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The Newsletter of NPO World Friendship Center  
8-10 Higashi Kan-on Machi, Nishi-ku, Hiroshima 733-0032, Japan  
Phone: (082) 503-3191 Fax: (082) 503-3179  
E-mail: [worldfriendshipcenter@gmail.com](mailto:worldfriendshipcenter@gmail.com)  
Website: <http://www.wfchiroshima.net/>  
Chairman: Hiromu Morishita      Directors: Larry & JoAnn Sims

## **World Friendship Center, Recipient of 2011 Partners in Service Award**



(Left to Right: Dan McFadden, Masako Kido. Back row: Lynn Llewellyn and former WFC Directors)

## **JoAnn Sims**

Each year the Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) recognizes an individual, project, or organization that has demonstrated exceptional commitment with BVS to share God's love through acts of service. The BVS staff was unanimous in selecting the World Friendship Center for this honor. The award was presented at the Brethren Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan on July 4, 2011. Masako Kido, a World Friendship Board Member (Riji), received the award with her husband, Lynn Llewellyn. They were visiting the USA and were pleased to accept the award on behalf of WFC. Masako's acceptance speech follows this introduction.

## **The Partners in Service Award**

### **Masako Kido**

My name is Masako Kido and my home is Hiroshima, Japan.

I have had the privilege of being a member of the World Friendship Center for over 45 years. Today, I have the honor of representing the WFC, and accepting on their behalf the Partners in Service Award presented by the Brethren Volunteer Service.

The partnership between our two organizations on behalf of world peace has been strong and rewarding. The BVS has kindly provided the directors for more than 25 years. I can not begin to tell you how much we appreciate the continuing support of the BVS. Without your guidance, wisdom and assistance, the WFC would not have been able to survive until today.

June 12<sup>th</sup> of this year would have been the 96<sup>th</sup> birthday of Barbara Reynolds, the founder of the World Friendship Center, and also special honorary citizen of Hiroshima. On that occasion, the center arranged a special ceremony and unveiled a beautiful monument in her honor. Many distinguished guests were present including both the past and current mayors of Hiroshima. The monument, itself, took over four years to be completed. I would like to describe it briefly to you.

The monument was erected on the south east side of Peace Memorial Park. Its design is very sophisticated and appealing. The front on the monument is white ceramic plate with Barbara's picture, and wonderful calligraphy by Hiromu Morishita, our WFC chairman. The white ceramic plate is placed in black stone. Both the American committee and Japanese board members proposed ideas for the words engraved of the monument. Everyone thought the inscription should represent the spirit of Barbara's peace activities and her desire for a better future. Those words are, first in Japanese and then English.

Watakushimo mata Hibakusha desu. Watakushino kokorowa itsumo  
Hibakusha, Hiroshima to tomoni arimasu.

I, too am a Hibakusha

Hibakusha- they are the inspiration for all my peace efforts. My heart  
is always with Hiroshima.

(For your information "Hibakusha" means "Atomic Bomb survivors")

I should also tell you that Barbara's daughter Jessica Renshaw, her husband, and her nephew, Anthony Reynolds, made a special trip from the United States to attend the unveiling of the monument. Jessica made a wonderful 15-minutes speech in Japanese for the event. I hope everyone in this audience will have the opportunity to come to Hiroshima and visit Barbara Reynolds's monument.

In closing, I again would like to thank the BVS for this marvelous award. In two weeks, I will carry this award back to Japan to share the honor with the other members of the WFC and all the people in Hiroshima. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

## **August 6, 2011 Commemoration in Hiroshima**

**Larry Sims**

August 6<sup>th</sup> is the day the city of Hiroshima remembers those who lost their lives when the Atomic Bomb destroyed the city and those in it. The city also remembers those survivors of the bombing who die each year. The ceremony serves to help renew efforts to create a peaceful world free from nuclear weapons.

