ヒロシマ
被爆の「遺産」 世界へ

アレクサンドル・メヒヤさん45

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母国・エクアドルは、日本
在住のアラブカミーデ学
院長は、被爆者から復興を
呼びかけた。日本とアメリカは
両国とも、核兵器の禁止を
国際社会に求めている。

「ヒロシマの街は、訪れた人を変える力があ
ります」と語るメヒヤ所長（広島市中区で）

「1964年、エクアルド・グワヤキル生まれ。
民間の金融機関勤務を経て、1988年、
駐コロンビア大使館参事官となり、同国
の経済副大臣、世界銀行理事などを歴
任。2008年、市民活動団体「NGO」
や市民活動団体「UJA」を創設し、
平和を求める組織を多数

です。」
Mr. Alexander Mejia (45)

Ecuador, my home country, is a country with a deep connection to Japan. Indeed 100 years ago Dr. Noguchi Hideyo lived there and saved many patients while researching the feared yellow fever, a.k.a. “Disease of Death.” Furthermore, including the Second World War, there was never a case of the two countries becoming hostile combatants against each other. The mountainous terrain is exactly the same and it feels very friendly [here].

I was 11 years old when I learned about the atomic bomb attack on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It was during class in elementary school. The teacher was explaining while showing slides of the cityscape after the bombing and the fact that there are horrendous acts like this in the world was strongly carved into my mind. After that I studied at a military academy and worked for international organizations and in foreign diplomacy. As I built up my diverse career, I continued to embrace the idea of “working throughout life towards the realization of peace.” In particular I continuously had an interest in the reconstruction of Japan and Hiroshima after suffering defeat and the atomic bomb.

The chance came when I was working for UNITAR Atlanta (USA). They were recruiting a new Director of the Hiroshima Mission. Without hesitation, within five minutes of receiving the announcement email I applied.

The first reason is because I wanted to fulfill a role towards the future of the world in Hiroshima. Another reason is because I strongly hope that my three daughters grow up in Hiroshima and understand the nobility of peace, just as it impacted my own destiny.

It has been over two years since I took this post and last year I praised the decision of Governor Yuzaki’s proposed “Hiroshima for Global Peace” Plan. It’s the idea to spread consciousness of “wanting to contribute to peace” among citizens of Hiroshima, not just limited to specialists and politicians, and the concept is not
merely an idea but has become a real measure. So when I visited the UN offices and received approval from Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, it made me really happy.

In the near future when there are no more hibakusha, their words and memories will live as a legacy and it will become important to tell their message to the world. UNITAR, along with the cooperation of NGOs, wants to take the lead and grapple these issues.

(interviewed by YAZAWA Hiroshige)

Photo caption
Born in Guayaquil, Ecuador in 1966. After working in corporate banking he became Counsellor at the Ecuadorian Embassy in Colombia, and spent time as Vice Minister of the Economy of the Republic of Ecuador and as governor to the World Bank, among others. In 2006 he joined UNITAR, which carries out training and research for researchers and officials from developing countries and has been Director of its Hiroshima Office since October 2010.