

Nagasaki-America Peace Project

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Colgate University 2010
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We propose to film a documentary on Nagasaki, Japan, and produce an interactive website and DVDs covering our findings for individuals and educational institutions across the United States. Inspired by our respective experiences working, visiting, and living in Nagasaki, Japan, we have been moved to action by the city's continual efforts across generations to educate and prevent further nuclear disasters. More than ever, as the *hibakusha* – survivors of the atomic bombings – are passing away, action is required to collect substantial English language video documentation of the stories of Nagasaki that presently does not exist. It is important to record footage for English speakers who have neither the means to travel to Nagasaki nor the language skills to understand any of the recorded archives. Through our efforts, we hope to foster necessary cross-cultural dialogue on peace, with the belief that preserving these memories and activities otherwise unknown to western audiences will foster seeds for change.

We feel that it is crucial to make the city of Nagasaki, the stories of the *hibakusha*, and the peace efforts of the city and its citizens accessible and relevant to American college, university, and high school students. Likewise, it is important to connect with, learn from, and exchange ideas with individuals from other parts of the world who desire peace and share these findings on a larger scale. This is an especially pressing undertaking, as the deaths of *hibakushas* are in the headlines around the world. Even individuals with whom Carolina spoke just last year, such as the only legally recognized double-survivor, Mr. Tsutomu Yamaguchi, have already passed away.

From July 1st through August 10th, we want to capture on film the issues citizens of Nagasaki deal with daily. We plan to specifically cover the *hibakusha*'s personal accounts and efforts toward peace, efforts/activities towards the same cause by the institutions of Nagasaki city, and the lives and involvement of the students/citizens taking active measures to ensure and discuss peace. Acquiring this footage will be achieved through the support and involvement of close contacts in the Nagasaki community. Through relationships Carolina forged last summer in Nagasaki, we have a diverse pool of individuals dedicated and eager to ensure the success and depth of our coverage.

I, Carolina, have spent the past two summers in Hiroshima and Nagasaki meeting with students, peace activists, and working as an intern in the Nagasaki Foundation for the Promotion of Peace. I have made many friendships, become a citizen in Nagasaki, and have the means to link institutions and organizations together to create an informative and meaningful documentary on activities and efforts the city undergoes to ensure peace. I have spoken in two Nagasaki city lectures, appeared on Nagasaki television, and have led cross-cultural exchange programs that facilitate dialogue between students. Beyond that, I have filmed fictional and documentary-style projects and wish to pursue an MFA in film directing. Therefore, my creative background coupled with my diplomacy assures the logistical and technical success of our project.

The Nagasaki Foundation for the Promotion of Peace has graciously offered its full support in assisting our connection to *hibakusha* as well as the opportunity to cover its relevant summer peace programs such as "Asian Peace Network" and "People to People." The Foundation is located across the street from the National Peace Memorial Hall, which is dedicated to recording information of the atomic bomb survivors and organizing memorial ceremonies for visitors who come to pay respect for the deceased. Connected to this building is the Atomic Bomb museum, which completes a triad of institutions with a breath of activities and audiences we will be able to converse with and informally interview. Furthermore, a professor, peace activist, and author of national English-language textbooks, whose lesson plans Carolina has assisted with, Miss Tomoko Maekawa, has extended an invitation to attend and conduct interviews in her classes in Siebold and Nagasaki University. We will also be sure to attend and cover the Memorial Ceremony held on August 9th that draws an international audience.

