

Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum Special Exhibition

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# 復興の息吹

～被爆後10年の歩み～

## The Path to Restoration

- Ten Years of History after the Atomic Bombing -



## FOREWORD

Seventy-five years have passed since the Nagasaki atomic bombing. The city was destroyed and it was said that no trees or grass would grow for seventy years. However, the city rose from the ashes and as a city of peace, has continued to appeal to the world for the abolition of nuclear weapons and everlasting world peace.

The turning point of the city's development during post-World War II was marked by the enactment of the "Nagasaki International Cultural City Construction Law" in 1949. Under this law, various projects were carried out, including the transformation of the atomic bombing hypocenter and its surroundings into the Peace Park. With the completion of the park in 1955, the objective of the law was considered, in large part, accomplished.

This special exhibition uses photos to show drastic transformation of the city and life in the city during the ten year span between 1945 and 1955.

We sincerely hope that visitors will learn about the amount of loss caused by the atomic bombing, the poverty that followed the war, and the strength of human resilience in overcoming adversity.

In closing, I would like to thank the Photo Survey Group in the Nagasaki Foundation for the Promotion of Peace, Ms. SAKAIYA Shizuko and everyone involved in organizing this exhibition.

*The Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum Special Exhibition*

*"The Path to Restoration -Ten Years of History after the Atomic Bombing -"*

• *Period: February 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021*

• *Venue: Special Exhibition Room, Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum*

## Life Immediately after the Atomic Bombing

Everything in a two kilometer radius around the hypocenter of the atomic bombing was almost entirely destroyed and the area was turned into a wasteland. The city center, located beyond Mt. Konpira, was also heavily damaged by the blast and fires. Many injured people flooded the makeshift aid centers that managed to escape destruction, creating chaos.

Soon after, those who survived were faced with a new problem: on top of dealing with the damage caused by the atomic bombing, how were they going to survive tomorrow?



View of the Hypocenter from Above Northern Nagasaki City

Date: 1945

Photographer: H.J. Peterson

Credit: Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum



View of the Nagasaki City Center from Above Mt. Kazagashira

Date: 1945

Photographer: H.J. Peterson

Credit: Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum

## **From Restoration to the Reconstruction of the City**

On August 15, 1945, as people all over the city worked tirelessly on restoring the city and providing relief to those injured, the war came to an end. Not long after, Japan was occupied by the Allied Powers. In September, Allied occupation forces were stationed in Nagasaki and began occupation.

In October, the Nagasaki Military Government Team was established and, by order of the Allied occupation forces, the local government began removing debris from the destroyed areas of the city, restoring infrastructure, and rebuilding schools.

However, nothing could be done to solve the housing shortage, which was a result of building removal measures (during the war, buildings were demolished to create space between the land to curb the spread of fire) and devastation caused by the war. Although relief housing was built, repatriates and returnees from abroad, and those coming back from evacuation caused a population surge which exacerbated the problem.

Amid such turmoil, on November 12, 1945, 115 cities including Nagasaki were selected in the government's plan to restore areas devastated by the war. On November 30, 1945, the Cabinet approved the "Basic Policy for the Reconstruction of War-damaged Areas."

Based on this basic policy, Nagasaki City planned its postwar reconstruction plan which consisted of plans for lands usage, roads, and open spaces. With the cooperation of the Nagasaki Prefecture, the city began working on the project.



Parent and Child Living in a Shack  
Date: September 16, 1945  
Photographer: U.S. Military  
Credit: Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum



Makeshift Homes  
Date: 1946  
Photographer U.S. Military  
Credit: Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum



Using a Horse-drawn Carriage to Move  
Date: September 16, 1945  
Photographer: U.S. Military  
Credit: Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum



Interaction Between a U.S. Military  
Policeman (MP) and Citizens  
Date: October 10, 1945  
Photographer: U.S. Military  
Credit: Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum



Clearing Land at Northern  
Iwakawa-machi  
Date: April 30, 1946  
Photographer: U.S. Military  
Credit: Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum



Relief Housing in Iwakawa-machi  
Date: April 30, 1946  
Photographer: U.S. Military  
Credit: Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum

# Food Shortage

In addition to the housing shortage, the food shortage was another major issue. Rationed goods were not enough for people to live on and they needed a way to get food themselves. People started small gardens near their houses to grow potatoes and vegetables or went to the black market to buy food and supplies.



