



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES  
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29 January 2015

Expression of concern regarding the relocation of the “FLOATING OYSTER RESTAURANT” in the buffer zone of Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome)

To: Mr. Kazumi Matsui  
Mayor, Hiroshima City

First of all, we would like to show our respect to Hiroshima City for its efforts in preserving the Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome) thus contributing toward achieving permanent world peace.

In this letter, the Japan ICOMOS National Committee would like to express concern about the on-going plans to relocate the floating oyster restaurant, upstream from its current position downstream the Heiwa Ohashi bridge, as the plans have been granted permission to be carried forward from both Hiroshima City and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

The Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome) is a special place that tells the tragic parts of history that humanity has lived through; it is a special place to pray for permanent world peace. Also, as a heritage valuable for all humanity, it has been inscribed on the List of World Heritage under the criterion (vi) only, like the site of Auschwitz in Poland.

The site's buffer zone should be recognized as being not only the area which aims at regulating and organizing the settings and surrounding landscape of the world heritage property, but also as an area that is deeply connected to the meaning of prayer to world peace and repose of souls that the property carries.

The ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Legal, Administrative and Financial Issues has made recommendations regarding the buffer zone of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome) in 2006; it is also from the standpoint of implementing these recommendations, that the Japan ICOMOS National Committee is strongly interested in this issue of the relocation of the

floating oyster restaurant.

The Japan ICOMOS National Committee cannot but be strongly concerned about the place where the floating oyster restaurant is planned to be relocated: even though it would be in the buffer zone, the floating restaurant is going to come closer to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome), and although it may be on the opposite bank of the river, this is still just aside the Peace Memorial Park, on the left bank of the river, where there are great numbers of memorial monuments.

This is why we think that before a final decision is made, it is necessary to hold fair and thorough discussions that involve a greater part of citizens as well as victims of the atomic bomb.

In the past years, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome) has become a place that great numbers of foreign tourists visit, and the Memorial's role as a source of information and a place to visit under the theme of world peace is highly valued throughout the world.

Therefore, we deem it is essential that this issue be dealt under a global viewpoint as well as a multilateral, international awareness.

Be assured that the Japan ICOMOS National Committee will spare no effort to cooperate and keep supporting your city in its endeavor to enhance the value of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome).

Thank you for considering our request. Your understanding and consideration of our concern in dealing with this matter are greatly appreciated.

Japan ICOMOS National Committee  
President, Yukio Nishimura