

Muse no. 6: Japanese Network of Museums for Peace

Newsletter: December 2001

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Head Office of the Network Moved to Kyoto

The conference of Japanese Network of Museums for Peace (JNMP) was held on November 18 at Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan University, in Kyoto. It was when the conference of Peace Studies Association of Japan was held there. It was the first conference since the JNMP was founded in December, 1998 when the third International Conference was held in Osaka and Kyoto.

First Mr. Shigeo Nishimori, the director of Grassroots House, reported his work for the JNMP as the coordinator and made a financial report.

As for the future, it was decided as follows.

(1) In regard to the character of the JNMP, it would continue to be an organization of individuals such as directors, people who want to make a peace museum, peace researchers and so forth, not an organization where peace museums belong to as a body. This is because it is much easier to work together.

(2) We will exchange publications such as newsletters.

(3) A meeting will be held once a year. The next meeting will be held in Yamanashi in August, 2002 when the national symposium on Preserving War Remains will be held.

(4) The head office of Japanese Network of Museums for Peace will be moved from Grassroots House to Kyoto Museum for World Peace. Mr. Masahiko Yamabe, the curator of Kyoto Museum for World Peace, will be in charge of the head office.

(5) As for the *Muse* newsletter, Ms Kazuyo Yamane will continue to work as the editor as a volunteer. This newsletter will be published in Kyoto from December, 2001.

(6) The deficit will be made up by donations and collecting the subscription fee of the *Muse*. (It is sent abroad for free.)

We had exchanges of opinions among directors and peace researchers from peace museums and peace-related museums such as Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Holocaust Education Center, The Display House of the 5th Lucky Dragon, Grassroots House, Maruki Gallery, Children Center for Peace & Human Rights, Osaka, Peace Museum in Nagano, Museum Perang Pasifik in Iwate,



Association of Recording Air Raids in

Kasugai, people who are planning to make a Center of War Documentation for Peace, Tokyo and so forth. (Masahiko Yamabe)

The 8th Conference of Association of Japanese Museums for Peace

The 8th Conference of Association of Japanese Museums for Peace was held on November 14th and 15th at Osaka International Peace Center. All the nine members attended it such as Kyoto Museums for World Peace, Hiroshima Peace memorial Museum, Osaka International Peace Center, Kanagawa Plaza for Global Citizenship, Kawasaki Peace museum, Peace museum of Saitama, Takamatsu Civic Culture Center/ Peace Memorial Museum, Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum and Okinawa Prefecture Peace Memorial Museum.

Two subjects were discussed.

- (1) A Homepage of the Association of Japanese Museums for Peace will be made in the future. Homepages of the members will be linked together.
- (2) The members will exchange information on special exhibition that will be held in a few years.

Each member made a report of its activities: the study based on experiences, supporting pupils in "Comprehensive Study" of elementary schools, manuals of teaching materials for students, peace studies project, the standard of choosing materials, the evaluation of materials, the situation of the preservation of materials, the income increase, the reduction of expenses and so forth. (Masahiko Yamabe)

Peace Museums discussed at the Conference of Peace Studies Association of Japan

The conference of Peace Studies Association of Japan was held on November 17th and 18th at Kyoto Museum for World Peace. There was the session on peace museums.

There were two reports on peace museums.

- (1) Mr. Masahiko Yamabe, the curator of Kyoto Museum for World Peace talked about some criticism and attacks against exhibits on Japan's aggression during World War II by nationalists. For example, right-wing propaganda trucks are used to threat curators so that they wouldn't make an exhibition on Japan's aggression during the war. Right-wing journalists wrote articles criticizing those exhibits. However, grassroots movement plays a great role to show the agony of war and the importance of peace at peace museums.
- (2) Professor Hideo Fujita (the Display House of the 5th Lucky Dragon) talked about the roles of peace museums and some problems to be solved. There are three roles of peace museums.
 - ① It is easy to use a peace museum for peace education.
 - ② A peace museum contributes to creating feelings against war and nuclear weapons.
 - ③ It promotes peace education at schools, community centers and so forth by educating and training teachers and staff members.

Problems to be solved are war museums that glorify war, attacks on the exhibits of Japan's aggression, the reduction of the budget for public peace museums, whether people are educated to work for peace at peace museums, violence in media and computer games, the lack of information on the third world such as Afghanistan, whether a peace museum plays the role as a peace center like Grassroots House and so forth.

Professor Ikuro Anzai was the chairman and Professor Toshifumi Murakami was the

commentator. There were many participants who were interested in peace museums.

News on Museums for Peace in Japan

Peace Museum of Saitama

1. Exhibition

(1) **Exhibition of war-related materials donated by citizens** in 2000 from April 24th to June 24th. A letter of appreciation was handed to donors on May 26th.

(2) **War in Japan through paintings:** Artists were encouraged to record war by painting during the war. The paintings played a big part in glorifying war. These paintings, children's paintings, posters used during the war and postcards were exhibited so that people would understand the wartime and peace. It was exhibited from July 24th to August 31st.

