

Muse No. 43
Japanese Citizens Network of Museums for Peace
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10 years since Great East
Japan Earthquake
Yamanashi Peace Museum

Tamotsu Asakawa: Director

To mark the 10th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred in March 2011, the Yamanashi Peace Museum (YPM) has been holding a special exhibition, "Recalling 10 years since the Great East Japan Earthquake" from March to August 2021. We once held a special exhibition, "Examining the nuclear power plant accident, radiation and energy" back in 2013.

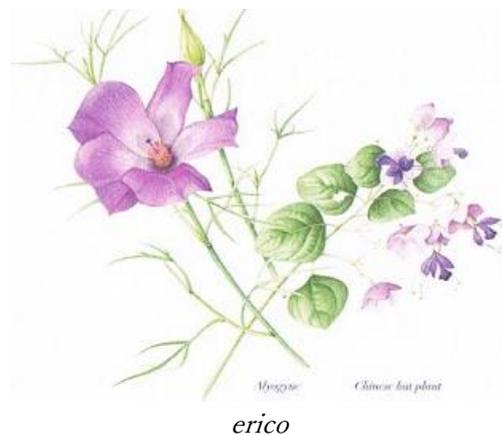


Based on the progress and remaining challenges observed after 10 years, the following topics are covered at the special exhibition this time;

- Reviewing "The Official Report of the

- Fukushima Nuclear Accident Independent Investigation Commission",
- Referencing "*Regulatory Capture*" written by Kiyoshi Kurokawa,
- Examining the progress of nuclear decommissioning work,
- Discussing the issues of contaminated water from the nuclear power plant,
- Reviewing the status of the bill to decommissioning of all nuclear power plants proposed in 2018,
- Looking at the realities of Fukushima through photographs,
- Exploring difficult-to-return area and surroundings today, and
- Analyzing the lawsuits on the nuclear power plant accident.

The exhibition features about 50 panels, newspaper articles, and other multifaceted documents, which recall us to the last 10 years as well as spot the challenges still remained. Please refer to the attached newspaper article (only Japanese).



Chukiren Peace Museum

Nobuo Serizawa: Secretariat

The museum has been open three days a week, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, although we usually have small number of visitors.

On April 10th 2021, we welcomed 95-year-old Mr. Yasuyoshi Koike from Maebashi City, Gunma Prefecture, who was accompanied by his 68-year-old son and his friend. Mr. Koike went over to Manchuria as an agricultural emigrant, and was called up for military service to fight against the Soviet Union, which brought him to be interned in Siberia after the end of the war. As his period of time spent in military service was not long enough to receive military pension when he returned to Japan, he started to be engaged in agriculture at the foot of Mount Akagi in Gunma Prefecture.

In his hometown, Mr. Koike heard about the story of his son's friend visiting the museum last year, and asked them to take him to the museum, then three of them came here all together this time.



From the experience at the battle field, Mr. Koike has always wondered "Why do we only talk about the damage we have suffered?". Mr. Koike said that he has been sharing his experience upon request from the local community as he is well aware of the shrinking

number of survivors nowadays.

In history, Japan was said to begin most of its wars of aggression except for the "Genko" of the Kamakura period (1185-1333). If we do not carefully examine the "causes and responsibility" as well as the "aggression" in these wars, we would repeat the same mistakes again. There is a Chinese proverb saying, "If you never forget the past, it would be a guide for the future" and we will continue our efforts to do so.

Maruki Gallery for the Hiroshima Panels

Yukinobu Okamura: Curator and Executive Director

Due to the prolonged pandemic from last year, we had to give up holding some events such as lectures and concerts on May 5th, the anniversary of the opening of the Maruki Gallery for the Hiroshima Panels. This year, under the title of "Online Tour of the Maruki Gallery: What are the 'Hiroshima Panels'?", we delivered a live commentary on the panels via YouTube live stream for the first time.

