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Title: Geri Handa Interview  
Narrator: Geri Handa  
Interviewer: Naoko Wake  
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<Begin Segment 13>

GH: So, there's more than just the *hibakusha*, I mean, who . . . and of course there are *hibakusha* in Japan. And, and then who also live in, you know, South America and also in Korea and, you know. So there's more than just the American *hibakusha*, and, and so, I think that's why the commitment is, for the Japanese is that they will go and serve *hibakusha* wherever they are. But I think, you have to go with what you have, right now, and so we just work with what we have right now. Otherwise, the frustration of trying to get, everyone is trying to get something, and right now, all the governments are actually in a bind in terms of money. And so, I think, that's how I probably would answer that. You work with what you have right now, and I think what we have is, we're so fortunate to have. I mean, I was amazed at what the Japanese government has still committed to providing these kinds of services.

NW: Right, yeah. In a way, like you said, given the economy, right now, it's amazing that they're doing it. But, uh, again, correct me if I'm wrong, but my understanding is that Japanese government really needed to take a long time before they started to pay compensation for *hibakushas* overseas. My understanding is that, you know, for Koreans living in Japan, there was a compensation a long time ago, but for Koreans living in Korea, that was another matter. The same thing applies to American *hibakushas*, right? So it's really recent that the Japanese government actually started to pay, and even though the medical checkups were supported by the medical associations rather than the Japanese government.

GH: Right, right. So even though it takes a long time, eventually, something will happen. And so thanks to the commitment of the Hiroshima Professional Medical Association, and to the, that's what it takes. It takes sometimes forever to get anything done. But the commitment was there. And so over time, people see that commitment and they see the need, so if you can stick with it, eventually something will happen.

NW: So, it's important to stick with it and continue, keep on going, keep on going, just like you got funding for community works you did, first it was without funding, but later on there was a support.

GH: To keep going, it is important to stick with it, to continue with it and that's . . . and what keeps you going is you know that it's important and so you committed to doing it and finding others who also share that same commitment and then you continue to do it.

NW: Right.

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