

Announcing an International Conference to Address
The Marshall Islands' Nuclear Legacy:
“Charting a Journey Toward Justice”
March 1-2, 2017, in Majuro

As the part of the annual commemoration of Nuclear Victims Remembrance Day, the Republic of the Marshall Islands will host an international conference in Majuro on Wednesday and Thursday, March 1 and 2, 2017.

By law, March 1st of every year is recognized throughout the nation as an official holiday to honor all those who were affected by the nuclear weapons testing program conducted on the lands and in the waters and skies of the Marshall Islands. The date commemorates the infamous BRAVO hydrogen bomb detonated at Bikini on March 1, 1954. The second thermonuclear H-bomb in history, it was the most powerful weapon ever detonated by the U.S. and radioactive fallout from the massive blast blanketed Rongelap, Utrik, and other northern atolls and created significant levels of radiation at every atoll.

But the nuclear legacy of the Marshall Islands dates back even further, to early March 1946 when the people of Bikini were moved from their atoll by the U.S. military in preparation for Operation Crossroads. Less than one year after the atomic bombs were dropped over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the world's fourth and fifth such weapons were detonated at Bikini. The second of those two devices, an underwater shot codenamed Baker, created what one knowledgeable expert called the world's first nuclear disaster.

The conference is expected to feature a variety of activities designed to inform and create awareness among Marshall Islanders, between those who will participate, and for the world public at large. It will include presentations and guest lectures, seminars, panel discussions, and various displays, exhibits, demonstrations, and side events as may be arranged. Depending upon the number of confirmed participants and activities, consideration will be given to extending the conference into Friday, March 3rd.

Expressions of interest in participating in the conference and abstracts of proposed papers or presentations are requested and will be accepted through Friday, December 30, 2016. Such submissions or any inquiries about the conference may be made by email to nuclearlegacyconference@gmail.com.