

Religions for Peace

Japan

20 MAY 2017, BEIJING, CHINA

Activities

**In cooperation with
Government, Local inter-religious
network, University, UN, NGOs**

International

1. High Level International Consultation (Dialogue between Sunni and Siat)
2. Special symposium on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of ACRP in Oct.
2016, in Kyoto, on the theme of Violent Extremism.

Peace Research Institute Women/ Youth Network

6 Taskforces

1. Nuclear Ban Treaty
2. Climate Change
3. Refugees Issues
4. . Education for Reconciliation
5. Great Earthquake and Tsunami in North East Area
6. Earthquake in Kumamoto

←Annual Journal



High Level International Consultation between Sunni and Siat, May 2016



Women's Committee

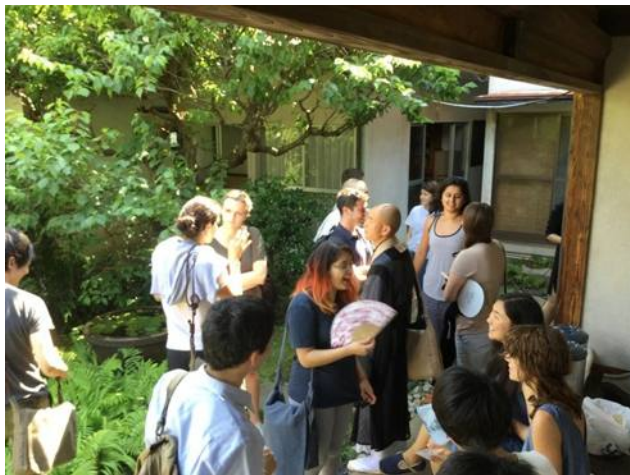


Youth Activities



Summer
Camp for
understand
each religions

Campaign for
Disarmament
and MDGs



International
Exchange
program



Elimination of Nuclear Weapons Enactment for “Nuclear Ban Treaty”

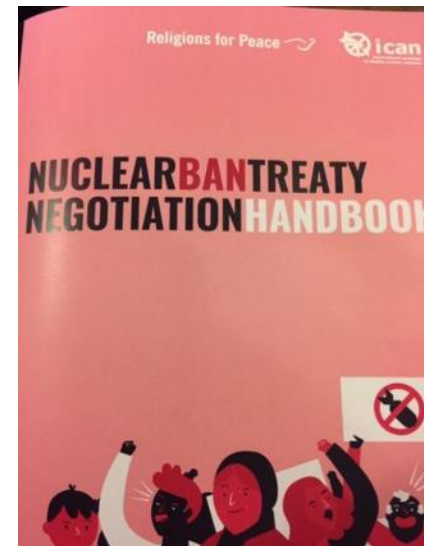


International Conference
for Disarmament



Prayer for A-Bomb victims
in Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Proposal
Handbook for
Ban Treaty



Climate Change



Forest
Planting
Project
near Tokyo



Corroboration
with Religions for
Peace Myanmar



Refugee Issues



Receiving Syrian
Refugees as a
host organization



Education for Reconciliation



Roundtable conference for development of Peace Education



Practical Workshop for Reconciliation

Training Seminar for Trainers of Reconciliation



Earthquake and *Tsunami* *Humanitarian Activities*

1
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Fundraising on the street



Multi Religions Prayer



Volunteer
activities
for
reconstru
ction and
victims





THANK YOU VERY MUCH

ACRP National Chapter Report

JAPAN:

Bearing in mind ACRP's Vision, *The religious communities in Asia and the Pacific cooperate effectively for Peace*; and ACRP's Mission, *RfP Asia (ACRP) advances common action among religious communities in Asian and the Pacific for Peace*;

Being mindful ACRP's Principles: 1) respect religious differences; 2) act on deeply held and widely shared values; 3) preserve the identity of each religious communities; 4) honor the different ways religious communities are organized; and 5) link local, national and regional structures; and 6) collaborate with Religions for Peace International;

The ACRP Chapter of Japan presents to the ACRP Executive Committee its National Chapter Report throughout 2016.

General review of all the programs, projects and activities carried out throughout 2016

Religions for Peace Japan has been actively involved in the domestic and international important issues through inter-religious network and in cooperation with other sectors.

In 2016, *Religions for Peace* Japan advanced our projects in following categories:

- I. Networking
- II. Advocacy
- III. Peace Education and Ethical Education
- IV. Humanitarian Contribution
- V. Women's Committee
- VI. Youth Committee
- VII. Publicity
- VIII. Management

Also, 6 taskforce teams ---1) Reconstruction Support for the East Japan earthquake, 2) Nuclear Weapon Convention, 3) Climate Change, 4) Reconciliation Education, 5) Refugee Issues and 6) Reconstruction Support for Kumamoto Earthquake---which were established and renewed within *Religions for Peace* Japan in 2016 and consist of affiliate members, promoted their mission projects in each area.