(3) **Artists and writers evacuated to Saitama:** there were poets, artists, and novelists who evacuated from Tokyo to Saitama since 1944. Their works and related-materials were exhibited from October 23rd to December 2nd with the cooperation of Saitama Museum of Literature and Modern Art Museum.

2. Meeting on war experiences

A man who experienced the battle in Okinawa gave a talk on June 17th.

A man who experienced the U.S. air raid in Tokyo gave a talk on March 10th.

3. **Films** were shown as life-long education in April, June, July, September and October. For example, films on the atomic bombs and "Farewell to Arms" by Hemingway.

4. **People having War experiences videotaped:** It was started in 1992, and 160 men and

women were videotaped and they are used by many visitors.

Kanagawa Plaza for Global Citizenship

1. **Photo exhibition in Asia and the Pacific area:** The winning photos at the photo contest by UNESCO were exhibited under the theme of "Peace: beyond differences" from July 20th to August 20th.

2. Exhibition of 21st Century Humanity in Nature: "Living on a Beautiful Earth" was held from September 29th to October 14th. They were exhibited at the United Nations in 2000. The purpose was to think about **the earth in the 21st century** through comics.

3. Exhibition of Picture Books called "Hello, Dear Enemy": the purpose is to educate children folly of war and the importance of tolerance and cultivate a love of peace.

Photos by Tsutomu Hayami in the third world were also exhibited in order to inform the environment and human rights of the children from February 26th to March 10th.

Kawasaki Peace Museum

The role of NGOs for peace keeping were exhibited as well as drug issues.

Films are shown on the second Saturday every month so that children and their parents will think of the importance of peace.

Kyoto Museum for World Peace

World News Photograph exhibition was held from September 27th to October 21st. They are winning photos at the contest of news photos by the Dutch Foundation.

Children's paintings in Viet Nam were exhibited from October 26th to November 15th.

They are kept at War Remnants Museum in Hochiminh City, Viet Nam.

Conference of Haiku against the Atomic Bombs was held on September 2nd.

CD-ROM of Kyoto Museum for World Peace

It is possible to see Kyoto Museum for World Peace through the CD-ROM. It can be used at community libraries and school libraries.

The price is 9500 yen and it is in Japanese. It was made by Iwanami Shoten.

<http://www.iwanami.co.jp/>

Osaka International Peace Center

Photo exhibition on Family was held from July 10th to 22nd. They are winning photos at the world photo contest by the UNESCO. Warm human relation in family is the base of the promotion of a culture of peace. The purpose is to search for the peaceful world through wonderful family and various cultures.

There was **the Exhibition for the 21st Century** from August 1st to October 14th. First there were exhibits on current issues in the world such as (1) regional conflicts and refugees, (2) poverty and children, (3) environmental issues and (4) nuclear threat. UNICEF and UNHCR were introduced to make visitors think themselves as global citizens. Twelve peace messages by children were also exhibited. There had been a contest of peace messages for children aged 9 to 15 years old, and 2002 children applied.

Photo exhibition in Asia and the Pacific area:

The winning photos at the photo contest by UNESCO were exhibited under the theme of "Peace: beyond differences" from October 23rd to November 25th.

Lectures on Peace Studies started in September. The first lecture was given by Dr. Hiroyasu Miyasato on September 15th. He talked about his experiences of helping **refugees in Thailand** as a doctor for one year. He is a member of Doctors without the Border.

The second lecture was given by Ms Youko Kitazawa who talked about the present world from her viewpoint, and **globalization and peace** on September 29th. She was elected as the President of Peace Studies Association of Japan in November.

Concert was held on December 1st. Sung were **Songs before, during and after World War II** to reflect on the social background of the songs and to renew people's wish for peace.

Takamatsu Civic Culture Center / Peace Memorial Museum

The exhibition on the air raids on Takamatsu was held from July 3rd to 8th. They were photos on the damages after the air raids. People who had actually experienced the air raid drew pictures. They appealed to visitors because the paintings showed the misery of war and the preciousness of peace.

War-related articles donated by citizens were exhibited from July 30th to August 3rd. Citizens have been asked to donate such articles.

A junior high school boy wrote his impression as follows: "I came to see the exhibition because I wanted to know about my town. I was very sorry to know that hundreds of people were killed by the U.S. air raids in my town. There will be a few people who experienced the air raid, so we should pass such experiences to the next generation. I think it was good to know

the past at the peace museum. (Newsletter No. 4 published in October)

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

The 56th anniversary of the atomic bombing was held on August 6th at Peace Memorial Park. Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba of Hiroshima City made a speech and declared that people of Hiroshima would do their best to make the 21st century peaceful and humane. He also said that they would make efforts to start a course of **lectures on Hiroshima and Nagasaki at major universities in the world** according to *Peace Culture* No. 142 published on September 1st.