Approaching the Peace Park on the day of the ceremony one is greeted by Cub Scouts who give out fresh flowers to present at the Cenotaph at the end of the ceremony. The ceremony itself is brief and consists of short speeches, choir performances and the release of doves which circle around the park. For many of those in attendance, however, the most meaningful and powerful time is the moment of silence at 8:15 – the time of the atomic bomb explosion 66 years ago. Eyes turn skyward as if watching for the fateful B-29 with its weapon of terror.

Following the ceremony, many from WFC join others at the newly dedicated Barbara Reynolds Monument for a brief WFC Choir performance.

Another highlight of the day's activities was listening to Goro Nishida's A-bomb Survivor Story. About 50 people gathered in the morning at WFC to continue this long-standing tradition. Included in the audience were students from Ritsumeikan University, American University, WFC Members and friends from the Hiroshima community. A special guest was Professor Atsushi Fujioka from Ritsumeikan University. The telling of these stories continues to be an important part of the WFC mission. Thank you Goro!

In the early evening, the WFC group returns to the Park to assemble and float candle-lit lanterns on the river. Each lantern has a hand-written message of hope for world peace.

The day was filled with memories for all and a renewed strength to continue work for a better world without nuclear weapons.

# My Participation in NARPI Summer Peace Training

Shaw Fujii WFC. Board Member



(2011 NARPI Summer Peace Training participants)

NARPI (Northeast Asia Regional Peacebuilding Institute) provides a peace education program in order to train peace activities at the grass-root level in north-east Asia including Japan.

I, as one of Steering Committee members representing WFC, participated in 2011 NARPI Summer Peace Training from August 20 to August 29, 2011. My participation helped me understand how the two week program is managed. Mr. Kentaro Yamamoto, university student at Hiroshima Shudo University, participated in the training. He applied for the program when he visited Seoul early in August.

I arrived at Seoul Youth Hostel , the training venue, on August 20, Attendance was 48 people from 11 countries including 20 administration team members who were facilitators (lecturers), staff members, and voluntary staff. Many participants made the training active and exciting.

The training course format was three classes each week for two weeks. The students choose their course. The first week (Aug16-20) was "Theory and Practice of Peace Education", "Understanding Conflict and Peace" , and "A Framework for Restorative Justice." The second week was "Historical and Cultural Stories of Peace", "Trauma Healing" and "Negotiation, Meditation, Dialogue". Each course lasted from 9am-5pm excluding lunch, for seven hours a day. The students enjoyed the classes including the lectures and the group work. English language was used in the classes. Most students faced a language communication gap. The administration team provided language support to help the Japanese and Korean students understand the lecture content.

Special lectures and cultural programs after the dinner provided an international arena promoting mutual understanding and fostering friendship between participants. A three hour field trip between the first and the second week was to visit "Nanumu house(House of Sharing)" ??where 15 comfort women live in the suburban area of Seoul. Since 60% of the students were women, they showed deep concern and sympathy toward the former comfort women.

The training venue called " Peace and Life Camp" for the second week was located in the DMZ (Divided Military Zone) close to the 38th degree. It is in natural surroundings, but military jeeps often pass on the road in front of the facilities with the military helicopters hovering in the sky once in a while.

The closing ceremony was on August 28. The students promised to maintain communication with each other on the internet and to meet again in Hiroshima in 2012.

My comments and observations:

- 1) It is surprising and significant that 48 people from Japan, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Mongol, Philippines India, the US and Canada) stayed and studied together under the peacebuilding program planned by the grass-root organization.
- 2) The two-week program including the productive and exciting classes and exchange activities plus satisfying accommodation and meals was worthy of the participation fee of US \$1300.



- 3) It is expected that the 2012 venue will be Hiroshima. Several issues, however, remain. The accommodation facility, price, transportation, and meals are issues because prices in Japan are high and the exchange rate between US dollars and yen is not favorable to overseas participants.