Religions for Peace Japan has organized 6 symposiums, 4 board meetings and 2 council meetings, and issued 3 statements/appeals in 2016.

Specific descriptions of programs / projects / activities implemented throughout the year

1. Program #1 *Engaging in building partnership (object 3 of SAP)*

- Korea-Japan Religious Leader's Meeting-

-April 30, 2016 in Seoul, Korea

- 27 religious leaders from KCRP and RfP Japan, Dr. Vendley and Rev.Sugino from RfP International joined.

-At opening, Kim Young-joo; president of KCRP, and Rev. Nichino Niwano; president of RfP Japan made remarks.

Then both representatives introduced their roles in the organization and expressed their thoughts on goodwill.

-This program will be organized every 2 years by visiting each country for deepening mutual trust and promoting solidarity of peace.



2. Program#2 *Engaging in the promotion for peace and building partnership (object 1&3 of SAP)*

-Public Symposium with Religious Leaders from Myanmar

-April 6, 2016 at Myochi-kai Headquarters

-During this historic visit of RfP Myanmar to Japan, important senior religious leaders representing *RfP* Myanmar exchanged ideas, views, and best practices with key civil society figures, politicians and senior religious leaders in Japan to advance multi-religious efforts for peace and democracy in Myanmar.

-Discussed about the roles of religious leaders and their cooperation towards the challenges like exclusivism or hate speeches by learning the challenges that Myanmar faces and deepening the understanding of the importance of multi-religious and ethnic dialogues and integration: keynote presentation, panel discussions and floor discussions were made at this symposium.

-Aimed for the realization of "Welcoming the Other", the theme of the 9th World Assembly in Viena, Austria.

-About 200 people participated this symposium including Japanese religious leaders, scholars, politicians, citizens.



3. Program #3 *Engaging in the promotion for peace and building partnership (object 1&3 of SAP)*

-The High-level International Consultation

-May 12 - 13, 2016 in Tokyo

- As heads of state from the world's major economies are arriving in Japan for the G7 Summit, world renowned religious leaders from the Middle East convened to advance the full citizenship of all communities in Muslim majority states. Doing so, they stated, was an irreplaceable key to preventing and transforming violent extremism, Islamophobia and xenophobia.

-The High-level International Consultation was organized by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and *Religions for Peace* under the theme: *Partnering with Religious Leaders of the Middle East in Advancing the Protection of Minorities in Muslim Majority States*. The consultation was hosted by *Religions for Peace* Japan.

- The religious leaders adopted an action plan in their Final Communiqué (issued in Arabic, English, Japanese, and Persian) that committed themselves to:

1. Identifying the authentic religious teachings within each respective religious tradition that provide a basis for robust notions of citizenship for all communities;
2. Undertaking informal and formal education within their respective religious communities about the above noted religious teachings;
3. Working respectfully with relevant state authorities in Muslim majority states to help ensure that national legal codes for citizenship and human rights for all communities are harmonized with the teachings contained in the Marrakesh Declaration and consistent with contemporary international standards, and
4. Initiating concrete cooperative action among their communities to advance inclusive citizenship for all.



4. Program #4 *Engaging in the promotion for peace and building partnership (object 1&3 of SAP)*

-The Special Session of RfP International Standing Commission on Disarmament and Security

On the Occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the Legality of the Threat or the Use of Nuclear Weapons

-August 2 – 3, 2016 at United Nations University in Tokyo.

-On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Advisory Opinion of the ICJ on the legality of nuclear weapons and in advance of the third session of the UN Open-ended Working Group in August 2016, Special Session of the *RfP* International Standing Commission on Disarmament and Security consisted of the following key activities:

- Public Symposium at the United Nations University commemorating the 20th anniversary of ICJ Advisory Opinion (August 3);
- Meetings with senior Japanese parliamentarians and government officials, as well as representatives of states including nuclear weapons states (August 3);
- Business Session of the *RfP* International Standing Commission (August 2);
- Public symposium aimed to share the vision with religious leaders, parliamentarians and government officials, experts, citizens and NGOs, and hold conversation on expected efforts for elimination of nuclear weapons. Then share the actions we need to take with more people and call for its implementation.
- The Special Session was organized by *RfP* International and *RfP* Japan.
- About 80 people participated the business session on August 2, and about 140 people participated the symposium on August 3. Statement “Our Shared Moral and Legal Obligation to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons” was adopted and finalized at the end of symposium. The video footage of symposium is available on our website (<http://saas01.netcommons.net/wcrp/htdocs/nucdisarm>).