The filming team was made up of young staffs with extensive experience of organizing events such as from Peace Boat. Based on the elaborate arrangement, they supported the commentator with the well-planned scenario during the live event.

In about 50 minutes, the commentator stood by and explained Part one through eight of the "Hiroshima Panels" on permanent exhibition displayed on the second floor, and then moved to the studio to introduce the remaining six panels by using some images. About 600 people were watching the program on live, which was more than we had expected. There were numerous posts in the chat room as well. We received a lot of response and comments, with about 4,000 accesses to the video that day.

Thanks to everyone's support, we have been asked to participate in various online projects since then. It's hard to foresee the situation under this pandemic, but we will continue to sow the

seeds in the hope that one day we will see many of you here at the Maruki Gallery.



Lecture on 2nd Generation of Returnees from China

Memorial Museum for Agricultural Emigrants to Manchuria

Misawa Aki: Director General

The online course "Study Session for the First Step" was hosted by the Peace Labo, our proud volunteer group. For the third session, Professor Shinichi Asano from Graduate School of Kobe University, talked about second-generation returnees from China.

At that time, the Japanese government imposed harsh restrictions to the returnees by requiring guarantee from immediate family members for permanent residence, which was not easy under the circumstance, or giving allowance which only covered children under the age of 20 for their return from China. These conditions diversely affected to the returnees' lives in Japan. For example, their Japanese language acquisition level depended on the age

when they returned to Japan, which had a significant impact on their success of job hunting to maintain adequate living standards. Also, there were people who experienced mental suffering and isolation because of the then exclusive nature of Japanese society.

The sacrifices of the emigrants and the hardships they endured during repatriation were brought by the imperialism of the time. However, Professor Asano points out that the burdens borne by the returnees from China were actually the product of postwar Japanese society. After the devastating war, we have finally reached to advocate democracy and sovereignty of the people, which value freedom and equality, but we need to ask ourselves whom "the people" indicates. What are the difficulties for people who are excluded from the group but living in the same community? What would happen when people join the group from outside world in the middle of their lives? Without examining these issues, our society will not be able to move forward.

We tend to be wary of facing and approaching what happened at that time, but the lecture reminded us that we must pay more attention to the issues covered under the postwar society of Japan.

Daigo Fukuryu Maru Exhibition Hall Voyage with Mr. Matashichi Oishi

Yusuke Hasunuma: Curator

Mr. Matashichi Oishi, who was exposed to the radiation from US hydrogen bomb test at the Bikini Atoll as a crew of the Daigo Fukuryu Maru (fishing boat) and had continued to pass on his experience to younger generation, passed away on March 7th, 2021. Mr. Oishi had visited the museum from time to time since around 1980, after the Daigo Fukuryu Maru was preserved and displayed at the museum, but it was not until 1983 when he was asked to tell his story to junior high school students that he started to talk. Since

then, while running a laundry cleaning business, he had never refused to talk with children about the unfairness in our society and the physical and mental suffering caused by the nuclear damage.

As a person who was affected by Bikini hydrogen bomb test, Mr. Oishi examined diplomatic documents related to the Bikini Incident, and acted with a strong will to pass on what happened. Mr. Oishi was important person not only for those of us working for the exhibition, but also for our society that tries to put this event in the history books. This is evident from the fact that many newspapers took up his death in editorials and on the front page.

Today, there are only two former crew members of the Daigo Fukuryu Maru with us. We are keenly aware of our responsibility to preserve the Daigo Fukuryu Maru and to pass on the history of Bikini Incident to the future generation.