(2011 NARPI Summer Peace Training folks enjoying dance steps together)

## 2011 NARPI Summer Training

Kentaro Ymamoto (Shudo University)



(Working through the "Trigger" sessions at NARPI Peace Training)

I took part in summer training hosted by NARPI(Northeast Asia Regional Peacebuilding Institute) for about 2 weeks this summer. There were about 60 participants from 13 countries. I took part in the peace training session called, Trigger. I would like to share my opinions, ideas and questions about all of the participants and facilitators. In addition, I would like to study about the technology of how to create a peaceful world and make use of this experience in my future life.

The session was divided between the first week and second week. There were 3 courses each week and participants could choose the course which they were most interested in. I chose "A Framework for Restorative Justice" as the first week session and "Historical and Cultural Stories of Peace" as the second week session.

As for "A Framework for Restorative Justice" session, it was started to understand the process which happens in a crime and then how it is corrected. After that participants divided into 3 groups of offenders and victims. We discussed about each need or feeling that was present in the example case. Then I recognized how important it was to respect and listen to the voices of victims and offenders. Moreover, it is necessary to set up a forum for discussion and talking. Respecting every voice and need is not only important for crime but, it is also important in the conflict among social communities or people to people conflict. This will be one of the key points to resolve issues of conflict.

In the "Historical and Cultural Stories of Peace" session, I learned the most important thing about story for young generations is the experience of war or conflict. I connected this session to Hiroshima because how should young generations tell the story of Hibakusha when they have no experience. Unfortunately the number of Hibakusha are decreasing and decreasing because they are getting old. With this situation, even though the young generation has no experience we should tell the story in order to never repeat mistakes of the past. We discussed this issue and came up with some ideas. Finally, I realized that one of the ways to tell the story is with art work like pictures, drawing, and a monument. Every generation can easily understand what art work will show. In some cases, art work has a much stronger message than usual story telling. Somehow people get a strong impact from art work and it is long remembered. I



learned that art work has possibilities to tell young generations about the experience of war.

Through the NARPI summer session, I figured out that I must become more affirmative and think about peace more deeply and more widely. It is easy to say, peace is important and that we need to create a peaceful world. However, if I were asked what did you do to concretely create a more peaceful world; I would have had completely no idea. But now, after summer session with NARPI I learned two important things.

First, I must act for peace more concretely and affirmatively. Just not say peace is important. I realized we have many opportunities and possibilities to act for peace. I need to think, what can I do for peace concretely? Even though my efforts are little by little, I must act more concretely and always think and feel about peace in my life. I must not just say the words. I must work to help peace happen.

Second, looking at society, it is the time to wake up to strong citizen power. Citizen voices and citizen activities must create a better world. Perhaps we as citizens rely too much on government and we don't believe our voice or activity has strong power. But now, it is the time to wake up. As a Hiroshima citizen, as Japanese, and as a global citizen, every time I'm going to have questions on every aspect and be curious about everything. In addition, my human experience studying and learning at NARPI Summer Training tells me not to hesitate and to take action.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to take part in this session. I really appreciate all of the people who are related to NARPI summer session and the World Friendship Center.



(2011 NARPI Summer Peace Training participants)

## After Aftermath or Double Exposure

JoAnn Sims



(Helping elin install her artwork. L to R elin, Michiko, Madeleine, Ian, Kiriko)

The story of Hiroshima is about explosion, exposure, and endurance. The artist, elin o'hara Slavik, made arrangements to stay at the World Friendship Center to complete her latest series of photographs and cyanotypes (sun prints) for display at the Former Bank of Japan. Her exhibit was featured on the third floor of that building from September 17 through October 5. Elin also presented an evening lecture prior to the opening of her exhibit. She described her passion for peace and her belief that art can ignite interest, emotion, and action to important issues of the world. Certainly her exhibit entitled, *After Aftermath*, was a beautiful, simple, and powerful example of that belief.

