

Editorial Note

Hiroshima Peace Institute (HPI) of Hiroshima City University conducts a public lecture series for citizens both in English and Japanese every year. The English lecture series has been held since 2016 at the Satellite Campus of Hiroshima City University. In 2021, it was impossible to offer face-to-face events due to COVID-19, so that an online lecture series was held for the first time. The English and Japanese lecture series were amalgamated into one joint series in Japanese and English titled, “A Hiroshima Approach to Peace Studies.” Five lectures were delivered on YouTube, each for one week only, from January 7 to February 10, 2022. Two of the lectures that were held in English are the lectures discussed in this report.

In the first lecture, Prof. Narayanan Ganesan focused on the February 2021 Military Coup in Myanmar. He introduced the historical background of the democratization process followed by the military coup and analyzed the factors which led to the coup. The discussion also examined the impact of the coup on domestic and foreign politics and policy, providing the latest information about Myanmar.

Prof. Robert Jacobs analyzed the history of the global hibakusha which means not only the survivors of the nuclear attacks in Hiroshima and Nagasaki but also many other people who have suffered from the effects of radiation. He explained the various kinds of problems which have spread radiation, such as nuclear weapon testing, nuclear production, nuclear accidents as well as nuclear waste, and pointed out their negative impact on society.

These lectures will be translated into Japanese and published in the HPI booklet Vol. 8 in July 2022. Both the Japanese booklet and this English report can be downloaded from the website of the Hiroshima Peace Institute. A short report on the whole lecture series will also be available in the HPI newsletter on the website. We sincerely hope that these lectures will be useful for students, academics and citizens who study and work for peace.

May 2022
Makiko Takemoto
Associate Professor at HPI