Thought-provoking website and seminar

Women's Active Museum on War and Peace (wam)

Fumiko Yamashita: Secretariat

Since September 2020, wam has been open four days a week on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. There has been a longstanding concern that we were too busy with operating the museum to work on the "Japanese Military 'Comfort Women' Archives", so we decided to dedicate one opening day to work on the archives. In order not to "celebrate" February 11th, February 23rd, April 29th, and November 3rd, which are "national holidays" derived from the

Japanese imperial system, we decided to open the museum on these days and hold the "wam seminar: Thinking about the Emperor System". It started from November last year in order to provide an opportunity to examine the imperial system. The first seminar was given by Mr. Hiroshi Ikeda, the second by Ms. Itsuko Ishikawa, the third by Ms. Mitsuko Uchino, and the fourth by Mr. Akira Yamada, and we debated our responsibility on maintaining the imperial system, which has brought a certain discrimination still remained in Japanese society.

In 2021, there have been a series of major events at home and abroad regarding the issue of the Japanese military "comfort women". wam has published some links to criticize and discuss the [decision made by Seoul Central District Court on January 8th](#) and [the article written by Professor John Mark Ramseyer from Harvard Law School](#) respectively. In addition, [wam's views on the historical revisionist movement in the Diet over the term "comfort women"](#) is also available in Japanese on the website. We will continue what we can do to make the museum a place where people can actively learn and think even during the pandemic.

The museum is open with preventive measures of the COVID-19. We are also introducing hybrid system of online and on-site seminars. However, the number of visitors to the museum in FY 2020 was one-sixth of the previous year, and this situation still continues.



Museum website includes in-depth information on the latest discussion about the Japanese military "comfort women".

wamからのお知らせ

2021年5月10日公開
wamポジション・ペーパー 「従軍慰安婦」という用語について

2021年4月1日公開
wamセミナー 加害国のモニュメントをめぐる論争

2021年3月26日更新
【12月12日から】第17回特別展スタート！

2021年4月22日更新
【重要】wamの新型コロナウイルス感染症対策について

More >>

「慰安婦」関連ニュース・トピックス

2021年5月6日更新
ハーバード大学 ラムザイヤー教授問題に関するリンク集

2021年5月28日更新 **New!**
韓国ソウル中央地裁、日本軍「慰安婦」損害賠償訴訟に関するリンク集

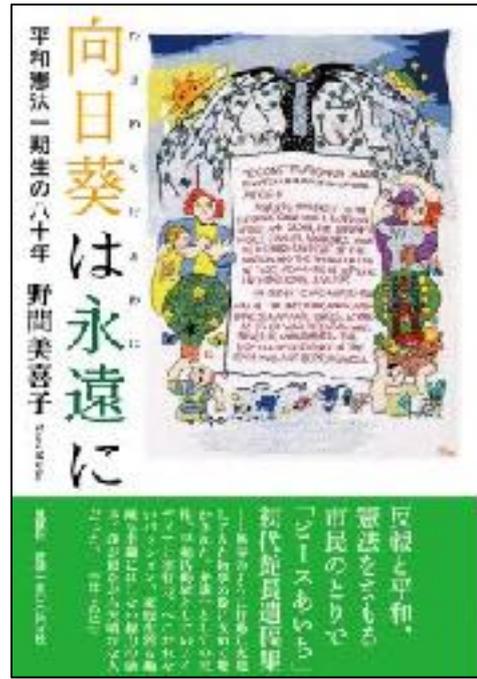


Mikiko Noma's posthumous manuscript and memorial service

**War and Peace Museum: Peace Aichi
Daisuke Miyahara: Director**

One year has already passed since Mikiko Noma, the former director of Peace Aichi, passed away. We were not able to hold a farewell gathering for her due to the pandemic, but on May 9th 2021, we were finally able to hold a memorial service at Hotel Rubura Ohzan in Nagoya.

Actors Mr. Shizuo Amano and her wife, Ms. Masa Yamada, and NPO President Hideyuki Suzuki made their farewells to Ms. Noma. The ensemble dedicated her favorite songs "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik" and "Look Up at the Stars in the Night".



About 120 people gathered, and it was a time to remember Ms. Noma and to share the desire for peace that she had been pursuing.