Children's peace messages were exhibited from August 1st to 31st. There were 1810 applicants of "My Peace Declaration": 1155 essays, 340 paintings and also poetry including haiku. About eighty percent was teenager paintings and also poetry and haiku. About eighty percent was teenagers. Most of the peace messages were put into a box at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. Essays and poetry call for the abolition of nuclear weapons. People surrounding the earth are painted in a picture, for example. Children's strong wish for peace is well expressed in their works.

The 5th Conference of Mayors for Peace was held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki from August 4th to 9th. 200 mayors attended it from 105 cities in twenty-eight countries. The theme was "Aiming at the Reconciliation between Human Beings and Science & Technology in Order to Survive in the 21st Century". Hiroshima and Nagasaki Appeal was adopted declaring their efforts to make the 21st century humane so that all life will be respected.

The 47th Peace Art Exhibition was held at Hiroshima Kenmin Culture Center from August 2nd to 7th. Paintings, calligraphy,

flower arrangement, photographs, sculpture and so forth were exhibited. There were art works from abroad also.

The exhibition called "Sadako and Folded Cranes" has been held since July 19th and it will be continued until December 16th. Sadako Sasaki was exposed to radiation when she was two years old and passed away when she was twelve. Her photos and a folded crane that she could not finish are exhibited. There are also exhibits on the social situation in Hiroshima in 1955 when she passed away.

There is also the exhibition on Children's Peace Monument whose model is Sadako. The exhibits show how the story of Sadako and folded cranes spread in the world. Sadako's story has been disseminated through picture books, stories and drama in fifty-two countries as of May, 2001.

There is also a place for the exhibition of folded cranes sent from various places and also a place where visitors can write their messages for peace.

It is possible to see exhibits in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum through the Internet. The homepage is as follows:

<http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/peacesite/>

Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum

Paintings drawn by atomic bomb victims were exhibited to show the aftermath of the atomic bombing from May 9th to September 2nd.

Photo exhibition by H. J. Peterson has been exhibited since September. He came to Japan to investigate damages done by the atomic bombs.

There were exhibitions in other prefectures such as Hyogo, Iwate and Kanagawa prefecture where people don't have a chance to know the atomic bomb issue, especially for young people who have no experiences of war so that they would be able to know the horror of nuclear weapons and the importance of peace.

Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum

There are about 13000 exhibits on Okinawa battle. Some precious materials were exhibited from October 2nd to November 30th. People were asked to cooperate with the collection of materials used during World War II.

There have been exhibitions on Okinawa battle, the international understanding, human rights and peace for children since June.

Maruki Gallery

Mr. Ichiro Hariu, the director, gave a lecture on Iri Maruki on July 8th. There was also a lecture on Mr. & Mrs. Maruki on August 5th. A film on Minamata was also shown.

(Minamata city is in Kumamoto of Kyushu and many people got sick eating fish contaminated with mercury drained from chemical factories in the 1950s. Victims were drawn in Maruki's paintings.)

<http://www.aya.or.jp/marukimsn/marukimsn@aya.or.jp>

Yuki no Shita (Strawberry Geranium) Peace Culture Museum Opened

It was opened on November 23rd. First, there was nothing except hope and passion, according to the newsletter No. 119. Exhibits were collected for fifty years and they are exhibited now. It is possible to know the air raids on Fukui, local culture and grassroots movement for peace.

An old textile factory building was donated by Mr. Sakae Kurita and it was repaired to be used as a peace museum. There are about 20,000 exhibits related to war damages from Hokkaido to Okinawa. There is an old hood to protect the head of a child who was killed at the U.S. air raids. Mother donated it because she couldn't throw it away.

Strawberry geranium doesn't wither even in the snow and white flowers bloom in summer. Though there was a hard time like a Red purge against Mr. Tadao Kato, the director, the peace museum was opened because of Grassroots support.

It is impressive to know that the newsletter called "Yuki no Shita" has been published since 1951 when Korean War was going on. The old issues are kept at the Diet Library and Kyoto Museum for World Peace, but the problem is that all the newsletters are not put in order yet.

According to Mr. Tadao Kato, a peace museum is not a place simply for preserving articles related to the past. It should be the base for creating peace in the future.

Children Center for Peace & Human Rights, Osaka

Textbooks edited by Association of Making New History Textbooks passed the government's screening on April 3rd. There have been many requests for panels on school textbooks for the exhibition and also lectures on this issue. Though nationalistic school textbooks were made, there has been strong protest against using them by teachers and citizens. There are a few schools where such textbooks will be used in the future.

It is possible to know Asian places worth visiting that are related to Japan's aggression and have not been introduced in Japan according to its newsletter called *Grassroots* No. 15.

Pacific Ocean War History Museum, Iwate

It became possible for the Japanese family of the deceased to receive former soldiers' remains in West New Guinea after carrying on negotiations with people living there. There are still problems that should have been solved soon after World War II. People in the museum have been trying to deal with such issues.

History and Ethnic Museum in Sendai, Miyagi

A study meeting is held by the Association to think Modern History in Miyagi according to newsletter No. 14. It is pointed out that it was virtue for Japanese soldiers to die during World War II, and they were made to believe that they would be a divine being if they were killed in action. Such an idea made it possible for young soldiers to be sent as a suicide squad during the war. Recent dangerous situation of nationalistic history textbooks were also discussed.