Elin's work featured exposing Atomic bomb artifacts from the Peace Memorial Museum to sunlight on light sensitive paper. After the paper is exposed it is developed (the light sensitive paper is desensitized) and carefully dried. What remains is a bright blue background with a white "shadow" of the object that was laid on the light sensitive paper. Her exhibit also included large black and white photographs of rubbings she had done in historic parts of Hiroshima. The fuzzy white shadows on deep blue paper contrasted nicely with the black and white

textured rubbings featured in black and white photographs. Steve Leeper, Chairperson of the Peace Culture Foundation, who welcomed elin to Hiroshima, attended the Opening Ceremony. Michiko Yamane translated elin's remarks to an audience of about 35 people.

Using tape, pins, ladders, rope, and hammers the WFC directors, JoAnn and Larry Sims and several WFC members including Michiko Yamane, Kiriko Miyamoto, and Kentaro Yamamoto helped elin put up her exhibit. Then the WFC crew took it down at the close of the exhibit, boxed it up and mailed it back to elin in North Carolina, USA. We were pleased to help elin display her thoughtful artwork to the citizens of Hiroshima.

Elin's exhibit title, *After Aftermath*, dramatically displayed artifacts that had been once exposed to the Atomic bomb and then re-exposed to sunlight and photographic film. It was an experience of Double Exposure.



(Opening Ceremony Steve Leeper in center, elin on the right)

## Internship at World Friendship Center

Hiroshima Shudo University the English literature course

Hitomi Mito



(Left to Right: Hitomi Mito, Larry Sims, JoAnn Sims)

My internship term began in September 1<sup>st</sup>. I worked at World Friendship Center for 2 weeks until September 14. Nothing went the way it was supposed to. In fact, I wanted to go to work at Shudo University International Exchange Center. Then I discovered I was an only intern student at World Friendship Center this year. But I thought that this is a turn of fate and decided to work there. At first, it took everything I had just to keep up with Larry and JoAnn's discussions. My work and assignments included washing dishes, drying wet clothes, preparing the guest rooms, preparing breakfast for guest and so on. Every day, I attended morning and afternoon English Conversation Class. Although, this is not the type of work I was trained to do, I did it as well as staying overnight at the World Friendship Center so I could have a true guest experience. Before attending English classes, I read "The Phoenix and the Dove". Then I learned about the World Friendship Center and Barbara Reynolds from Larry and JoAnn, Directors.

Before interning at the World Friendship Center I knew that WFC provided accommodations for international visitors to Hiroshima and that it offers local community English conversation classes. However, I did not know very much about how I would learn about peace during my internship period. I didn't even



understand that the directors, Larry and JoAnn, volunteered their time. I think if there are more dedicated people such as Larry and JoAnn, who work for peace, then the World Friendship Center's activities will continue.

My time went very quickly. Thank you Larry and JoAnn and all of the WFC people for your kindness.

## **Ringling The Peace Bell**

### **Larry Sims**



(Larry Sims, WFC Director reviewing his speech before the August 15 ceremony)

August 15<sup>th</sup> is a date set aside to commemorate the beginning of Peace in 1945. On that date, the horrible war in the Pacific ended. In Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park on August 15, 2011, there was a gathering of members of the Hiroshima Association of United Nation Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, (UNESCO), guests, citizens and visitors to the park to remember that day. A similar ceremony was planned for Tokyo, Nagasaki, and many other cities throughout the world.

In Hiroshima, the gathering was small compared to the thousands present at the August 6<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the dropping of the atomic bomb. Those in attendance were hopeful for a future of peace and gathered around the Park's Peace Bell. The bell was crafted in 1964 and has some very significant and meaningful symbols on its surface as well as in its surroundings. Around the bell itself, the continents of the earth have been carved but no national borders are

shown. This design represents the artist's and Hiroshima's earnest hope that the world will become one in Peace. The wooden hammer is held by rope and strikes the bell on the symbol of an atom. The hammer striking this symbol represents the hope that one day all nuclear weapons will be eliminated from the earth. Opposite the wooden hammer is a mirror reflecting the true self of all who ring the bell. The bell is under a dome shaped roof symbolizing the universe. The bell is accessible from all four sides and has been placed in the center of a lotus pond. All are invited to strike the bell for peace. The lotus plants have been grown from 2,000-year-old seeds. In August the lotus blooms reminding us that the atomic bomb victims of 1945 tried to ease their pain by covering burns with lotus leaves.

