarking from the ropeway, a walk of about 15 minutes allows visitors to reach the mountain top, where an observatory and monolithic boulders are located. Visitors can also try climbing the mountain on the footpath, making for a walk of about two hours one way.

The virgin forests around Mt. Misen have been designated by Japan's national government as a special national treasure.

which severely restricts any cutting or planting of trees in the area. The Miyajima tonbo (in English, ‘dragonfly’), a species unique to the area, makes the island its home habitat. The Hiroshima Dragonflies, a local team (based in Hiroshima's Nishi Ward) in the B. League, Japan's professional men's basketball league, takes its name from this species.

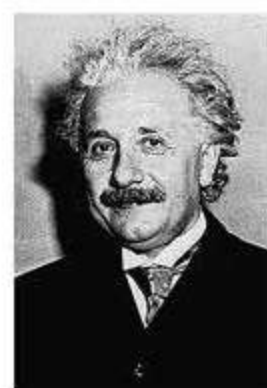
Famous visitors

Since ancient times, many historic figures in Japan and overseas have paid visits to Miyajima. Kukai, the founder of the Shingon sect of Buddhism, is said to have trained on Miyajima's Mt. Misen in 806, during the Heian era. Daisho-in Temple, at the foot of Mt. Misen, is said to have been erected by Kukai.

Francis Xavier, a Spanish missionary who introduced Christianity to Japan, visited Miyajima during his journey in the country in 1550, during the Sengoku

period, an age of civil war throughout Japan. Hideyoshi Toyotomi, the feudal lord who unified Japan, visited Itsukushima Shrine in 1587. During the Edo period, the surveyor and cartographer Tadataka Ino came to measure the island for his work in creating the first map of Japan in 1806.

Famous visitors in the modern era include Albert Einstein (originally from Germany) who, according to historical records, appears to have climbed Mt. Misen in 1922. Helen Keller, the young woman who was sight/hearing impaired and featured in the film *Miracle Worker*, visited the island in 1937.



Albert Einstein
(Kyodo)



Marilyn Monroe
(Kyodo)

After the end of World War II, the American actress Marilyn Monroe traveled to Miyajima with her husband, Joe DiMaggio, the American professional baseball player, on their honeymoon in 1954. Yoko Ono, the artist and wife of the late John Lennon, held a ceremonial concert at Itsukushima Shrine in 1995. The 14th Dalai Lama, the supreme leader of Tibetan Buddhism, stayed at the island's Daisho-in Temple in 2006.

Momiji manju

One of Miyajima's most famous food items is Momiji manju, a small cake shaped like a Japanese maple leaf. The snack was first created in the late Meiji period (1868–1912), based on the shape of a maple leaf as a symbol of Momijidani Park, the sightseeing spot on the island famous for its beautifully colored maple leaves in the fall. Traditionally,

Momiji manju is made of sponge-cake batter with red-bean paste inside, but now the treat contains a variety of fillings, including cream, cheese, and chocolate.

At present, 15 companies make and sell Momiji manju on Miyajima. Half are family-owned shops located in the Omote-sando shopping arcade. For visitors to Miyajima, one attraction is certain to be the viewing up close of Momiji manju being made on the other side of a window, or the eating of warm, freshly made Momiji manju in one of the shops. Momiji manju is a popular souvenir that can be taken off the island and eaten at home.



Momiji manju



Miyajima Island developed with Itsukushima Shrine at its center.

Introduction of website



Our newly established website allows users quick and easy access to information about Miyajima, including the island's major tourist spots, displayed on a digital map. By clicking on the map, visitors can explore locations of interest virtually. The site also introduces popular routes used to climb Mt. Misen, the highest peak on Miyajima.