People Gathering for Food Ration Distribution

Date: September 24, 1945

Photographer: U.S. Military

Credit: Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum



People Gathering for Food Ration Distribution

Date: September 24, 1945

Photographer: U.S. Military

Credit: Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum



Vender near the Nagahisa Bridge

Date: September 16, 1945

Photographer: U.S. Military

Credit: Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum



Vender near the Nagahisa Bridge

Date: September 16, 1945

Photographer: U.S. Military

Credit: Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum

## The Restoration of Stores

Shortly after the main unit of the Allied occupation forces entered into port, there was a rise in demand for souvenirs. Stores including Hamaya Department Store and Okamasa Department Store were designated to be souvenir shops for the Allied occupation forces. Women's clothing, dolls, lacquer crafts, and fine arts and crafts were sold in high volumes at the Hamaya Department Store.

However, when the main force of the Allied occupation forces moved to Sasebo City in the end of the year, business from soldiers began to dwindle.

Building removal during the war and damage caused by the atomic bombing left the shopping district in disrepair. Stores needed to be rebuilt from scratch.

As official prices were set low, goods outflowed to the black market, slowing business in the shopping district. It took a while for the shopping district to recover.



U.S. Soldier Shopping at a Souvenir Shop Inside Okamasa Department Store (located at the present-day HAMACROSS411) that sold souvenirs for U.S. soldiers.

Date: December 8, 1945

Photographer: U.S. Military

Credit: Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum



Higashi Hamano-machi Street

Date: unknown

Photographer: Ed Rogers

Credit: Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum



# The Restoration of Fisheries

The fishing industry immediately contributed to the revitalization of the Nagasaki economy. An abundance of sardines from 1946 to 1950 led to the rapid improvement of the equipment and infrastructure needed for the fishing industry.



**Nagasaki Fish Market**

Date: December 8, 1949

Photographer: U.S. Military

Credit: Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum



**Fish Boat Docked at Nagasaki Fish Market**

Date: December 8, 1949

Photographer: U.S. Military

Credit: Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum



**Unloading Fish at Nagasaki Fish Market**

Date: December 8, 1949

Photographer: U.S. Military

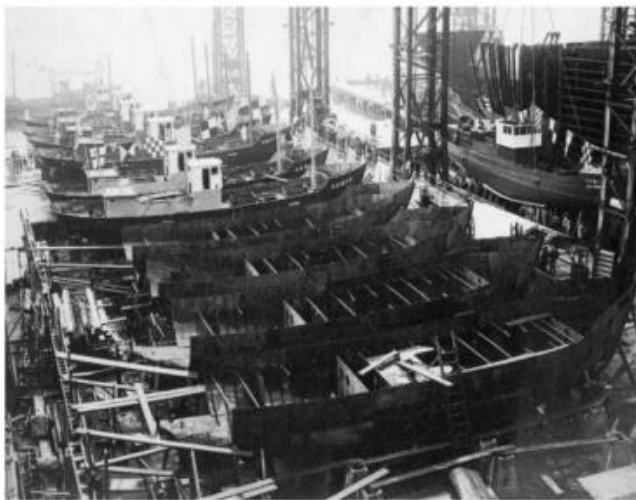
Credit: Nagasaki

## The Restoration of Shipyards

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Nagasaki Shipyard & Machinery Works faced a major drop in demand after losing its biggest pre-war client and purchaser of warships, the Japanese military, after its post-war dismantlement.