I, Alex, am fluent in Japanese and have conducted personal interviews with Japanese individuals in remote and mainstream regions. During my four months abroad with the Colgate Japan Study Group 2008, I interviewed participants about personal, historic, and political matters, including post-World War II American occupation. Earnest expression of my curiosity, combined with a display of my capacity to culturally and linguistically understand, created an atmosphere of trust between my informants and me. Spurred by their own

curiosity and amazement, the Japanese individuals with whom I spoke were eager to try and explain as much as they could in response to my enthusiasm. I also kept a blog for Colgate Global that served as a window to Japan and our group travels for my readers. For the Nagasaki-America Peace Project, I will be interviewing people in Japanese and translating these interviews into English. I trust that highly positive interaction similar to the one I experienced during my prior research in Japan will characterize the interviews that we intend to conduct in Nagasaki. Furthermore, my language skills allow for necessary Japanese language E-mail and telephone correspondence with participants, as well as access to printed and televised Japanese media.

Intensive pre-departure preparation during the spring 2010 semester includes ethnographical interview training, meeting with the Colgate University Institutional Review Board, and the development of an English and a Japanese consent form for extensive interviews. Alex will train with his Japanese Professors to conduct in-depth ethnographic interviews in Japanese. In preparation for interviews with *hibakusha* and the intensive Japanese-English translation required by the project, Alex will also translate several existing Japanese-only *hibakusha* stories and video clips available on the internet, as well as read and translate Japanese language literature about the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Carolina will complete further technical training in video recording and read literature on ethnographic documentaries, while Alex will work on website design techniques. Carolina also plans to improve her basic Japanese by completing the Pimsleur Japanese course, volumes 1-3, prior to departure.

The summer project will consist of three stages. Prior to departure for Japan, we will meet to prepare and coordinate efforts during a period of five days, from June 25 – June 30. From July 1 until August 10, we will be on site in Nagasaki. While in Nagasaki, we will keep an online video and text blog documenting our experience. Concurrently, we will be designing and uploading material onto an official website, which will be one of the two final products of the project. A DVD meant for classroom use will be the second final product. From August 11 – 25, Alex will carry out final website maintenance on the Colgate campus, while Carolina finishes editing and piecing together the DVD.

We will film using digital camcorder and microphone equipment rented from Colgate University free of charge. Due to the gracious support of the Nagasaki Peace Foundation, we will be able to interview *hibakusha*, Nagasaki citizens, Japanese tourists, and organization employees about their involvement in the peace movement. In particular, as a point of connection for American students, we will focus part of the project on the younger generation – Nagasaki college and high school students – and their involvement with these activities. Miss Maekawa's support will facilitate this interaction.

Carolina will commence editing the video on location with her iMovie software. We will use blogger.com to record our experience during our stay in Nagasaki. Alex will be in charge of maintaining and organizing the final website, using free website design software readily available online, such as Google sites. On our website and blog we will post our recorded interviews of Nagasaki citizens and *hibakusha*, as well as video tours and historical information about the city of Nagasaki compiled and filmed by us. The footage will also be available on DVD from us via our website for distribution to educational institutions that request copies. We plan to not only provide information about these peace efforts, but also provide website visitors with a means to participate by providing links to Nagasaki institutions involved with our project and other peace efforts. This will allow for those who are inspired by the site, the blog, and/or the DVD to reach out and affect change.

During the spring and summer, we will start the outreach by contacting professors at American Liberal Arts colleges and universities, as well as high school social studies and history teachers across the United States. We will inform them of our efforts during summer 2010 and urge them to utilize our website and/or DVD in their classroom in years to come. DVD distribution and website promotion will be carried out in part by our newly co-founded awareness/activism-oriented peace club, Colgate Global Citizens (CGC) *for Peace*. In the fall and beyond, CGC *for Peace* members will continue to contact professors and programs across the United States on behalf of the Nagasaki-America Peace Project, urging them to visit the website and offering them DVDs for use in the classroom.

Our project has already gained the support of individuals working for Japanese and American Universities, the Japanese National Newspaper Company "Asahi Shimbun," Japanese and American Professors, Peace volunteers, and Japanese government officials; all of whom are eager to assist in its success. These enthusiastic responses make the Nagasaki-America Peace Project one that can significantly impact peace culture and history shared between our two nations.