Okonomiyaki

Flavor of Hiroshima: Worth a try

Yuki Akae, Staff Writer

Hiroshima's people are built on okonomiyaki. That might sound like an exaggeration, but okonomiyaki has satisfied the appetites of many a hungry person since Hiroshima's recovery after World War II and still proves irresistible to many. Okonomiyaki is sometimes referred to as Hiroshima's "soul food." In this article, all things okonomiyaki will be introduced to readers, ranging from its basic form called "*nikutama-soba*" (pork with eggs and noodles) all the way up to the special versions arranged for the summit meeting of the G7 (Group of Seven industrialized nations), to be held soon in Hiroshima.

Hiroshima's 'aunties' play a key role: Okonomiyaki shop "Fujiya" celebrates 60 years

'Hiroshima's aunties' played a key role in okonomiyaki's rise to becoming the soul food of the city. From mid-1950 into the 1960s, many residents opened their own okonomiyaki shops by setting up an iron frying pan in part of their home or elsewhere. Fujiya, located in Hiroshima's Nishi Ward, is one such shop. Marking the 60th anniversary since its inception, Fujiya continues the style of tradition of okonomiyaki prepared since those times.

Fujiya was founded by Harue Fujii (who died at the age of 100 in 2017), the mother of the current owner, Yuriko Fujii, 74. "Using other shops as examples, my mother opened the restaurant in order to raise me on her own," said Yuriko, recalling the shop's early days.

At that time, the price of a standard *nikutama-soba* okonomiyaki was 50 yen. Ms. Fujii began to help out at her mother's shop when she was 21, and the two managed the shop together. "There were no convenience stores in the neighborhood at the time. For that reason, our busiest time was

about 30 years ago." Other dishes available at the shop were udon noodle dishes, ramen, shaved ice, and sweets for children. The shop was crowded with many people, from blue-collar workers to children.

One serving of *nikutama-soba* okonomiyaki is now priced at 750 yen. Starting about 20 years ago, Ms. Fujii began using garlic powder on the okonomiyaki as a finishing touch, with the aim of providing energy to customers, and now adds chopped onions to the traditional sliced cabbage. Fujiya's okonomiyaki continues to evolve over time, but what has not changed is the flavor derived from the sweetness of the cabbage. "I haven't done anything special at all," she explains with pride. "I simply prepare the okonomiyaki the same way my mom did. Many fans of our okonomiyaki love it for its flavor."

Yuriko loves overseas travel and small talk. When she leaves home, she brings with her the shop's business cards written in English and invites people from overseas who she happens to meet. For new customers, Japanese or otherwise, she always initiates conversation by asking where they are from. Her shop provides a relaxing space for local residents as well as a spot for communication with people from all over.

History of Hiroshima okonomiyaki

• **Meiji (1868–1912) through Taisho (1912–1926) eras:** Okonomiyaki grows in popularity at Western food stalls in Tokyo and spreads nationwide.

• **Beginning of Showa (1926–1989) era:** In Hiroshima, *issen yoshoku* (inexpensive western food that predated the modern-day okonomiyaki), a dish made from baked flour batter with green onions, red pickled ginger, and Worcester sauce, grows in popularity among children.

• **Shortly after end of war:** Okonomiyaki derived from *issen yoshoku* begins to be served at food stalls.

• **1952:** Otafuku made Worcester-type sauce specifically for okonomiyaki. Stalls in central Hiroshima flourish with introduction of the sauce.

• **Late 1950s to 1960s:** Additional ingredients are



Yuriko Fujii talks about her memory of the time when her shop opened 60 years ago. "At first, it was uncommon food for locals. Neighborhood children would come to watch my mother making okonomiyaki."

incorporated into okonomiyaki, including eggs and noodles, establishing the nascent form of present-day okonomiyaki. By partially renovating their homes, many proprietors begin to open okonomiyaki shops.

• **1975:** Hiroshima Toyo Carp (professional baseball team) wins its first Central League championship, bringing attention to Hiroshima okonomiyaki through coverage on television.

• **1990s:** Okonomiyaki restaurants with seating for many customers increase in number. Chilled and frozen okonomiyaki begin to be sold as souvenirs, a trend that spreads throughout Japan.