They were left with no choice but to dismiss 20,000 workers. The remaining workers tried to revitalize business by making household pots, repairing locomotives, and building fish boats, whaling ships, and small passenger-cargo ships.

The shipbuilding industry gradually recovered when the “Shipbuilding Program” was launched in 1947 in which the government offered financial support for shipbuilding industries.

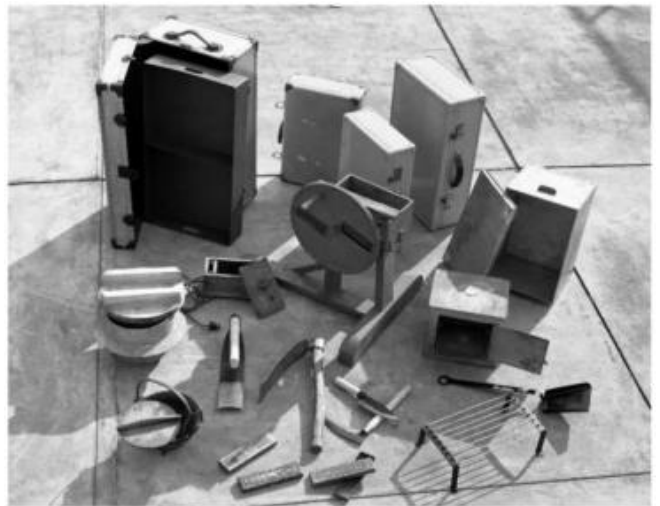


Building a Large Quantity of Fishing Boats

Date: unknown

Photographer: unknown

Credit: Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd.  
Nagasaki Shipyard & Machinery Works



Household Goods and Farm Tools Made after the End of War until the End of 1946

Date: unknown

Photographer: unknown

Credit: Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd.  
Nagasaki Shipyard & Machinery Work



Tategami Pier on the Day of the Shipbuilding Festival

On April 23, 1946, the Shipbuilding Festival was held to boost morale among workers. The shipyard, a highly classified military facility during the war, was opened to the public. There were exhibition booths of each of the factories, places to buy merchandise, and dragon dance performances which were well received.

Date: April 23, 1946

Photographer: unknown

Credit: Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd.  
Nagasaki Shipyard & Machinery Works

## The Restoration of Streetcars

Nagasaki's streetcar system sustained heavy losses due to the atomic bombing. Among the operating 36 streetcars, 16 were lost in the fires and 5 were heavily damaged. Further, at least 108 employees were confirmed dead. Despite this, employees worked tirelessly to resume the streetcar's operation, spurred on by the slogan "Nagasaki's recovery begins with the streetcar."

In November 1945, operation along the Nagasaki Station, Nishi-Hamano-machi, and Hotarujiya lines resumed and operation to other areas soon followed. The last remaining route, between Nishi-Hamano-machi and Shianbashi was finally back in operation in July 1953.



Nagasaki Electric Tramway Ohashi Office

Date: September 16, 1945

Photographer: U.S. Military

Credit: Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum



Nagasaki Station Tram Stop

Date: 1945

Photographer: U.S. Military

Credit: Nagasaki Foundation for the Promotion of Peace Photo Survey Group



Ohashi-machi Iron Bridge Vicinity

Date: 1952

Photographer: unknown

Credit: Nagasaki City



Dejima Tram Stop Vicinity

Date: 1945

Photographer: unknown

Credit: Nagasaki City

## Becoming a City of International Culture

The Nagasaki International Cultural City Construction Law was passed unanimously at both houses of the Diet on May 1949.

The purpose of the law was the promotion of international exchange in order to realize Nagasaki's ideal of everlasting world peace. Nagasaki, a city located in the westernmost part of Japan, has a history of being Japan's gateway for international exchange, and from a geographical standpoint, an internationally "key" position with its close proximity to China and the countries of Southeast Asia. By further developing these unique features, the law aimed to give the city a boost during its recovery from the tragedy of the atomic bombing.

