

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DROPPING OF THE ATOMIC BOMBS, THE END OF WORLD WAR II, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UN

In partnership with RfP Japan, RfP Australia and RfP New Zealand, under the auspice of RfP Asia (ACRP), is to remember the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the end of the Second World War, and the establishment of the UN and a rules-based multilateral order. The format will be meetings of two sessions, on two days, a week apart, by Zoom. There will be two meetings to remember and acknowledge the past and its continuing legacies, to raise awareness of the escalating dangers of future nuclear threats, and to initiate and promote religious, spiritual, and moral responses in the ACRP chapters of the participating countries.

CO-ORGANIZED BY:

Religions for Peace Japan/ Australia/ New Zealand/ Asia

DATES AND THEMES:

DAY 1 The Victims of Nuclear Weapons and Testing

August 3 (SUN), 2026
15:00-18:00 Tokyo, Seoul
1800-21:00 Wellington
16:00-19:00 Sydney
11:30-14:30 New Delhi
11:00-14:00 Islamabad

DAY 2 Religions responding to escalating threats of nuclear war

August 10 (SUN), 2026
15:00-18:00 Tokyo, Seoul
1800-21:00 Wellington
16:00-19:00 Sydney
11:30-14:30 New Delhi
11:00-14:00 Islamabad

LANGUAGE

English (Japanese simultaneous interpretation will be available)

REGISTRATION

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/9wo10mYFRLaPU-DBMNbihw>



AUG 3 THE VICTIMS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND TESTING

15:00-15:15 Opening Prayers
15:15-16:00 Session on education and awareness of the victims and the impact of atomic weapons

This initial session will introduce the atomic bombings of August 1945, and the devastating impacts on life and environment in Japan. Drawing on the experiences of those affected the session will also explore nuclear testing in Australia and the Pacific islands.

We will look at context of the bombings and tests, in terms of the longer-term implications of radiation poisoning, starting in Japan, and then the wider Asia Pacific region.

Focussing on the growth of the nuclear arsenals in humanity's new atomic age, alongside the UN, we will discuss the hopes for, and steps towards, lasting peace in the aftermath of the twentieth century's world wars.

Panel 1: Victims of nuclear weapons and testing: Japan, Australia, and the Pacific

16:00-16:30 Reflection time
16:30-17:30 Panel 2: Intergenerational legacies of the victims

Speakers: High School Students from Japan, Australia and the Pacific
Coordinator: Dr. Renz Argao (Moderator, APIYN)

17:30-18:00 Reflection and Prayers

AUG 10 RELIGIONS RESPONDING TO ESCALATING THREATS OF NUCLEAR WAR

15:00-15:15 Opening Prayers

15:15-16:15 Session on contemporary nuclear escalation in the Asia-Pacific region and perceptions of rising threats. Pacific

Following the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Doomsday Clock was originally set as 7 minutes to midnight at the end in 1947. After escalating forward 18 times and being set back 8 times, we are now the closest to midnight since the dawn of the atomic/nuclear age, with the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists in January 2025, announcing humanity's total destruction as a mere 89 seconds away!

The focus in this session is on the four nations with nuclear weapons in the Asia-Pacific region, in the context of the escalating threat of the use of nuclear weapons among the seven nations with nuclear arsenals. A panel of political and strategic experts will analyse this rising threat, exploring the rising tensions among the nuclear-armed nations, including the two current active theatres of war.

Panel 3

Dr. Tatsujiro Suzuki (Visiting Professor, Nagasaki University, Representative of NPO "Peace Depot")

And two more leading International Experts will speak

16:15-16:40 Reflection time

16:45-17:45 Session on Religions responding to escalating threats of nuclear war

Consider the role of religious leaders and communities in response to the growing threat of war, particularly the use of nuclear weapons. Reflect on the role that religion and indigenous communities have played in peace movements and disarmament, and learn about the actions that will be necessary in the future.

Panel 4

Discussions with Buddhist, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, and Indigenous religious figures

17:45-18:00 Reflection and Prayers