of this year to speak on behalf of the A-bomb survivors at the event, which was co-sponsored by RERF. During my RERF tenure, I was indebted to many people, and in particular, I appreciated the opportunity to be on friendly terms with Mr. Tsuboi. Longing for world peace and advances in medicine for those exposed to radiation, he was always supportive of RERF research and readily accepted all our requests; I have nothing but respect for him. I dream of a scenario in which Mr. Tsuboi is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize someday based on a recommendation by U.S. President Barack Obama, with whom Mr. Tsuboi shook hands at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park last May. It would be almost perfect, by the way, if the Hiroshima Carp could win a national baseball title around the same time.

My current home is in the Izu-kogen highlands area, not far from Lake Ippeki, in the city of Ito, Shizuoka prefecture. It is a place surrounded by nature—I rise in the morning to the songs of morning birds (I actually get up earlier than they do). A pheasant family sometimes appears in my garden during the day, and a wild pig family crosses in front of our house almost every night. The best "treat" here is the fresh air arising from the woods. In their seasons, we can collect edible wild plants, raspberries, and chestnuts. At local fish shops, we can inexpensively buy many kinds of fish in season. We had our home built more than 20 years ago, but this is the first time we will have taken up residence year-round. If we were to admit to inconveniences, we might come up with a few, such as there being nearby no supermarket, general hospital, or department store. However, my family and I are very happy with our life in Ito amidst nature.

I am writing this article from Geneva, Switzerland, where I am on business. A meeting of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO) is being held here, and I am a member of one of the ILO committees, the Freedom of Association Committee. I have served RERF for 11 years and this committee of the ILO for eight, making me realize that my involvement with both organizations has continued for quite some time.

The more I talk with local people in Izu, the more attached I feel to the area. Even so, I will think of everyone in Hiroshima and Nagasaki each August 6 and 9. I wish RERF research the very best of success into the future, and hope that someday the organization is awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. (November 1, 2016)

ICRP–RERF Joint Meetings Held in Hiroshima and Tokyo
"Very Good for Science"

During the period October 6–9, 2016, RERF convened joint meetings at the Hiroshima Laboratory and Tokyo University (working language: English), in partnership with the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP), a body founded in 1928 to provide recommendations and guidance worldwide on radiation protection.

The agenda in Hiroshima at the RERF Auditorium for the first two days—October 6 and October 7—included both joint meetings with RERF as well as independent closed meetings of the ICRP Task Group (TG) 91 (Radiation Risk Inference at Low-dose and Low-dose Rate Exposure for Radiological Protection Purposes) and the ICRP TG 102 (Detriment Calculation Methodology).

On October 8, an informal exchange seminar featuring young RERF scientists with ICRP senior researchers was held first thing in the morning. The recruitment and training of younger research staff members is one of RERF's most urgent concerns. Its aim in holding this portion of the meetings was to encourage communication between RERF younger researchers and ICRP senior scientists. Dr. John B. Cologne, Senior Scientist, Department of Statistics, said about his interpretation of the seminar, "ICRP people seemed to perceive it as not just [about] young scientists but also the current and future work of RERF."

The morning session of the informal seminar included presentations by three younger RERF researchers. Dr. Atsuko Sadakane, fixed-term Research Scientist, Department of Epidemiology, touched on "Impact of medical radiation exposures on the risk estimate analysis of atomic bomb radiation." Subsequently, Dr. Ritsu Sakata, Senior Scientist, Department of Epidemiology, made a presentation titled "Health effects of black rain in Hiroshima and Nagasaki," and Dr. Ikuno Takahashi, Associate Senior Scientist, Department of Clinical Studies, talked about "Heart disease mortality among atomic bomb survivors." The second part of the morning session also had three speakers from RERF. Dr. Misa Imaizumi, Chief, Division of Radiology, Department of Clinical Studies (Nagasaki), spoke on the issue of "Thyroid disease among atomic bomb survivors." Next, Dr. Kyoji Furukawa, Associate Senior Scientist, Department of Statistics, gave a presentation titled "Development of statistical approaches to radiation risk assessment with atomic bomb survivors," followed by Dr. Kanya Hamasaki, Research Scientist, Cytogenetics Laboratory, Department of Molecular

Biosciences, who touched on "Fetal irradiation and research risk: Dependence on irradiation stage for persistent cytogenetic damage."