Since this was a special law dedicated to one specific local authority, a referendum was held on July. This was the first referendum since the establishment of the new constitution. With a high voter turnout of 73.5% and 98.6% voting in favor, the law was overwhelmingly supported and enacted in August 9 of the same year.

Consequently, the "Policy for the Reconstruction of War-damaged Areas" was succeeded by the "Nagasaki International Cultural City Construction Project," that included construction of an athletic field and commemorative facilities such as the International Culture Hall and Peace Park. In a five year span, the war-damaged area reconstruction/land readjustment project, restoration of road traffic network, and installation of the water supply were carried out throughout the entire city, especially in Urakami area, which was particularly damaged by the atomic bombing.



**Pavement Construction at Nagasaki Station Square**

Date: June 1951

Photographer: MATSUO Nobuyoshi

Credit: Nagasaki Foundation for the Promotion of Peace Photo Survey Group



**Road Improvement Construction Site**

Date: July 1951

Photographer: MATSUO Nobuyoshi

Credit: Nagasaki Foundation for the Promotion of Peace Photo Survey Group



**Back-filling Work at the Road Improvement Construction Site**

Date: August 1951

Photographer: MATSUO Nobuyoshi

Credit: Nagasaki Foundation for the Promotion of Peace Photo Survey Group



Dutch Slope

Date: 1955

Photographer: unknown

Credit: SAKAIYA Shizuko



Nagasaki Station Vicinity

Date: 1955

Photographer: unknown

Credit: SAKAIYA Shizuko



View of the Hamaguchi-machi Area from  
the International Culture Hall

Date: 1955

Photographer: unknown

Credit: Nagasaki City

## Festivals and Events

Festivals and events invigorated the citizens who had been facing a great deal of hardship. One of the major events was the “Nagasaki Kunchi Festival.” Many of the neighborhood groups who performed at this festival were severely affected by the war, having lost their tools and implements in the fires. However, on October 7, 1945, less than two months after the bombing, volunteers performed a votive dance dedication and this humble performance following the chaos at the war’s end uplifted the citizens’ spirits and also led to the revival of the Kunchi Festival.

Other festivals were also held and the city started to come back to life.