On August 15, 2011 the ceremony included Peace Messages from Thailand, High School UNESCO Club members, and the World Friendship Center (WFC). Larry Sims, Co-Director of WFC, stated that WFC is "pleased to be a part of this community where world peace is a common goal. We join with many other organizations both here in Hiroshima and in the rest of the world to work for a conflict-free world. Our thanks goes out to these organizations as well as to the City of Hiroshima for being with us in our path to world peace."

At 12:00 noon there is a silent prayer for the victims of war and of the atomic bomb. Then Hiroshima UNESCO President, foreign guests, and invited High School students together tolled the Peace Bell three times.

As the sound of the bell moved across the Peace Park, it seemed to voice a prayer for a war-free, nuclear-free, and conflict-free world.



(Peace Bell hammer about to strike the Atom Symbol on the Peace Bell)

## Pe-a-ce-Lo-ve festival

### Asaka Watanabe

Although the rain poured down for two days, we had a chance to meet a great variety of people.

We sang three significant songs: a song from Kenji Miyazawa(*Hoshimegurino Uta*), a song in praise for life from Okinawa(*Tennokomoriuta-Warabi-Gami*) and a chorus about the spirit of Hiroshima(*Sekainoinochi-Hiroshimano kokoro*).

Our director, JoAnn Sims and a music teacher, Ms.Shinhara also read the poem "Unbeaten by Rain " by Kenji Miyazawa in English and Japanese. The executive chief of the festival, Mr. Makoto Yamamoto praised our music. I am eager to pass these songs down from generation to generation.

I had quite a splendid time and I appreciate all of the regards of "Peace and Love", sent by many people. I am grateful to Ms. Kobayashi. Her sign language accompanied our songs marvelously. The *origami* roses for peace made by Chiyoko were fabulous.

I sold sweets of Okinawa and loquat tea. Ms. Masuda had a booth with a donation box for the victims of the March 11<sup>th</sup> in Japan, not only that she had a petition against nuclear reactors and for people working in the nuclear field. In relation to that and her concern about the nuclear reactor in Iwai-jima, she was selling local products from Iwai-jima. We hope everyone will continue this responsibility in the future.

Ryoko Matsumoto who is an artist " Change all bombs on earth into fireworks " participated in the festival on the 29<sup>th</sup>. She drew wonderful caricatures. She created several portrait memories for families. These portraits will be commemorative. Larry, JoAnn, Masako Kido, Goro Nishida, Michiko Yamane, Kaori Kurumaji, Yoko Hirasue, Miho Ikeda, Yasuko Yamagata, Nobuko Morikawa and Chiyoko Ogura gave me fantastic support. I can not thank you all enough.



## **Mike Stern Concert Coming to World Friendship**

### **Center**

#### **JoAnn Sims**

In 2009 the WFC PAX team toured the USA, telling the story of Hiroshima and the stories of Hibakusha. The PAX team arrived in the Portland, Oregon area and stayed with current directors, Larry and JoAnn Sims. While in Oregon they appeared on a Public Television interview show, "Speaking Frankly", they spoke to a couple of classes at Linfield College, and shared their stories at a church gathering. A highlight of their visit was a Peace Concert at First Baptist Church in McMinnville, Oregon.