Together with the memorial service, "Mikiko Noma Memorial Collection, to Those Who Loved Freedom" was published. It was edited jointly by Ms. Noma's family and the museum, which contains farewell messages from her colleagues and friends, Peace Aichi board members, volunteers, and her relatives.



In addition, we established Mikiko Noma Memorial Collection in the museum as her family donated the books once belonged to Ms. Noma. More than 800 books are arranged in categories such as "Constitution and Justice" and

"War and War Experiences". A catalog has also been prepared and is available for visitors.

At the same time, a collection of Mikiko Noma's posthumous manuscript, *"The Sunflower Forever: Eighty Years of the First Generation of the Peace Constitution"* was published by Nagoya-based publisher Fubaisha. It is 276 pages in length and is priced at 1,650 yen.



She survived the war as a child, and when she was in the first grade, the Constitution of Japan came in effect. The memory of that experience had stayed with Ms. Noma throughout her life. As a lawyer, she had fought for human rights and peace, and spearheaded the construction and operation of the peace museum, by saying "it is the responsibility of us who lived in the 20th century to pass on the memory of war to the future generations". Her sensitivity and deep thoughts will surely guide us when we would face various challenges in the future. The "Introduction" of the book was written by her eldest daughter, Eiko Shimokata, a board member of Peace Aichi, and the "Afterword" by writer Chieko Yamashita, an alumnus of Noma's university. The book is now available at Peace Aichi, so please call or fax us at +81-(0)52-602-4222.



Activities during the museum's renovation

**Kyoto Museum for World Peace,
Ritsumeikan University**

Ikuko Shimizu: Manager

The Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan University, will be closed from April 2021 to September 2023 (tentative) for renovation. Please see below for more information about the museum activities during this period.

Information on lectures and workshops will also be posted on the website.

<https://www.ritsumeikan-wp-museum.jp/en/>

The following activities will be carried out while the museum is closed.

*Rental of teaching materials and panels

<Teaching materials>

- Teaching materials on global issues in the shape of dice
- Materials on the 15-Year War (1931-1945)
- Panels on "Nuclear Power and Our Daily Lives"

<Exhibition panels >

- Atomic Bomb: Records of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- Atomic Bomb and Humanity Exhibition
- The Battle of Okinawa and Military Bases
- Doctors Who Dig Wells: Medical Activities and Green Earth Project of the Peshawar-kai (association)
- The atomic bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and Human Being

Please refer to the following URL for the contents of the teaching materials and panels (Please apply by phone in advance).

<https://www.ritsumeikan-wp-museum.jp/rental/>

*Web Exhibition

We opened a new "Web Exhibition" page on our website in 2020.



Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan University

<WEB Permanent Exhibition >

For each theme of the current permanent exhibition, some pictures of museum items are posted with description.

An English version is also available on the museum's English website.

<https://www.ritsumeikan-wp-museum.jp/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/WEB-EXHIBITION4.pdf>

<Museum Collections >

This website contains selected 27 museum items with description that have been introduced in our previous newsletters or recommended by museum staffs.

<https://www.ritsumeikan-wp-museum.jp/webexhibition/>



Exhibition of a Dummy Bomb

*Reference and the rental of museum collection is available until the end of November, 2021. Please contact us at least one week in advance.

The First "Bikini Day" Event in Kochi

Grass Roots House: Peace Museum
Keisuke Okamura: Vice director

We had been planning to hold the first "Bikini Day in Kochi" in the historic year of 2021. Although it was under the pandemic, we organized (1) a photo exhibition of the nuclear damage, (2) fieldwork to visit former tuna fishing boat crews, (3) a plenary meeting of "Bikini Day in Kochi," and (4) a movie session from March 5th to 14th 2021, with the aim of urging the Japanese government to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and supporting the survivors of the hydrogen bomb detonated on the Bikini Atoll by the USA.