Nagasaki Kunchi Festival

Date: October 1946

Photographer: OGASAWARA Masami

Credit: Nagasaki Foundation for the  
Promotion of Peace Photo Survey Group



Nagasaki Reconstruction Festival

Date: November 1946

Photographer: OGASAWARA Masami

Credit: Nagasaki Foundation for the  
Promotion of Peace Photo Survey Group



Nagasaki Reconstruction Peace Expo

Date: April, 1952

Photographer: SAKAIYA Shuichi

Credit: SAKAIYA Shizuko



Costume Parade During the Port Festival

Date: April 1955

Photographer: Unknown

Credit: SAKAIYA Shizuko

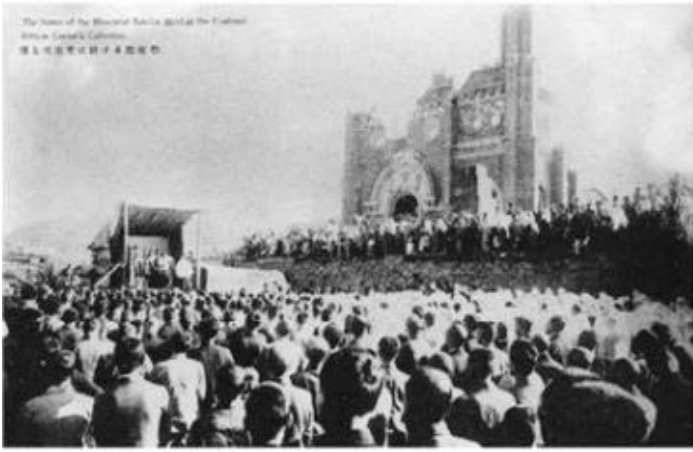


## Peace Initiatives

One month after the atomic bombing and the end of the war, memorial services for the deceased were held around the city. Three years later, on August 9, 1948, the city of Nagasaki hosted the “Culture Festival,” a memorial service for the victims of the atomic bombing. On April 1949, the city of Nagasaki established the Committee for the Preservation of Atomic Bomb Artifacts to collect and preserve valuable articles related to the atomic bombing. In a section of the atomic bombing hypocenter in Matsuyama-machi, the wooden hexagonal Nagasaki City Atomic Bomb Museum (also known as *Rokkaku-do*, lit: “Hexagon Hall”) was opened to preserve and exhibit what was collected in May of the same year.

Peace Park was also completed in February of 1955. Construction had been going on since 1951 as a part of the Nagasaki International Cultural City Construction Law and took place in the Matsuyama-machi area where the hypocenter of the atomic bombing was. In April 1955, two months later, the Nagasaki International Cultural Hall was built on a hill located in the hypocenter which was still undergoing reconstruction and the Hall had full-scale preservation and exhibition facilities. It came to represent the feelings of the people as they brought themselves out of the tragedy left in the wake of the atomic bombing.

At the same time, the five-year Nagasaki International Cultural City Construction Project reached its conclusion and in August 1955, the Peace Statue was erected with donations from Nagasaki citizens, other places in Japan, and abroad.



**Joint Memorial Service held at the Front of the Ruins of the Urakami Cathedral**

Date: November 23, 1945

Photographer: unknown

Credit: Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum



**Mayor Ohashi Delivering the Peace Declaration**

Date: August 9, 1949

Photographer: unknown

Credit: Nagasaki City



**Nagasaki City Atomic Bomb Museum**

Date: unknown

Photographer: unknown

Credit: Nagasaki City



**Construction of the Peace Statue**

Date: May 1955

Photographer: SHIMOHIRA Takatoshi

Credit: Nagasaki Foundation for the Promotion of Peace Photo Survey Group

## AFTERWARD

The hypocenter of the atomic bombing was a wasteland. However, within only a decade, houses were built and the city came back to life. The April 1955 edition of the city's promotional magazine ran the headlines "International City Construction Project Nearly Complete" and "Infrastructure in Downtown Mostly Completed." In a city policy speech of the same year, it was stated that the five-year plan of the Nagasaki International Cultural City Construction Project was nearly complete; however the atomic bomb survivors were suffering from the wounds and diseases they sustained from the bomb's heat, the blast, or radiation exposure and could not afford treatment due to poverty. They faced hardship every day.

Not only did they face discrimination and prejudice for being victims of the bombing, they also lived with the heavy loss of family and friends upon their hearts.

In 1957, two years after the completion of the Nagasaki International Cultural Hall, a symbol of the Nagasaki International Cultural City Construction Project, and 12 years after the atomic bombing, the Law on Medical Care for the Atomic Bomb Survivors was put into place, which marked the beginning of a long-awaited medical support system for the atomic bomb survivors.