Korai Museum Opened

Korai Museum was opened on December 7th in Tokyo. The plan of making the museum was made ten years ago in order to convey the history of exchanges between Japan and Korea and also the history of Koreans living in Japan. A room at a building in Shinjuku, Tokyo, was donated by a Korean businessman living in Japan. The details were decided on September 8th.

It will be open from 13:00 to 19:00 and closed on Tuesday. As for Friday, it will be open from 13:00 to 20:00.

Four directors went to Korea to inform Korean people of their activities in Japan. They visited national Central Museum and National Folk Museum and asked Koreans to offer information to Korai Museum in the future.

According to newsletter published on October 1st, they had a press conference in Seoul and thirteen reporters came from different newspaper agency. The plan of opening Korai Museum was warmly welcomed because the relation between Japan and Korea has been strained. It is because Japanese school textbooks are getting nationalistic and historical facts on Korea were not written. Prime Minister Koizumi's visit of Yasukuni Shrine in August also caused bad feelings among Koreans because war criminals are glorified there.

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<http://business1.plala.or.jp/korai/>

Grassroots House, Kochi

Peace Concert was held on October 7th and November 23rd downtown. It was called "Let's Make All the Weapons (buki in Japanese) Musical Instruments (gakki)". If you know Japanese, you'll notice the interesting end rhyme. They were held to protest against the U.S. war against Afghanistan because they believed that force should not be used to solve the problem of terrorism. They were held at a park downtown and twenty-two musicians attended it. It was very nice to have peace messages from abroad. Their messages were exhibited at the park and people enjoyed reading them.

Photo panels on Japan's aggression, especially the germ war, have been exhibited at Kochi Citizens' Library since November 30th. The purpose is to inform people of the reality of the germ war conducted by Japan against China and Japanese support of Chinese who filed a suit against Japan for the apology and the compensation for damages during WWI.

Kochi Liberty and People's Rights Museum

The exhibition on Japanese soldiers who came back from Siberia and other Asian nations after the war was held by Kochi City and Kochi Board of Education. There were 1,396,468 Japanese who returned to Japan. It was possible to see the reality of Japan's aggression through photos and paintings.

Tokyo Holocaust Education Resource Center

There was the exhibition of "Holocaust Seen by Children" from March 2nd to May 30th. A bag of Hanna Brady was one of them. When it was sent to the center from Auschwitz Museum, nothing was clear except her name and birthday. Later, it was found that she had a brother living in Canada. Hanna was killed at a concentration camp when she was thirteen. His brother had been looking for her bag, and he was very surprised to know that it was in Japan. He visited the center in March.

105 Empire Coop, 28 Daikyoku Town,
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0015
Tel: +81-03-5363-4808. Fax: +81-3-5363-4809
E-mail: Holocaust@Tokyo.email.ne.jp
Website: www.ne.jp/asahi/holocaust/Tokyo/

Holocaust Museum in Hiroshima

People went to Chiune Sugihara Memorial in Gifu Prefecture according to Newsletter No. 8. He saved Jewish people during World War II as

a Japanese diplomat in Lithuania and lost his job. There is English newsletter also.

<http://www.urban.ne.jp/home/hecipn>
hecipn@urban.ne.jp

German Museum in Naruto, Tokushima

About 1000 German prisoners of war were put into a concentration camp in Tokushima Prefecture from 1917 to 1920. German prisoners of war had a hard time in Japan though there is one exception called Bando Camp. Music, drama, sports, lectures, gardening, stockbreeding, confectionery, construction and publication of newspaper and books were possible. Beethoven's symphony No.9 was played for the first time in Japan and it spread all over Japan. Common people enjoy singing it in German even today.

The museum was built in 1972. Newsletter called Ruhe started to be published in September.

55-2 Higashi Yamada, Hinoki Aza, Ooasa-cho,
Naruto City, Tokushima Prefecture 779-0225
Tel: 088-689-0099. Fax: 088-689-0909

War Museum for Soldiers and the Common People, Fukuoka

The Buddhist memorial service was held on July 17th to console the spirit of the dead regardless of the enemy and pray for peace.

It is impressive to know that Mr. Shinichi Taketomi Taketomi will work for the museum that his father, Mr. Tomio Taketomi aged 83, founded. There are about 2000 articles such as soldier's uniform, letters and posters glorifying war. It is possible for children to touch them and learn the past. There are about 300 people from all over Japan to visit there. Mr. Shinichi Taketomi said, "I have no experience of war, and I don't know what to do. But I want to talk about war to children using

exhibits.” according to Asahi Newspaper dated on January 5th.

Oka Masaharu Memorial Peace Museum, Nagasaki

Chinese witnesses of Japan’s aggression gave a speech on July 12th according to the newsletter No. 29. There will be a meeting where Chinese people will talk about Nanking Massacre on December 8th. The museum plays an important role to teach Japanese people about historical facts, especially Japan’s aggression during World War II.

