While visiting Nagasaki, Japan, in August 2015, CTBTO Executive Secretary Lassina Zerbo met Makoto Takahara, a “Hibakusha” from Hiroshima. Takahara was 17 when his city was devastated by the bomb dropped on 6 August 1945 and is one of an estimated 190,000 remaining survivors whose average age is now 80 years old.

The “Hibakusha” are the surviving victims of the atomic bombs which fell on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. While these individuals survived the immediate effects of the blasts, they have suffered from the effects of radiation sickness, loss of family and friends, and discrimination. In spite of their difficulties, many Hibakusha have been shining examples of turning their personal tragedies into a struggle to promote peace and to create a world free of nuclear weapons.

Sophie Guillon (Geotop Research Centre in Geochemistry and Geodynamics, Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada) was awarded the Young Scientist award for Variability in Subsurface Gas Transport in the Light of Field Experiments and Numerical Modelling (S. Guillon, E. Pili, F. Barbecot, C. Carrigan).


Walter Dekin (Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, CA, USA) gave the best oral presentation, entitled Understanding the Challenges of On Site Inspection Drilling to Safely Recover Relevant Radiological Samples from an Underground Nuclear Explosion.

Munkhsaikhan Adiya (Seismological Department, Institute of Astronomy and Geophysics, Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia) was awarded the European Union Star Award for Seismic Swarm near the Capital of Mongolia Investigated Using Double Difference Tomography (M. Adiya, A. Schlupp, C. Durbath, M. Calo, U. Munkhuu).