

2017 Global Report

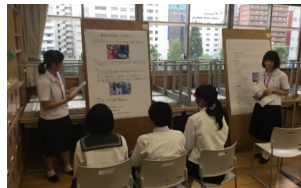
International Department

October 20,
2017

Participation in the Hiroshima Peace Forum

Two members of the international course (Ayaka Hashimoto, Class 2-6 and Sumire Mine, Class 2-7) participated in the Hiroshima Peace Forum at Hiroshima Jogakuin Junior and Senior High School. At the beginning of the forum, there was an opening speech from CTBTO Secretary General Dr. Lassina Zerbo. We got a really great impression of him. At this forum, we learned about how NGO's are such an active part of civic society and daily life, and then we put on a poster session. We learned about NGO's such as Peace Boat and ICAN, and then we discussed them. All the high schools that participated are designated at Super Global High Schools. Students heard presentations, took notes and asked questions earnestly. We got a strong impression through trying to deepen our understandings about NGO's. Both the speakers and the listeners were actively involved, which has made this forum worth attending. Now I am determined to make the most of this experience for my SGH activities from now on. (Sumire Mine, Class 2-7)

In the poster session we couldn't answer some of the questions from teachers and students, which proved that our research was not enough. After that, we discussed an NGO that got the winning vote of the poster session- "The Atom Project". This organization has been working hard to increase the members of the nations in the CTBT, which is believed to contribute to abolish nuclear weapons throughout the world. Besides, it has been collecting petitions for those deformed children who are still suffering from the influence of radiation. However, only 39 signatures were gathered in Japan in 5 years. We discussed in detail what actions to be taken in order to solve this problem as well as to make this activity more known. One action suggested is to create an online website to gather signatures. Participating in this forum has made me feel confident that I am a citizen of the world and that we are the ones to promote world peace. Also, learning about the high school students who are working hard on peace activities and listening to a speech by high school students from Hawaii saying that peace education is common around the world, really inspired me to be a good part of it. (Ayaka Hashimoto, Class 2-6)



Sachiho Mizoguchi, Class 2-7 went to the United Nations Conference on Disarmament in Switzerland as a High School Peace Ambassador

From August 20th through 25th, I visited Switzerland with 22 friends from all over Japan as a High School Peace Ambassador. All through my visit, I spent time with NGO groups, local people and high school students, by which I learned a lot. At the Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), after observing a disarmament conference, we made a speech that appealed for peace in front of Ms. Anja T. Kaspersen and handed her the petitions we collected. Ms. Kaspersen said, "The most difficult thing in the process of promoting peace is to establish relationships of trust with the countries that have diverse differences". I myself met various people through my peace activities, so I have found it significant to achieve the goal of world peace together by accepting opinions from all sides.

This time, the people that I met on the visit were different in terms of countries and languages. But the minds that hope for nuclear abolition and peace were common. Now, the world has many problems about nuclear weapons, but I personally felt that there are people in the world who put forth efforts to solve the problem. I will meet many more people while continuing my peace activity. In the meantime, it will be important to find our way, tolerating different views from ours, to one goal, that is, peace throughout the world.

Although different in countries and languages, the people I met during the visit have in common the wish to abolish nuclear weapons and to promote peace throughout the world. Today in the world, there seems to be a dangerous situation regarding nuclear weapons. However, I personally felt relieved to know that there are people who are trying their best to solve the problem. This fact encourages me to tell as many people as possible what I learned as a member. I will work hard, together with those in my generation, on everything that helps to make the world more peaceful.