<http://www/d3.dion.ne.jp/~okakinen>

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Peace Museum Projects

The following is news on activities for the plans to make peace museums in the future.

Shizuoka Peace Center

Good news is that Shizuoka Peace Center was introduced in junior high school’s secondary reader according to its newsletter No. 47.

Exhibition on Hibakusha in the World was held from October 5th to November 4th. Visitors were shocked to see a photo of a girl’s weary expression in Iraq. It is said that the number of children suffering from leukemia is increasing because of depleted uranium used during the Gulf War.

There are six photographers who have been taking photos of people suffering from damages done by nuclear weapons, nuclear tests and accidents at nuclear plants. They made the association to spread the photo exhibition of

“Hibakusha (victims of radiation sickness) in the World” until nuclear weapons are abolished.

Hibakusha is not only from Hiroshima and Nagasaki. There are about 70.000 Koreans who are victims of the atomic bombs according to Mr. Takashi Ito, one of the six photographers. People in the Marshall Island are also victims of radiation. It is shocking to see a photo showing that nuclear waste was dumped into the Japan Sea by Russia in 1993 because we, the Japanese, eat fish. The photos show victims in nuclear test site in Nevada and Australia, radiation-contaminated area near mining spots of uranium and nuclear plants according to newsletter No. 48 published on November 1st.

Stamps on War & Peace have been exhibited in various parts of Japan. It is an interesting idea to collect such stamps and make an exhibition.

Raising funds by recycling used books is also a good idea. People brought used books and they were sold on September 29th and 30th. 20.000 yen was raised and it will be used to buy books for children.

<http://homepage2.nifty.com/shizuoka-heiwa>

e-mail: shizuoka-heiwa@nifty.com

Open on Friday, Saturday & Sunday from 10:00 to 16:30.

Photo Exhibition by Kikujiro Fukushima

“Japan: Poluted Islands. The Structure of the Destruction of Nature” was exhibited in Yanai City of Yamaguchi Prefecture in April.

The photo exhibition of “War Responsibility: 9000 people’s Testimonies” was exhibited in July. The photos show war victims taken after

the end of the war and make people think of war responsibility.

Photos of “Self-Defense Forces and Weapon Industry” were exhibited in July.

Fax: +81-820-23-1823

Making a Peace Museum in Yokohama

The members of the executive committee for making a peace museum in a red brick building asked the Mayor of Yokohama City to make a peace museum on May 29th that is the day when there were air raids by the U.S. bombers during World War II.

Fax: +81-045-241-4987

Peace Museum in Matsushiro, Nagano

There was Peace Festival on August 14th. The purpose is to inform citizens of the movement of making a peace museum, and to try to make a peaceful community including making a peace museum. It was the sixth time when the peace festival was held.

Both children and their parents went to see the air-raid shelter made for the headquarters of Japanese rulers during World War II.

<http://village.infoweb.ne.jp/^kibonoie>

kibonoie@mb.infoweb.ne.jp

Fax: +81-026-224-1761

Center of War Documentation for Peace, Tokyo

Mr. Katsumoto Saotome, a writer who has been active in creating a peace museum, talked about his experiences at the National Liaison Conference of Recording Air Raids and War Damages held in Tokyo on August 11th and 12th.

There is a tendency that people want to have a public peace museum. But it is hard to make an ideal one in case of a public peace museum. If it is a private peace museum, there is a financial problem, but there is much freedom of

exhibiting whatever it is. There is not so much pressure from nationalists as in the case of a public peace museum.

In case of Tokyo, people wanted to have a public peace museum. However, their wish was not realized and Edo Tokyo Museum (where the above conference was held) was made. The exhibition on the U.S. air raids in Tokyo and the damages is only a small part of the exhibits at the museum.

Such a story is similar in Kochi City. People worked hard to make a public peace museum, but the result was different: Kochi Liberty and Peoples' Rights Museum was made and it has no word of peace in the name. This is why Grassroots House, a private peace museum, was made by Mr. & Mrs. Shigeo Nishimori.

The story of making a peace museum in Tokyo was important especially for people who have been working hard to make a peace museum.

Other News

The 5th National Symposium on Preserving War-related Sites

The symposium was held at Kawasaki Peace Museum on August 4th and 5th. It was impressive to know high school students' activities to try to make a peace museum in Matsushiro, Nagano.

The National Liaison Conference of Recording Air Raids and War Damages

The conference was held at Edo Tokyo Museum on August 10th and 11th. Mr. Kazuhira Tatematsu, a writer, talked about recording. People exchanged information and opinions. It became possible to communicate with one another through the Internet.

Contact: Association of Recording Air Raids in Tokyo: Fax: +81-3-5683-3326 (Mr. Shimao Doki)

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Articles

The following is an article on museums in Japan and Germany.