• **2000s:** Okonomiyaki shops in the style of pubs with grills (*teppanyaki izakaya*) increase. Okonomiyaki shops specializing in home delivery also open.

Okonomiyaki Academy, an organization made up of okonomiyaki shops and other outlets and located in Hiroshima's Nishi Ward, has arranged special versions of okonomiyaki for the nations participating in the G7 summit. The recipes are posted on the Academy's website. Give them a try at home.

Specially arranged okonomiyaki for different nations attending the G7 summit

United States

Burger-style okonomiyaki is made by sandwiching *nikutama-soba* between pieces of bread. The addition of cheese and pickles matches the sauce perfectly.



France

Gallet-style okonomiyaki is made with bean sprouts, bacon, and cabbage, topped with a sunny-side up egg and wrapped in buckwheat-flour batter.



Italy

Pasta and bacon are used in this okonomiyaki in place of noodles and pork-rib meat. Plenty of carbonara sauce is added for the finishing touch.



Canada

This okonomiyaki is made up as a dessert. Apples, butter, and cream cheese are placed on the batter, and the dish is served up with maple syrup.



Germany

Potato salad, sausage, and sauerkraut are added as ingredients to this okonomiyaki. The taste is accented by a dash of mustard.



United Kingdom

This okonomiyaki is inspired by fish and chips. Potatoes and deep-fried fish with *nikutama-soba* make for a voluminous dish.



Okonomiyaki ingredients

Advisor: Yosuke Haruna, division manager, Okonomiyaki Innovative division, Otafuku Sauce Co., Ltd.

12 Dried seaweed

The rich aroma of the ocean from the seaweed creates a good match with the sauce.



*Some shops additionally sprinkle seasonings, garlic powder, pepper, or sesame seeds to lend special flavor to the dish.

11 Okonomiyaki sauce

This sauce is brushed liberally over the entire surface.



10 Egg

The main body of the okonomiyaki is placed on a sunny-side-up egg.



9 Noodles

Boiled Chinese soba noodles or udon noodles are commonly used in the dish.



8 Lard

Lard is placed on the ingredients, and the okonomiyaki is then flipped over.



7 Pork

Around three thin slices of pork-rib meat are used.



6 Dashi powder

The dish's umami increases when dried fish or kombu-seaweed powders are added.



5 Bean sprouts

The low-cost ingredient is rich in nutrients and volume.



4 Green onions

Heaps of sliced green onions added at the end of cooking add wonderful flavor.



3 Tempura crisps

Adding tempura crisps brings out the umami flavor of the dish. Some crisp varieties are mixed with crushed, deep-fried squid.



2 Cabbage

Sliced narrowly at its core and larger at its soft green leaves.



1 Batter

Flour is mixed with water and spread thinly with the bottom of a ladle on a flat, heated grill.



Filming locations

Past city, today's city, traced through film

Rebirth of traumatized protagonist overlain on recovery of A-bombed Hiroshima

Hiroshima has served as the setting for many outstanding movies. Below we take a look at the must-see films shot on location in Hiroshima as recommended by Tomoko Nishizaki, 57, a member of the Hiroshima Film Commission, based in Hiroshima's Naka Ward.

— The best-known film in the world today shot on location in Hiroshima is *Drive My Car*, directed by Ryusuke Hamaguchi, which won the 2022 Academy Award for Best International Feature Film. The movie's story resonates with Hiroshima, where the main scenes were shot.

The decisive factor in selecting Hiroshima as the filming location for that movie was the Hiroshima Naka Incineration Plant, located in the city's Naka Ward. Yoshio Taniguchi, a world-renowned architect who is also known for his design of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York City, designed the plant in the manner of a museum under the theme "City of Peace and Creativity." Its location is along an extension of the so-called "Axis of Peace," a line that connects the A-bomb Dome with the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims. In the plant is an open atrium designed to ensure that the building does not impede the connection along that line. The movie's director, Mr. Hamaguchi, has the heroine recount the story at an important point in the film and overlays the rebirth of the main male character, who suffers from emotional trauma, on the recovery of Hiroshima.