After a lunch break, ICRP Task Group chairpersons made presentations. ICRP's Dr. Werner Rühm, Head of Working Group, Institute of Radiation Protection, described the ongoing efforts of TG 91 on the theme "Radiation Risk Inference at Low-dose and Low-dose Rate" and discussed various issues related to the risk of low doses and low-dose rates. Dr. Nobuhiko Ban, Commissioner, Nuclear Regulation Authority, Japan, talked about the activities of TG 102 regarding "Detriment Calculation Methodology" to calculate "detriment" as a measure of disease severity in terms of lethality, impact on quality of life, and years of life lost.

The last session of the day featured as speaker Mr. Mitsuo Kodama (84), an A-bomb survivor who authored a book on his A-bomb experiences titled "Hibakusha A-bomb Survivor—Eight-fifteen a.m. August 6, 1945." He gave a presentation titled "An atomic-bomb survivor exposed at an extremely short distance: a history of my life," touching on his experiences resulting from the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and greatly moving the audience. The talk included his descriptions of his exposure 800 meters from the hypocenter in Hiroshima and being only one of 19 students from among more than 300 in the first grade of his junior high school who were able to return to school. He was 12 at the time.

Mr. Kodama's publication was distributed to the meeting participants beforehand, and immediately following his presentation, 10–15 people lined up to speak with Mr. Kodama and ask for his autograph. According to Dr. Cologne, the gratitude that RERF consistently expresses to the survivors for their cooperation in the organization's studies takes on new meaning, "because I now have a better understanding of what the survivors went through."

Mr. Kodama was also invited by Chairman Niwa to speak at the 22nd Biennial Meeting of the Conference on Radiation & Health, in partnership with the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Radiation Research Society, held in Hawaii, October 15–19 (see related article, page 12), which many RERF scientists attended.

The University of Tokyo, the following day, October 9, hosted the "Joint RERF-ICRP Workshop on Health Risk of Radiation and the System of Radiological Protection." The Tokyo workshop, opened by Dr. Christopher Clement, Scientific Secretary, ICRP, was open to the public and media, attracting more than 80 participants to listen to lectures provided by ICRP members and RERF researchers.

From RERF, Dr. Nori Nakamura, Consultant, Department of Molecular Biosciences, spoke about "Hereditary effects of radiation in men and in mice." Dr. Eric J. Grant, Associate Chief of Research, spoke on "Dose response of solid cancer in atomic bomb survivors," which was followed by a talk by Dr. Rühm titled "Current ICRP stance on DDREF." Later, Dr. Kotaro Ozasa, Chief, Department of Epidemiology, gave a presentation titled "Current research on non-cancer diseases in atomic bomb survivors," which was followed by Dr. Tamara Azizova (ICRP), Deputy Director, Southern Urals Biophysics Institute (SUBI), speaking on "Circulatory disease in Mayak workers."

These lectures culminated in a roundtable discussion on "Futures of Health Risk Research and the System of Radiological Protection," chaired as discussion leaders by Dr. Robert L. Ullrich, RERF Vice Chairman, and Dr. Ban.

ICRP is a body founded in 1928 to provide recommendations and guidance worldwide on radiation protection. It is an independent international, non-governmental organization registered as a charity in the United Kingdom with its scientific secretariat located in Ottawa, Canada, and has more than 200 volunteers—leading scientists and policy makers in the field of radiation protection—from around 30 countries.

These joint meetings in Hiroshima and Tokyo had the effect of introducing the respected international organization to the younger scientists at RERF, as well as affording RERF the opportunity, in collaboration with ICRP, to raise RERF's profile outside of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in Tokyo. According to RERF Chairman Niwa, open and instructive communication took place over the course of the four days. He said, "This kind of meeting is very good for science."