



Religions for Peace
Australia

Asian Conference of Religions for Peace

Religions for Peace

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), we are inviting you to join us 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. These meetings are 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

August 3 DAY 1 The Victims of Nuclear Weapons and Testing

(SUN) 2025

**11:30-14:30 New Delhi | 11:00-14:00 Islamabad | 16:00-19:00 Sydney
15:00-18:00 Tokyo and Seoul | 1800-21:00 Wellington and Suva**

****The times indicated here are in Japan Standard Time (JST).**

Program

- 15:00-15:15 Opening Prayers, Introduction and Welcome**
- 15:15-16:10 Panel 1: Victims of weapons and testing:
Japan, Australia, and the Pacific**
- 16:10-16:30 Reflection time, Q&A and breakout sessions**
- 16:30-17:30 Panel 2: Intergenerational legacies of the victims**
- 17:30-18:00 Reflection time, Q&A and breakout sessions
Prayers**

AUG 3 THE VICTIMS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND TESTING

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15:00-15:15 Opening Prayers, Introduction and Welcome

- Prof. Paul Morris (Emeritus Professor of Religious Studies at Victoria University of Wellington)

- Rev. Dr. Yoshinori Shinohara (Secretary General, Religions for Peace Asia)

- Rev. Masafumi Nakanishi (Shintoist, Japan)

15:15-16:10 **Panel 1: *Victims of nuclear weapons and testing: Japan, Australia, and the Pacific***

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.

Speakers:

- Ms. Sueko Hata (Hiroshima A-Bomb survivor)

- Aunty Sue Coleman Haseldine (Senior Googatha Elder, peace and environmental activist)

- Ms. Olivia Shimasaki (Peace Foundation of Aotearoa)

- Mr. Tamatoa Edgard Tepuhiarii (Hamburg University, Germany)

Coordinator:

- Rev. Masamichi Kamiya (Senior Advisor, Religions for Peace Asia)

16:10-16:30 Reflection time, Q&A, and breakout sessions

AUG 3 THE VICTIMS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND TESTING

**The times indicated here are in Japan Standard Time (JST).

16:30-17:30 **Panel 2: *Intergenerational legacies of the victims***

We will explore the generational impacts in Japan, the Pacific, and across the Asia Pacific region.

A panel of younger participants will discuss the concerns raised by the economic, political, social, and moral dimensions of the development of the nuclear weapons.

Speakers:

- Ms. Vienna Serpa (Sacred Heart College, New Zealand)
- Ms. Yu Hatano (Kosei Girls High School, Japan)
- Mr. Shayan Rasaratnam (Perth, Australia)

Coordinator:

- Dr. Renz Argao
(Moderator, Asia and Pacific Interfaith Youth Network [APIYN])

17:30-18:00 Reflection time, Q&A, and breakout sessions

Prayers

- Prof. Anne Pattel Gray (Prominent Australian Indigenous theologian)