# Abridged Chronological Table

Year	Events in Nagasaki City	Events in Japan and Overseas
1945	<p>8. 9 Atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki</p> <p>9.23 Allied occupation forces stationed in Nagasaki</p> <p>10. 3 Three stores (the Okamasa/Hamaya Department Store and Maruzen Branch Office) open as souvenir shops for the Allied occupation forces.</p> <p>10. 7 Volunteers of Maruyama Higashi-kenban perform a dedication of a votive dance to Suwa Shrine</p> <p>11.12 Nagasaki City designated as eligible city the War-damage Restoration Policy</p> <p>11.25 Streetcar operation resumes between Hotarujaya, Nishi-Hamano-machi, and Nagasaki Station</p>	<p>8.14 Japan accepts the Potsdam Declaration</p> <p>8.15 Jewel Voice Broadcast made by the Japanese Emperor announcing the end of the war</p> <p>8.30 General MacArthur, the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers arrives at the Atsugi Airport</p> <p>11. 6 Dissolution of the zaibatsu (industrial conglomerates)</p>
1946	<p>1.27 5,000 boxes of Japanese sardines unloaded at the Nagasaki Fish Market. On October of the same year, big catches of sardines start and continue until 1950.</p> <p>4.23 Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Nagasaki Shipyard &amp; Machinery Works holds the Shipyard Festival Facilities are opened to the public, exhibitions are held, and merchandise is sold at the event</p>	<p>11. 3 Enactment of the Japanese Constitution (comes into effect on May 3, 1947)</p> <p>12.27 "Priority production system" which concentrated resources into the coal and steel industries begins.</p>
1947	<p>4.26 Designated areas decided for the Land Readjustment for the Restoration of War-Damaged Area Project</p> <p>6— Nagasaki Fish Market restored.</p>	<p>4.14 Enactment of the Anti-Monopoly Act (comes into effect on July 20)</p> <p>4.17 Enactment of the Local Autonomy Act (comes into effect on May 3)</p>
1948	<p>8. 9 Culture Festival held in Matsuyama-machi, to commemorate the third anniversary of the atomic bombing. Vice-chairperson Mizokami delivers the Peace Declaration on behalf of the citizens</p> <p>10. 7 Nagasaki Kunchi Festival begins. Ten neighborhood performing groups take part in the festival.</p>	
1949	<p>4— The Committee for the Preservation of Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Artifacts is established</p> <p>5— Atomic Bomb Museum (known as the Rokkaku-do) opens at the Hypocenter Park. The Japanese Diet passes the Nagasaki International Cultural City Construction Law</p> <p>5.29 The 400th anniversary of the landing of St. Francis Xavier in Japan is celebrated in Nagasaki</p> <p>7. 7 Referendum regarding the Nagasaki International Cultural Construction Law is held and is approved by a majority vote.</p>	

Year	Events in Nagasaki City	Events in Japan and Overseas
1949	<p>8. 9 Enactment of the Nagasaki International Cultural Construction Law Nagasaki Mayor Ohashi delivers the Nagasaki Declaration</p> <p>11. 2 Completion of the Nagasaki City Bicycle Racetrack</p>	
1950	<p>4.27 Nagasaki Port Festival is resumed to commemorate the 380th anniversary since the opening of the Nagasaki Port</p>	<p>6.25 Outbreak of the Korean War</p> <p>8.10 Formation of Japan Police Reserve Corps</p>
1951	<p>3.31 Nagasaki International Cultural Construction Project is decided</p> <p>8. 9 Nagasaki City Peace Statue Construction Co-sponsoring Association begins collecting donation for the construction fee of the Peace Statue</p>	<p>9. 8 Signing of the San Francisco Peace Treaty and the Japan U.S. Security Treaty</p>
1952	<p>4.28 Commencement ceremony for the Nagasaki International Culture Hall held</p>	<p>8. 6 Asahi Graph magazine becomes the first to release photos depicting the damage caused by the atomic bombing (the magazine sold out immediately )</p> <p>10.15 Formation of National Safety Forces</p>
1953	<p>7. 1 Streetcar operation resumes between Nishihamanomachi and Shianbashi, restoring all pre-war tram lines</p>	
1954		<p>3. 1 U.S. conducts its first hydrogen bomb test at Bikini Atoll. The Japanese fishing boat Daigo Fukuryu-maru is exposed to radioactive fallout from this test.</p> <p>6. 9 Formation of Self-Defense Forces</p>
1955	<p>2.11 Inauguration ceremony of the Nagasaki International Culture Hall held</p> <p>4. 1 Nagasaki International Culture Hall opens</p> <p>8. 8 Unveiling Ceremony of the Peace Statue held</p> <p>11.19 Formation of the Nagasaki Council Against A- and H-Bombs</p>	<p>8. 6 The first World Conference against A and H Bombs held in Hiroshima</p>