5. Program#5 *Engaging in implementing the commemorative project (object 4 of SAP)*

-40th Commemorative Symposium of ACRP – How to Response to Violent Extremism in the Name of Religion? -

-October 26, 2016 at Kyoto International Community House

-40 years ago, the 1st Assembly of ACRP was held in Singapore in 1976. The aim of this symposium is to discuss how we can take action to make concrete contribution toward “Unity and Harmony in Asia,” as declared at the 8th ACRP Assembly in Incheon, Korea 2014, reviewing its history of 40 years. Especially, we hope to consider any possible actions to respond to the issue of the violent extremism in the name of religion, with the view of the extremists as not our enemies but members of our society from the perspectives of Asia or Japan.

-About 220 people participated including both international and Japanese religious leaders, NPO, NGO, academics, parliamentarians and citizens. The symposium consisted of presenting a short film “The ACRP Trajectory of 40 Years”, a keynote speech by Mr. Jitsuro Terashima, chairman of the Japanese Research Institute, panel talk and floor discussion.



6. Program#6 *Engaging in building partnership (object 3 of SAP)*

-2016 Fall Leadership Meeting

-October 26 and 26, 2016 at Rissho Kosei-kai Kyoto Dharma Center

-RfP Japan supported ACRP convening LM in Kyoto, Japan prior to the 40th commemorative symposium of ACRP.



7. Project #1 *Engaging in the promotion for peace (object 1 of SAP)*

-Support Project for Syrian Refugee Students

-From March 2017 (5 year project)

-This project aims to welcome Syrian refugees as students with collaborative work with Japanese language schools or colleges, and lead them to further education or employment for constructing sustainable resettlement support system.

-On February 21, 2017, Refugee Issue Taskforce Group welcomed Dr. Martin Mark from Office for Refugees, Archdioceses of Toronto (ORAT) and organized a seminar. About 60 people participated and learned how to welcome refugees and its process by showing examples of Canada, the county which actively engages in welcoming refugees.



-Partnering with the Japan Association for Refugees/ JAR, RfP Japan welcomed 5 Syrian refugee students on March 28, and held welcome reception in Tokyo on the next day. At the reception, each expressed their current feelings. Followings are excerpts:

- I had been studying Japanese to be a translator since I was in Syria. I can't find words how much I am appreciated for this program (Support Project for Syrian Refugee Students). I'll study hard with enjoyment. (20s/ Female)

-This is my new start. I have been taken with the Japanese culture. But, I never thought I could come here. (10s/ Male)

-I am really happy that I was given a chance. I didn't imagine myself getting closer to my dream. Thank you for giving me a chance to change my life. There are many people who need a chance other than us. I wish this support would be continued. (10s/ Female)



8. Project#2 *Engaging in the promotion for peace (object 1 of SAP)*

-Afforestation Project at the next forest to the forest of TOTORO

-May 2017 to March 2020

-Aims to regenerate a forest and raise awareness of youth cooperated with Saitama prefecture's government and Tokorozawa city hall.



9. Program#3 *Engaging in conflict resolution and reconciliation (object 2 of SAP)*

-Seminar of Training Facilitators for Peace and Reconciliation

-July 2017 to November 2018, 8 course in total

-Reconciliation Education taskforce group opens seminar to foster people who overcome issues of grassroots to international levels and bring communities a reconciliation.

-Learns conflict transformation method and practice having dialogue with diverse communities from experts (academics, NGOs, religions) for building peace.



10. Project #4 *Engaging in the promotion for peace (object 1 of SAP)*

-Fukushima Community Project

-April 2016 to March 2017

- After 6 years from the great disaster, Fukushima's reconstruction is still at the difficult situation. There are about a hundred thousand people who need to live in different cities or prefectures, and many of them are damaged on their physical and emotional health in protracted severe circumstances. Also, a lot of people are facing economical, educational and family problems. Moreover, they now have another challenge that they have to build the new relationship by the lifting of evacuation directive. Under these circumstances, community building is actively carried by local communities to support each other. We believe that mutual support of community members based on the spirit of self-help and mutual-assistance should lead to the true reconstruction of Fukushima. RfP Japan has been implementing this project to support independent activities and groups/organizations for community building of Fukushima.
- The role of religious leaders is staying present to vulnerable. Our goal is to support someone who lives in a place that government cannot reach out. Through this project, we can catch the real voices and challenges of Fukushima.
- The recipients in 2016 were 50. This project now is known widely to supporting communities or organization of Fukushima. It has been helping local people which governmental agencies cannot reach to. This is the project not only to support but also to encourage people's independence of building communities. Moreover, direct communication made it possible to support them face-to-face and to know the reality. This project was published in the local newspapers and increasingly prevalent.
- For the next phase, we need PR in English for foreign residents who were affected.



