Experts of World Heritage introduced the actual condition of the Atomic-Bomb Dome—Reviewing 10 years of World Heritage in Hiroshima

A roundtable “Ten years of World Heritage in Hiroshima” organized by UNITAR Hiroshima Office was held at the Memorial Hall of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum in Naka-ku, Hiroshima City on April 20, to discuss the actual conditions of the A-bomb Dome and Itsukushima Shrine 10 years after their designation as World Heritage sites. 6 advisors including experts on architectural history and officers from UNESCO, 31 participants of UNITAR Hiroshima workshop from 22 countries and approx 90 Hiroshima citizens participated the roundtable.

Before the Q & A session, 6 advisors talked about the difference between World Heritage in Hiroshima and other parts of the world. They also reviewed their study tours.

Dr. Richard Engelhardt from UNESCO Bangkok addressed “World Heritage is the place for memories. A-Bomb dome is a special site which gives life to the memories of 62 years ago for us not to forget them”.

In the Q and A session, citizens asked questions about the balance between business and conservation of World Heritage sites. One of the advisors mentioned about the high-rise apartments beside the A-Bomb Dome, then introduced an example of a plan to make a shopping center near the World Heritage site Taji Mahal in India, canceled because of objections from citizens. He also said that the development should not be conducted with a short-term interest as the World Heritage is designated for eternity.

Ms. Momoko Sugihara, a 21 years old university student from Azakita-ku, researching on how to teach about Itsukushima Shrine in schools, said “I was impressed by the word, World Heritage is for memories. I think young generations need to understand the importance of World Heritage and protect them”.

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