The photo exhibition conveyed the reality of the nuclear damage through works by some active photographers, Takashi Morizumi, Hiromitsu Toyosaki, Keisuke Okamura and more under the themes of "Atomic Bomb and Human Beings", "Nuclear Weapons Testing and Human Beings", and "Nuclear Power and Human Beings". Also on display were the Nobel Peace Prize medal and certificate, a Geiger counter from the Daigo Fukuryu Maru Exhibition Hall, nuclear fallout (replica), and letters from children in Kochi sent to family of Aikichi

Kuboyama, one of the former tuna fishing boat crews 67 years ago.

For the fieldwork, 41 participants joined Muroto route while 39 participants went in Hata route, and they learned from the testimonies of former fishing boat crew members and their families. There were students and young faculty members from Kochi University, as well as participants from Tokyo, Hyogo, and other parts of Kochi prefecture, making this a valuable opportunity to learn about the Bikini Incident.



In the movie session, we screened "The Daigo Fukuryu Maru" directed by Kaneto Shindo and the documentary film "The Next Season" directed by Sora Hokimoto which were about the Bikini incident and suffering experienced by former crews.

The plenary session was composed of panel discussions and commemorative speeches with the aim of reaffirming that the Bikini Incident was not over yet, thus expanding the support for survivors under TPNW. 153 people gathered at the event venue, with 51 online participations and over 100 observers. The total number of participants exceeded 250.

With high expectations from within and outside of Kochi prefecture, the "Bikini Day Kochi Rally" will be held annually without dissolving the executive committee.



Museum Activities under the Pandemic

**Oka Masaharu Memorial Nagasaki
Peace Museum**

Noboru Sakiyama: Board Chairman

The museum is open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., while taking preventive measures for the spread of COVID-19.

On December 9th 2020, the seventh (and final) session of the "Let's Learn Again! Japan's Contemporary History Course Phase 1" was held under the theme of "How People in Nagasaki looked at war and postwar in Okinawa".

In addition, on December 13th, we resumed the "16th Nagasaki-Nanjing Gathering" which had been suspended since 2016. The gathering began with a greeting from Mr. Zhang Jianjun, director of The Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders, our partnership museum, followed by an introduction of 15 Nanjing Massacre survivors who visited Nagasaki from 2000 to 2015 (excluding 2007). After that, we asked Mr. Tsuyoshi Takase, a non-fiction writer, to give a lecture titled "Nanjing and Nagasaki: Reconsidering the Atomic Bombing from the Perspective of Japan's Responsibility of Wartime Aggression". Mr. Takase's documentary video, "Surprising 'Unmapped' Peace Museum: Facing Japan's History of Aggression," was released by Democracy Times on February 16th 2021 based on his visit of the museum.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WP0lreDG03s>

On April 4th 2021, we held the "4th Memorial Service for Yasunori Takazane" and invited Mr. Masahiko Moriguchi, who was active in the "Citizens' Association for the Preservation and Utilization of the Sumiyoshi Tunnel", to share his memories of Mr. Takazane.



Himeyuri Peace Museum

Kastumi Maedomari: curator

On April 12, 2021, the Himeyuri Peace Museum reopened peacefully. The goal of this renovation was to deliver the message of Himeyuri “to farther generations from the war history.” In this renewal project, one feature was that younger museum staff members were in charge for the first time. With effective showcasing of visualized images such as illustrations and pictures, and testimonial videos, the team created more reachable exhibits to the younger generations. There are many creative ideas to make the exhibits more understandable to museum visitors. In addition, the fifth exhibition room “Himeyuri Survivors after the War” was newly created. We received feedbacks such as “it became more understandable” and “it is more

real for us who live today.”

However, because of the national spread of the COVID and the repetition of cancels of school trips and other arrangements to visit the museum, the managing situation is still challenging. Although there are difficulties and challenges financially, the museum is striving to welcome many visitors after convergence of the pandemic.