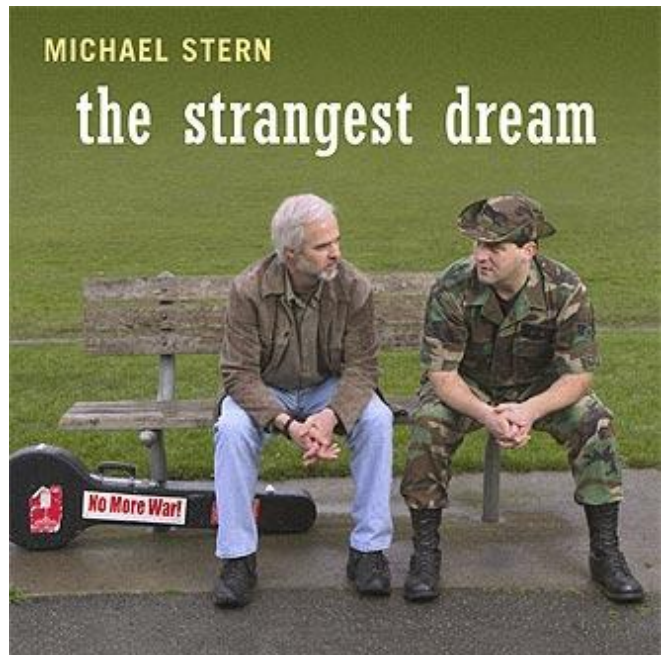
The concert included PAX members, Michiko Yamane and Asaka Watanabe. Asaka, who is the WFC choir director, sang several beautiful songs in her amazing soprano voice and Michiko read a couple of famous Japanese peace poems. The Peace Concert featured singer, songwriter, and peace activist, Mike Stern.

Mike Stern is well known along the West Coast of USA. He regularly performs at song and story festivals, religious & peace conferences, schools, churches, and organizations such as, Habitat for Humanity, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Hiroshima to Hope (event in Seattle), and the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America. Mike is passionate about peace and worked as a Brethren Volunteer Service worker. He also was a conscientious objector during the Viet Nam War.

David Horsey, a Pulitzer Prize winning columnist, describes Mike's ballad, "Fight No More Forever," and music as "melodic and moving... a reminder that peace and justice should be our highest moral values." Mike Stern accompanies his songs on the guitar, banjo, bass violin, and harmonica. He often inspires audiences to join in with their own voices.

During the Peace Concert in Oregon, Asaka was so moved by Mike's music she obtained one of his CD's. One of the songs, "Last Night I Had The Strangest Dream," is now a favorite song of the World Friendship Center Choir. Mike and Asaka were jointly impressed with each other's talent and music for Peace that

they shared during the Peace Concert. Asaka said at the time, "My dream is to have a joint concert with Mike in Hiroshima." **That dream has now come true!** Mike Stern and his wife, Carol, are arriving in Hiroshima the second week of April 2012. There is a large concert and several smaller outdoor concerts under the cherry blossoms being planned. This spring WFC will enjoy both beautiful music and cherry blossoms in Hiroshima. WFC invites you to join us at those concerts. You can also listen to samples of Mike Stern's music at [www.mikesongs.net](http://www.mikesongs.net)



(Mike Stern enjoying his songs at a US concert) (The cover of one of Mike Stern's CD Albums)

Mike songs website <http://www.mikesongs.net/strangest.html>

## Peace Camp

**Jim Ronald**

This year's Youth Peace Camp was held in Korea from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of August this summer. The camps were initiated by the Korean Anabaptist Center (KAC) in Korea, and supported by the Mennonite Central Committee. From the beginning KAC has been partnered by "Peace in China" in China (Wang Ying and friends) and the World Friendship Center in Hiroshima. The first two peace camps were held in the mountains in eastern Sichuan, and this year in Korea, near the east coast and not far from the North-South border. Next year, hopefully, Hiroshima!

Why have a peace camp for young people (aged 12 – 18) from China, Japan and Korea? One simple reason, in line with Barbara Reynolds' vision of peacebuilding, is simply that it brings young people together, helps develop friendships, and breaks down stereotypes and suspicions. This is especially important for the young people from these three countries, where there has been only superficial reconciliation following the conflicts of the last century. School history education and media representations have kept the bitter feelings alive in China, and also to some degree in Korea, while in Japan young people learn very little about the atrocities done in their country's name, and often just look down on their "poorer" neighbors. Through the peace camps, young people learn that we are all victims of war, they learn to forgive, and they learn to be active peacebuilders among their friends and families after the camp. As an illustration of what the peace camp can achieve and what it's for, here is part of an email that Vicky, a Chinese participant, sent to me last year:

"I know that there have been some conflicts between China and Japan lately. At times like this, it's really hard to be a peacemaker, because there are so many misunderstandings and hatred causing people to demonstrate in front of the Japanese embassy. I myself saw that scene with my own eyes! I might have been one of those people had I not participated in the peace camp two years ago. That's why it really hit me how fortunate I was to have participated in it and how much more the peace camp should be promoted. My brother, for example is one of those typical extreme people who hates anyone that comes from a country

that had invaded China before. I tried to persuade him to look at this globally-connected world with a new perspective, but he just couldn't hear any of my words. I really regretted to have not dragged him into participating in the peace camp."

This year, the WFC and WFC American committee members were able to provide financial support to allow four camp participants to join the peace camp: Ayaka Matsuo and Chihiro Fujimoto from Nagasaki, and Kaho Yokota and Miyu Sakata from Hiroshima. We were also very happy that two university students with a long-term commitment to peace, Maria Kutami in Hiroshima and Aya Ono in Nagasaki, were able to join the camp as counselors/big sisters. Finally, to all who helped in various ways to make this peace camp happen, from Yoon-seo Park and the KAC team, to the individuals and organizations that sponsored the participants, many many thanks!

## **After joining Peace Camp**

### **Maria Kutani**

I joined this Peace Camp in Korea as a counselor. Since I was a first year University student, Professor Jim, who is in charge of my seminar class, gave me a chance to participate in Peace activities. What impressed me the most was learning about achieving peace through a simple activity.

Small papers which had any one of three missions were handed to about 40 campers at random and we had to complete our own mission without talking to others. One mission was turning chairs upside down, another mission was making a circle with the chairs, and the last one was grouping them together in the corners of the room. All of us did not talk with anybody and tried to manage our own missions. There was a mix-up of people turning chairs upside down or getting them back, lining them in a circle or corners... However, even after we spent over 20 minutes, no one was making any constructive progress. Next time, we were allowed to talk with each other and were instructed to find a way of achieving all three missions combined. Then, although we were each working on individual separate missions, we could achieve a new totally compatible solution by putting chairs upside down in a circle and in the corner of the room by

cooperating together. Through this activity I could see what would happen in the world like an epitome if there were countries which had different agendas and thought only of accomplishing their missions without regard to others. At the same time, I found that if everybody thinks of others, that is, other countries, we would be able to figure out all of missions in the world at some stage.

In an outside activity , we had a game to locate about 20 individual points in the camp site with a partner from a different country. The pair that got back first would be the winner. My partner was a 15 year old Korean girl. Since we worked so well as a team, she and I could navigate as a team, even though the map was written only in Korean. Later, I was very grateful to another Korean girl who took me to the dispensary, as I was injured coming through the bush and briars during the game. Although she seemed shy and hesitant to speak to me in English, her kindness meant a great deal to me.

We were concentrating on what our partner's strategy might be much more than our somewhat limited ability to communicate in English. For example, she was concerned if I wanted to locate points starting at the center and working our way to the perimeter or if we wanted to spend time looking for hard to find sites. The game took place in the late evening and early darkness. It became increasingly difficult for us to navigate through the bushes so we held hands to keep from losing our partner in the darkness. We did an unbelievably large number of games, songs, and activities. Each of them had a purpose to do, but I learnt more than that. I found that to be a peace builder, it is really important to think of others. Next year, I will graduate and start working, but if there is any tiny possibility, I would love to join this camp again. Finally, we were supported by many people and groups so I would like to extend my appreciation to all of them. Thank you very much.