The animated film *In This Corner of the World*, directed in 2016 by Sunao Katabuchi, also attracted attention in Japan and overseas. Even now many of the film's fans make the pilgrimage to Hiroshima where the movie was set. Before the atomic bombing, numerous neighborhoods with their many residents were located on the grounds of what is now Peace Memorial Park, in Hiroshima's Naka Ward. Director Katabuchi and his team



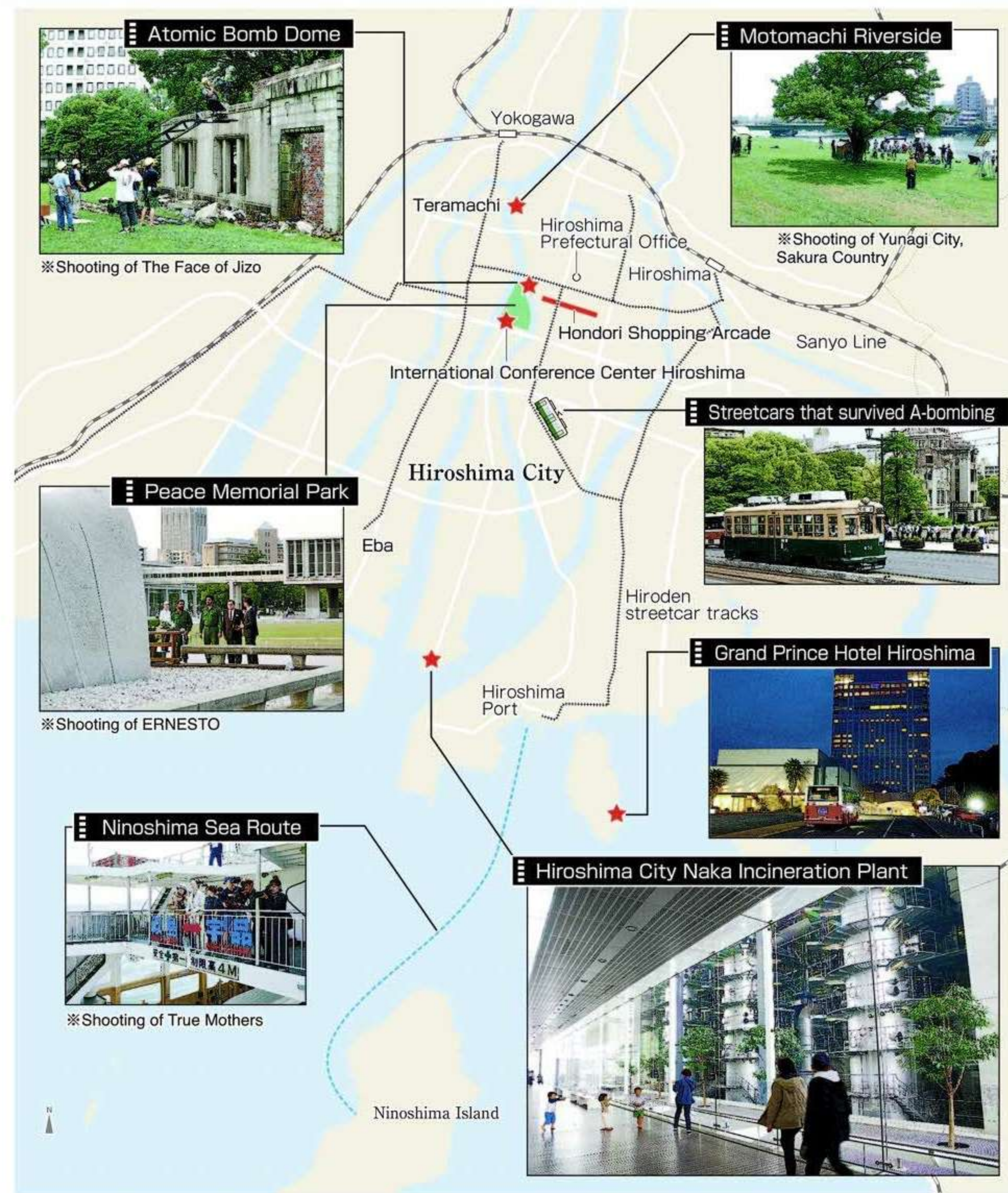
Tomoko Nishizaki

interviewed numerous people who knew the area before the A-bombing. The movie crew's careful depiction of the lost scenes has captured the hearts of many.

Although an older film, *Hiroshima Mon Amour*, directed in 1959 by Alain Resnais, simply must not be missed. The dramatic film depicts a Japanese man who had lost his family in the A-bombing and a French actress who suffered deep emotional scars from the war. A scene in which a moving camera follows Emmanuelle Riva as she walks down Hondori Shopping Arcade in downtown Hiroshima is unforgettable.

All of these movies can be considered Hiroshima's treasures. For first-time visitors to the city from different parts of Japan and overseas, the films provide clues to the landscapes of Hiroshima that are no longer around today as well as a sense of the reality of those particular times. For people living in Hiroshima, the images shot by the artistic and sensitive filmmakers show yet a different side of familiar landscapes. Everyone should experience the movies and visit the locations where they were filmed on their way to rediscovering Hiroshima.

(Interviewed by Yota Baba, Staff Writer)



Hiroshima Filming Locations

- 1 Drive My Car** (Ryusuke Hamaguchi, 2021)
...Hiroshima City Naka Incineration Plant, Grand Prince Hotel Hiroshima, International Conference Center Hiroshima
