

## **Akira KAWASAKI**

**Executive Committee member, Peace Boat**

**International Steering Group member, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)**

Mr. Akira Kawasaki is an Executive Committee member of Peace Boat <[www.peaceboat.org/english](http://www.peaceboat.org/english)>, a Tokyo-based international NGO in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, working for peace, sustainable development and human rights. After graduating with a Bachelor of Law from the University of Tokyo in 1993, he has worked as a researcher and activist on various peace issues, including nuclear disarmament, Northeast Asian security, Japan's security policy, and conflict prevention.

In 1998-2002, Kawasaki worked with a Japanese NGO Peace Depot <[www.peacedepot.org](http://www.peacedepot.org)> as Secretary-General and conducted systematic research, through regular publication of a journal, on nuclear disarmament issues. He joined Abolition 2000 <[www.abolition2000.org](http://www.abolition2000.org)>, the Global Network to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons, for Peace Depot, and attended NPT Review Conferences and its preparatory sessions, and reported on them to the Japanese media.

In 2002-2003, he published a regular Japanese e-journal to report diplomatic developments on Iraq, focusing on the UN Security Council debates and the inspection of weapons of mass destruction.

Currently at Peace Boat since 2003, Kawasaki practices peace education with the Peace Boat Global University program and is developing curriculum on peace, disarmament and other global issues such as sustainable development.

Peace Boat is serving as the Northeast Asia Regional Secretariat of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC <[www.gppac.net](http://www.gppac.net)>), and Kawasaki takes part in the coordination of GPPAC Northeast Asian regional process in partnership with wide range of civil society organizations from Japan, China, Korea, Mongolia and Russia.

Since 2008, Kawasaki coordinates “Global Voyage for a Nuclear-Free World: Peace Boat Hibakusha Project” that the atomic-bomb survivors travel around the world to raise public awareness on nuclear danger. In 2009-2010, he served as an NGO Advisor to Co-Chairs of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND) that was led by Australian and Japanese governments.

Kawasaki joined International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) as a Vice Chair in 2010, and then served as a Co-chair of its International Steering Group (ISG) since August 2012 to June 2014. As an ICAN representative in Japan, he has promoted dialogue between Japanese government and civil society organizations on nuclear policies. He continues to serve as an ISG member of the ICAN for Peace Boat to date. Working with Hibakusha, his efforts helped raise international awareness of the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and thus contributed to the successful adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in July 2017, for which ICAN was awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize.

After the Great East Japan earthquake, tsunami and Fukushima nuclear disaster of March 2011, Kawasaki directed Peace Boat's humanitarian assistance to the affected people, including children, in and around Fukushima. He then played central roles in organizing two Global Conferences for a Nuclear Power Free World in January and December 2012 as the Conference Directors.

Kawasaki has authored several books, frequently contributes to newspapers and journals, including *Asahi Shimbun*, *Sekai* and *Kinyobi*, and comments on media such as NHK. His book *Nuclear proliferation (Kaku Kakusan)*, Iwanami Shoten, 2003, Tokyo, received the First Peace Studies Promotion Prize of the Peace Studies Association of Japan (PSAJ) in June 2006. His translation works include Paul Rogers' *Losing Control: Global Security in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, and Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission's *Weapons of Terror*.

He currently lectures on peace, disarmament and human security at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies and Keisen University in Tokyo, and has spoken at various national and international conferences.

He is married, with a son, and lives in Kanagawa prefecture, Japan.

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