## **Kaho Yokota**

### **(Hiroshima) Itsukaichi High School third grade (18years old)**

The reason I joined the peace camp was because I was introduced to it by Jim sensei. But it was an entirely new experience for me because of the strong feeling of excitement and hopes looking forward to exchanges with Chinese and Koreans. But still I felt a little uneasy. And it took us a long time to calm down after the excitement. The first day, we went to Korea by ship. I continued to feel queasy on the way. Then the counselors took very good care of me. They were a great help to me. I think I was saved by the grace of the counselors and we arrived at Korea safely. After that I played games with Koreans, Chinese and Japanese.

On the second day, we enjoyed playing games and discussed about peace. When I had difficulties in talking in English, my teammates always helped me. It was good to share our opinions. Before we went to sleep, in our room I taught Japanese to my friends and they taught me Korean or Chinese. Sharing our languages and listening to each other helped us to become closer.

On the third day, I didn't understand what we had to do. But it was easy for my teammates to understand and they helped me. After that we played the activity. We enjoyed climbing. It was like athletic climbing with a lifeline.

On the fourth day, we went to the sea. We swam and played in the water. It was really fun! At that time, I got a lot of chances to talk with my Korean and Chinese friends. The dinner was Korean style BBQ. Before I came here, I didn't like grilled meat. But it was really delicious! After that, we had culture night. It's an event to introduce our country to everyone. Each country had an interesting show! We Japan team wore cotton Kimonos and sang the Japanese song " Ue o muite aruko".

On the fifth day, we played games about peace. After that, we went to the river and did rafting. In rafting, each of us pulled one oar. From this activity, I learned that working as one is very important. In the night, Maria, Miyu and I made Chirashi-zushi and Okonomiyaki. My Korean friends told us that the Okonomiyaki

was so good. We're so glad that they seemed to like it. I also enjoyed Korean and Chinese traditional food.

On last day, we enjoyed sightseeing in Seoul. My friend who lives in Seoul took us to Gyeongbokgung Palace and a good shopping place. Gyeongbokgung Palace was so beautiful. They taught me Korean history there.

Before this camp, I felt nervous, because my English skill is too low. But my friends and counselors helped me every time when I had a problem. Because of them, I really enjoyed this camp. From this camp, understanding each other is the best way to be peace. If we understand each others' culture or differences, there will be no war in the world. I want to make use of my experience to studies at university and my future.

Lastly, thank you so much again for all your support, Jim sensei, Maria san and all the staff.

**Aya Ono**

**21 years old, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade of Kwassui Women's College, Nagasaki  
Japanese Counselor**

First of all I want to say thank you to Mr. James Ronald, Mr. Park Yoonseo and all the staff who supported the Peace Camp in Korea in this summer. I was very glad to join the wonderful camp and make many friends in Korea, China and Japan. This special and memorable experience will stay in my heart forever.

Through this Peace Camp, I learned a lot of things. Not only how to make children know peace but also to make children think how to make relationships between people from different countries and make a peaceful world together. I think the program was so good for children to understand the importance of peace, how to solve problems and how to build relationships, peace and so on. Because each program was a little step and there were many examples and materials to help imagine and think. And I also think that children had fun



because there were songs, dances, games, quiz and many activities. And I also learned how to make program for children, like not only study but also do some activities or exercises to refresh and how communicate with middle school and high school students.

These days in Japan, many children do not have brothers and sisters and mothers and fathers don't communicate as often with their neighbors as in previous times. It means we don't have enough communication with people and children don't have much time to spend with their friends, brothers and sisters. That makes it more difficult for many people to accept and live with others in our world. After I returned to Japan, I thought about this problem and the Peace Camp in Korea. What can I do for children and their families and what should I do to make a peaceful world? Those things, how to plan the program and experience that I communicated with children, are very helpful for my college study and my dream. My dream is to become a kindergarten or nursery school teacher. So I want to study hard at college and think deeply about children and peace. And I want to be a teacher who can teach importance and interest of making friends, doing something with many friends and each of our life.

I really appreciate this opportunity to have experience in Korea. I'm looking forward to join next year in Japan.

***(On the following page there is a special Peace Camp Photo Collage which highlights many of the activities during this year's Peace Camp in Korea.)***