Yasukuni Shrine and Split of War Memory in Japan by Professor Morio Minami of Aichi Kyouiku University

Split of War Memory

August 13, 2001, two days before the anniversary of the end of World War II for Japan, the Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi went and worshiped at Yasukuni Shrine (erected in 1869). About 2.5 million Japanese war dead, including Tojo Hideki and six other Japanese leaders during the wartime who had been executed as war criminals on December 23, 1948, were secretly enshrined together there in 1978. Facing hard criticism against his intention of the visit from inside and outside of Japan, the Prime Minister avoided the date of the anniversary. But that was not essential. The essential problem is naturally the fact that the Japanese Prime Minister worshipped all of Japanese war dead as "heroic dead" (in Japanese "eirei") . Before and after this incident there were many hard disputes about this all over Japan as well as in Korea and China. And this is not the first time. Disputes about Yasukuni Shrine or the way of commemoration of war dead have been continuing since WWII. That means the fact that there has been no consensus about this matter in Japan over a half century. Were the Japanese dead soldiers and officers heroes for defending their own country and for liberating Asian countries from American and European

colonial rule or were they cruel invaders and criminals? Although Prime Minister Murayama declared in 1994 that Japan did cause many Asian people unendurable pain and grief through Japanese invasions and colonial rules, public opinions about this question are badly split even today. And this split has been the most fundamental background in the scenes of war and peace museums in Japan.

Absence of National Museum of Modern Japanese History

We have no national history museum where histories of many wars are displayed since the beginning of modern Japan (Meiji era). There is one huge national history and folklore museum (since 1983) in Sakura city, Chiba prefecture near Tokyo. But this museum exhibits Japanese history only until the beginning of the Meiji era, just before the beginning of Japanese invasions against Asian countries at the end of the 19th century. And two years ago the first national museum ("Showa-kan") about World War II was erected in Tokyo near Yasukuni-Shrine and the Emperor's Palace. And this museum displays only the (hard) life of Japanese during and after the War. No photos of Japanese soldiers in battlefields in Asia and the Pacific, and naturally no photos of Asian victims killed by them or no photos of enemies.

Absence of War History in the Atomic Bomb Museum in Hiroshima

The most famous Japanese museum for foreign people is perhaps the Atomic Bomb Museum in Hiroshima (erected in 1955). We do not need to explain the importance of this museum that displays the menace and inhumanity of nuclear weapons with clinical accuracy. But for a long time there has been no exhibition about the war history. So visitors could not know at which stage of the

war the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and with which intentions the USA used the new bomb, etc. In 1995 the museum added some panels for the first time about the role of Hiroshima as a military center for invasions of Asian countries during the war. And at the same time some explanations about the aims of using an A-bomb on the side of the USA, i.e. not only to save many lives of American soldiers (and Japanese people), but also to test the new expensive bomb and to demonstrate its incredible power to the USSR for the sake of the post-war international political and military strategy of the USA.

Contrast between Nationalistic War Museums and Pacifistic Peace Museums since 1990's

As well known to many readers of this newsletter, in 1990's there have been erected many peace museums in Japanese cities, e.g. in Osaka, Kyoto, Kawasaki, Saitama, Sakai and many others. Among them Osaka International Peace Center (since 1991), Kyoto Museum for World Peace of Ritsumeikan University (since 1992) and Sakai City Peace and Human Rights Museum (since 1994) show not only Japanese casualties and damages through American air raids, but also casualties and damages caused through Japanese invasions and inhuman activities like Nanking Massacre and the 731 Unit for bacteriological warfare. On the other hand there have been many nationalistic war museums like Yushukan (erected 1881) in Yasukuni Shrine, Peace Museum for Kamikaze Pilots (since 1975 in Chiran, Kagoshima) for commemorating and praising of Kamikaze pilots and Kyoiku-Sankou-kan (since 1925) in the military base of Etajima (Hiroshima). Reconciliation between these two groups seems almost impossible.

Concept of New National Cemetery for the War Dead

During the disputes about the visit to Yasukuni Shrine Prime Minister Koizumi declared several times that the erection of a new national cemetery should be considered where many Japanese with various religious and political belief could visit and commemorate the war dead without disputes, and the Japanese Prime Minister can also visit with his foreign guests. Several leaders of the opposition parties also proposed it. But until now there has been no official meeting to discuss the concept of the new national cemetery. Those who support Yasukuni Shrine reject the proposal definitely. So we do not know now if the concept will be realized or not. It seems difficult to me. But if we discuss the concept of the new national cemetery for the war dead, I think we can learn many things from German experience in the long process for erection of the new national memorial for the war dead.

