

Statement of support



My grandfather, Shigeru Doi, worked as a young doctor at the Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital during the Second World War. On August 6, 1945, just as the USA dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, he had left his countryside home to embark on his weekly commute to work. He only returned home ten days later, but never spoke about his experiences.

In my documentary film „The Day the Sun Fell “ I embark on a journey to my grandfather’ s past. I started filming in April 2010, one year before the catastrophe of Fukushima happened. When I saw on Swiss TV, how the nuclear facilities exploded, I felt as if I was witnessing history repeating itself. But at that moment, I didn’ t know yet, in what sense it was repeating. It was just a feeling.

Later, during my intensive research and while spending a lot of time with my protagonists Dr. Shuntaro Hida, Chizuko Uchida and my grandmother and observing how society and politics were dealing with the new catastrophe I realized more and more, where the repetition was lying: What reminded me strongly of Hiroshima was the silence that was kept about the true consequences of the radiation. Not only politics were and still are trying to suppress the truth; a considerable majority of citizens as well prefer to turn away from the urgent questions and escape to a supposedly normal life. Trying to forget and move on is a very human and well understandable trait.

But the protagonists of my film taught me that it is important to take responsibility, each and every one of us. It is not only to blame the politicians but each single citizen should fight for a safer future, for the sake of our children and grandchildren.

That’ s why I wholeheartedly support the Preserving Deciduous Teeth Network as it does very important work by collecting data that will help evaluate the real situation of radiation in Japan. It is of utmost importance, that Japanese citizens who were affected by the Fukushima catastrophe will have data in the future to prove that they have been irradiated and as a consequence eventually became sick. Many victims of Hiroshima were lacking such proof and ended unrecognized and neglected by the authorities. At least this tragic aspect should not be repeated!

June 4, 2017 – Aya Domenig, Director of „The Day the Sun Fell “