Private viewing of the new exhibits for former Himeyuri students

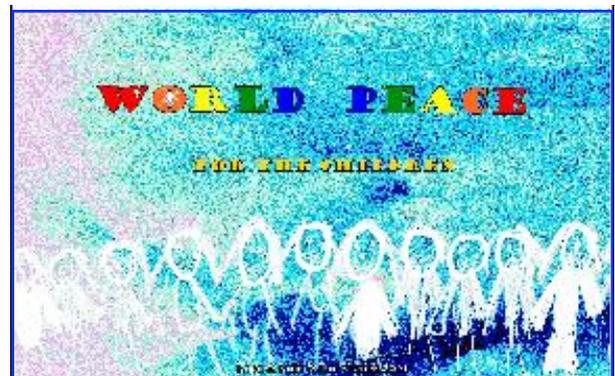
Tel:098-997-2100 Fax:098-997-2102

HP <http://www.himeyuri.or.jp>

FB

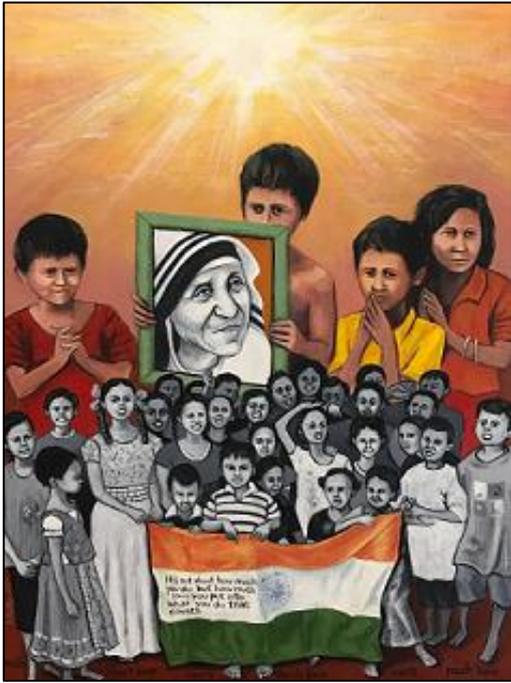
<https://www.facebook.com/HIMEYURI.PEACE.MUSEUM/>

(Translated by Emi Karimata)



Koen Vlerick

<https://beeld.be/kunstenars/koen-vlerick>



"Mother Teresa - Peacemakers Series"
by Pegge Patten



Invitation to INMP

INMP Office

If you would like to join INMP (International Network of Museums for Peace), please contact inmpoffice@gmail.com. The annual membership fee is 2000 yen and it allows you to participate in webinars and the International Peace Museum Conferences.

**A poem exhibited in Dengonkan
– Fukushima Museum for No Nukes**

Written by Mr. Makoto Yoshida on July 23, 1984, when the Fukushima District Court handed down its decision.

The coastline of my hometown has become the
Ginza of nuclear power plants.
The simple life of the people
and their eyes also
has somehow changed in these ten years.

We all have a limited life.
Ten years is a long time for anyone.
But
if we hadn't been running around trying to find
fund,
collecting signatures, holding study sessions
for these ten years,
our lives would have been so thin.

Nevertheless, what an empty court decision it was.
Where does this emptiness come from?
Because the judge turned away from the truth,
and because they waved their tails in the face of
power,
it is their emptiness,
not ours.

The truth has always been in the minority.
Just like we are now.

But someday the nuclear power plant
will be sure to peel the fangs to humans.
On this beast,
we have to keep an unclouded watchful eye
to forever reject this monster —
therein lies our *raison d'etere*.

If we are lazy to do so,
one day our grandchildren will ask us
"What did your generation do?"

Your Articles are Welcome!

- ◆ Number of letters: about 500 letters in Japanese, and about 1000 words in English.
 - ◆ Hopefully 1 or 2 photos
 - ◆ Due Date: We will accept it at any time
- Please send your article to the following email address.
musejapankyoto@gmail.com