"Neue Wache", German National Memorial for the War Dead in Berlin

There are famous national cemeteries or memorials for the war dead in the world, e.g. Arlington national Cemetery near Washington, L'arc de triomphe in Paris, the memorial in Whitehall (London) and the memorial at the wall of Kremlin. But for a long time since WWII there was no national memorial or cemetery for the war dead in Germany like in Japan now. We know well that both countries had some important similar points in terms of the role in WWII. They concluded a military alliance with each other and they invaded other countries and they committed many inhuman war crimes (in each different way). So both countries could not praise their dead soldiers and officers in a traditional national memorial. And I think there is one more factor, i.e. a

pacifistic mainstream after WWII in Europe and Japan (not in the USA). In this situation there has been in Germany long discussions about the new way to commemorate the war dead since the beginning of 80's. And "Neue Wache" (erected in 1993) shows a new type of the national memorial for the war dead in two points, i.e. its pacifistic basic character and the variety of the object of commemoration. The pacifistic character we can find in the sculpture that stands at the center of this monument. The sculpture "Mutter mit totem Sohn (Mother with her dead son)" shows no militaristic character. And the artist Kaethe Kolwitz is well known through her antiwar activities after World War I. And before the sculpture we read the inscription: "DEN OPFERN VON KRIEG UND GEWALTHERRSCHAF (For victims of war and tyranny). As for the variety of those who are commemorated here, we can find them on one of two copperplates at the entrance. Not only German people, but also foreign people, and not only soldiers, but also civilians including German and European resistance fighters, and of course, victims of Holocaust and of other persecutions by Nazi, too. German soldiers are here one of many people to be commemorated and they do not stand in the center of them. And they are not praised as heroes, but mourned as victims of the war. (Even this new pacifistic memorial was severely criticized, e.g. as equalization of victims and perpetrators especially related to Holocaust. And after a long discussion again German Parliament decided to erect another national memorial for only murdered European Jews in Berlin in 1999.) If we discuss a proper way to commemorate the Japanese war dead, I think we can learn more lessons from this German new memorial than from nationalistic and traditional memorials like Arlington National Cemetery or L'arc de triomphe. We need not only a new national memorial or

cemetery, but also a new thinking of commemoration for the war dead, and we need to deny not only a religious deification like in Yasukuni Shrine, but also a traditional glorification of dead soldiers as heroes. And moreover, we need to show a clear standpoint that Japan criticizes its past invasions and colonial rules. Of course, as I mentioned, it will be difficult to reach a national consensus in this new way of commemoration in the split of war memory in Japan. But I think this is the only proper, and therefore possible way to commemorate the Japanese war dead.

Sensou to Kioku(War and Memory) by Morio Minami was published by Kohmura in Japanese in 2001. It is about Nazism and his visit of war monuments and memorial halls in Germany.

His e-mail: mminami@aeu.ac.jp

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The following is an article by Mr. Dylan Mathews who has worked for the Oxford Research Group since 1999. The article has no direct relation with peace museums, but it seems that a peace museum can play a big role in conflict prevention.

CONFLICT PREVENTION: THE ROLE OF THE 'UNOFFICIAL' SECTOR

The terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11th and the subsequent military campaign against Afghanistan are stark reminders that all too often violence is the preferred method for addressing conflict or grievance. Yet at the same time and notably at the recent EU summit in Gothenburg, there is a growing awareness of **need for new approaches to conflict prevention and**

resolution.

In Britain alone there are now 51 institutes analysing and publishing information in the area of conflict prevention and resolution. In addition to inter-governmental agencies working to prevent and mitigate conflict, there are now many NGOs competent in the field. However knowledge of what has actually 'worked' in the field especially from the 'unofficial' sector (NGOs, church & grassroots groups, individuals etc) – in the form of clear and accessible case studies – is still in very short supply. Most of the research from academic institutions focuses on theory and analysis of current conflicts, while the majority of practitioners – those who hold the knowledge of what has worked in the field – simply do not write up their experiences.

Preliminary research by Oxford Research Group attests to this problem. One conflict resolution expert and practitioner said 'We are more devoted to doing it [preventive diplomacy] than writing about it.' Another comment, this time from the head of one of the USA's largest conflict management NGOs sums up the problem. 'Reflecting on our work is something we do too little of and it helps to work with others who are interested in doing so. Having said that, we are much better at doing our work than in documenting what we have done.' If this is the response from people from well funded western NGOs, one can only imagine the problems faced by small, poorly funded organisations in developing countries.

This has serious implications for the policy making community and the conflict prevention field in general. A report commissioned by the US State Dept notes that the principle cause of the lack of accounts is 'largely a result of the fact that those directly involved have not

written up their experience...Ignoring cases of successful prevention can discourage efforts to attempt other preventive efforts.'

What is needed now

In order to raise awareness amongst government decision makers, conflict research institutions and the general public of the effectiveness of actual interventions in violent conflict situations by non state actors, Oxford Research Group is planning a series of four major research reports. Volume one, entitled **War Prevention Works: 50 stories of people resolving conflict** was published in September of this year and has been well received. Oxford Research Group is now looking for stories to feature in Vols 2 – 4 (see below)

Volume 2: Focusing on non-state actors which, while not necessarily working on the 'front line' of conflict, nevertheless have made a significant contribution to the prevention or resolution of a violent conflict. This will include organisations that provide training and capacity building to parties to a conflict, as well as certain advocacy and lobbying groups and influential think tanks .