- 2 True Mothers** (Naomi Kawase, 2020)
...Ninoshima Sea Route, Grand Prince Hotel Hiroshima
- 3 ERNESTO** (Junji Sakamoto, 2017)
...Peace Memorial Park, Atomic Bomb Dome, Hiroshima Prefectural Office, Streetcars that survived A-bombing
- 4 In this Corner of the world** (Sunao Katabuchi, 2016)
...Peace Memorial Park, Eba district
- 5 Yunagi City, Sakura Country** (Kiyoshi Sasabe, 2007)
...Motomachi Riverside, Teramachi district, Peace Memorial Park

- 6 The Face of Jizo** (Kazuo Kuroki, 2004)
...Atomic Bomb Dome
- 7 Hiroshima, Mon Amour** (Alain Resnais, 1959)
...Hondori Shopping Arcade, Peace Memorial Park
- 8 Onomichi Trilogy by Nobuhiko Obayashi**
Exchange Students (1982) *The Girl Who Leapt Time* (1983) *Lonely Heart* (1985)
...Onomichi City
- 9 The Naked Island** (Kaneto Shindo, 1960)
...Sukunejima Island off the coast of Mihara City
- 10 Tokyo Story** (Yasujiro Ozu, 1953)
...Onomichi City



※Photos courtesy of Hiroshima Film Commission



The first atomic attack in human history, on August 6, 1945, turned one part of the city into the A-bomb's hypocenter. Today, this area is the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. From May 1997 to June 2000, the Chugoku Shimbun, with the cooperation of former residents and bereaved family members, produced a map of the locations of houses, offices, and buildings that were demolished in the war effort, and buildings that were moved under orders from the government. With regard to the location of homes, the Chugoku Shimbun referred to, among other sources, the *Shigai Kaoku Zu* (*The Map of Houses*), which was issued in 1927 by the City of Hiroshima and is held in the National Archives of Japan. Some of the names of shops were taken from entries in a Hiroshima telephone directory that was published in 1942.