Volume 3: Focusing on long term, deep conflict prevention. Here the emphasis is on work done by non state actors aiming to change attitudes which, left unchecked, can lead to escalating tensions and violence. In order to narrow down the field of potential case studies we will choose examples from countries that have recently experienced - or are still experiencing - violent conflict. A good example would be the Balkan Dialogue project of the Fridtjof Nansen Academy.

Volume 4: Focusing on less well known intra-state, inter-ethnic/religious/communal

conflicts around the world. As in Volume 1, the emphasis will be on work by organisations that addresses actual direct violent conflict or the threat of it. As such we will be focusing on people/organisations working on the 'front line' of conflict, to learn from their experiences. An example would be the work of the Burundi women's group 'Dushire Hamwe' which has helped reconcile bitterly divided communities.

Volume 5. A synthesis document, drawing together and analysing the learning that has been accumulated over the entire series. This will include specific policy recommendations.

Each volume will contain 40 – 50 case studies, each around 2000-2500 words long. Each case study will profile the intervention of one organisation in the field and will seek to highlight the tools and techniques used by the organisation in their work to help prevent, contain or resolve violent conflict.

If you know of any organisations or stories that merit inclusion in one of the above reports, please contact Dylan Mathews at Oxford Research Group on

org@oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk.

Tel: +44 (0)1865 242819

Fax: +44 (0)1865 794 652.

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[IFLAC International Conference, London](#)
[Royal National Hotel, Russell Square,](#)
[14 to 17 March 2002](#)

The Conference will bring together academicians, specialists, writers, poets, peace researchers, media, and women leaders, from a broad range of fields, to discuss the impact of the social dimensions of Conflict Resolution through cultural bridges, and its key roles in

the development, definition and construction of identity in the Middle East and in other conflicted areas.

IFLAC PAVE PEACE, The International Forum for the Culture and Literature of Peace, is a network of researchers, writers, poets, media, and intellectuals, working together to foster joint cooperation and understanding in the Middle East and in our global village.

adah@matav.net.il (Dr. Ada Aharoni)

<http://tx.technion.ac.il/~ada/home.html>

Publications

Publication Committee. *Kirameki no Tabi* (The Trip to Know Anne Frank). Yokohama. 2001. (In Japanese) 1,000 yen.

The book is about the trip to know Anne Frank in August. Contact Mrs. Machiyo Kurokawa 26-37 Higasigaoka, Nishi-ku, Yokohama City 220-0033 Japan

Apology

There is an article on China on page 13 of *Muse* No. 5. I'm sorry that "Mr. Shih Hsiao ming" is a mistake. Please correct it as Ms. Shih Hsiao ming. (Kazuyo Yamane)

Calender

A beautiful anti-nuclear calendar called "*Under the Sky in August*" 900 yen

Contact Ms Yuko Kimura: 2-840-102 Sadodai Nara-shi 630-8105 Japan

Tel/Fax: +81-742-71-1827

E-mail: yuko@fm2.seikyoku.ne.jp

Virtual Peace Museum

Disarmament is possible through art! Please open the homepage of the Bon International Center for Conversion.

<http://www.bicc.de/general/converart/preface.html>

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Pacifist in Japan: Masamu Yanase

Masamu Yanase was born in 1900 in Matsuyama, Ehime Prefecture, but moved to Kita Kyushu in 1911. He liked painting as a child and hoped to become a professional artist. After moving to Tokyo, he dreamt of studying painting, but was forced to train himself and develop his own style. Around 1920 he became active in the avant-garde art movement in Tokyo. Before long he joined the proletariat art movement, working as a designer of magazines, books and posters for the cultural movement. Meanwhile, he was hired by the Yomiuri Newspaper Company to draw cartoons and illustrations under the pen name of Hachiro Natsukawa. He also lent his skills to *Musansha Shinbun* (The Propertyless Peoples' Newspaper), making advertisement posters and drawing antiwar cartoons and satires concerning the politics of the day. After the antiwar newspaper was suppressed in 1932, Yanase returned to full-time work for the Yomiuri Newspaper Company, drawing political cartoons and continuing to attack the Fascist nature of contemporary politics in the country. From about 1938 on, however, such criticism was not allowed even from one of the nation's leading newspapers. Yanase was forced to give up political commentary entirely, and turned instead to drawing illustrations for an English-language magazine called "A Friend of Children" and painting landscapes. He died in an air raid in the Shinjuku area of Tokyo on May 25th, 1945.

(This is from a booklet published by Kyoto Museum for World Peace. Yanase's life is exhibited there.)



Editor's Notes

I hope you enjoyed reading *Muse* No. 6. Contact addresses that were introduced before are not written in this newsletter.

Last but not least, I'd like to express my gratitude to Mr. & Mrs. Shigeo Nishimori who worked hard to publish *Muse* from No. 1 to 5.

We Welcome Your Comments on this Newsletter.

We Wish You A Happy New Year!

With best wishes,

Kazuho Yamane
(KyYamane@ma1.seikyoku.ne.jp)
(one after ma)