11. Project #5 *Engaging in the promotion for peace (object 1 of SAP)*

- **Ouen (support) Project for Kumamoto**

-From March 2017 to present

-When the Kumamoto earthquake occurred in April of 2016, there were not enough supports for people who need special care especially for people with physical challenges, elders, children, pregnant and mothers with infants. Not only emergency cares, but there are still in middle of a serious situation.

RfP Japan's "Ouen Project for Kumamoto" reach out people who need special cares in terms of self-help and mutual assistance, and we hope it would improve welfare in their communities through this financial support.

- The first recipients were 14.



12. Project #6 *Engaging in the promotion for peace (object 1 of SAP)*

-Radio Program "Half-time of Heart"

-From November 12 to present

-This program aimed to send message to people who try to survive after the earthquake occurred in April 2016, and to stay present with them.

-Speakers are religious leaders in Kumamoto and others who engage in support after the disaster.



Implementation of Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

1. Which programs/projects/activities is your chapter interested in engaging to achieve intended outcome and objective?

N/A

2. What kind(s) of assistance does your chapter wish to receive from the Secretariat for your chapter to implement the stated program/project/activity? (except financial assistance for a moment)

N/A

3. Forward looking suggestions and recommendations for the next stage of SAP

N/A

ACRP National ‘additional’ Chapter Report

RfP Japan:

All the programs, projects and activities carried out throughout 2016

I. Networking

1. Participation in interreligious network

- 1-1 IPCR International Seminar from September 2 - 3, 2016 in Yokohama, Japan.
- 1-2 Meeting with leader’s meeting members of ACRP in Kyoto from October 25 – 26, 2016.
- 1-3 Annual New Year’s gathering at Rissho Kosei-kai headquarters on January 25, 2017.
- 1-4 Religions for Peace International meeting on October 20, 2016 in Abuja, Nigeria.

2. Support for reconstruction after the natural disasters

- 2-1 Organized a prayer gathering at Rose Factory Garden in Ogatsu, Miyagi on March 14, 2017.
- 2-2 Supported having Summer Festival held in Kesen-numa on August 27, 2016.
- 2-2 Organized a Gathering for Fukushima Community Project in Fukushima on September 27, 2017.
- 2-3 Supported Fukushima communities throughout 2016-2017.
- 2-4 Supported Kumamoto communities throughout 2016-2017.
- 2-5 Organized symposium with University of Kumamoto, RfP Japan and Clinical Care by Religious Leaders Kyushu division under the theme of “people’s care in disaster areas – the role of religious leaders and its possibilities of cooperation” at University of Kumamoto on December 2, 2016.

II. Advocacy

1. Statement/Appeal/etc.

- 1-1 Issued Final Communiqué, “Religious Leaders from the Middle East Address Violent Religious Extremism by Advancing Full Citizenship for All Communities on the Basis of the Marrakesh Declaration” on February 6, 2015.
- 1-2 Issued statement, “Our Shared Moral and Legal Obligation to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons: on the Occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons” on August 3, 2016.
- 1-3 Released the statement by RfP Japan on the Nuclear Test on September 9, 2016 by Democratic People’s Republic of Korea on September 14, 2016.

2. Prayer Gathering

- 2-1 Reconstruction Support for the East Japan earthquake Taskforce Group organized prayer gathering at Rose Factory Garden in Ogatsu, Miyagi on March 14, 2017.
- 2-2 Reconstruction Support for Kumamoto Earthquake Taskforce Group organized prayer gathering at Konkokyo Kiyama church in Mashiki, Kumamoto on April 19, 2017.

3. Refugee Program

- 3-1 Refugee Issues Taskforce Group organized a seminar to raise awareness of refugee issues and learn how to take action for their support at Rissho Kosei-kai headquarters on February 21, 2017.
- 3-2 RfP Japan welcomed Mr. Noun Vannok, who used be a refugee in Cambodia and spent his adolescence at WCRP’s orphanage center, to learn his experience as former-refugee, and organized special seminar under the theme of “What is refugee support to live together” at International Conference Room at Fumon Hall in Tokyo on January

26, 2017.

III. Education and Ethical Education

1. Reconciliation Education

Organized reconciliation training for building peace on February 13, 2017.

2. Peace Research Institute

RfP Japan's Peace Research Institute held 9 research workshops and 1 open seminar during 2016.

Open seminar was held at Gokokuji-temple in Kyoto on March 7, 2017 with the theme "Think about the dialogue with violent extremists – what religious leaders can do-".

IV. Humanitarian Contribution

Contributed for immediate emergency relief for the devastating earthquake in Nepal and Italy.

V. Women's Committee

1. Organized 2 seminars about "life" on July 18 and September 24, 2016.

2. A working group "advocacy committee" organized workshop about disaster prevention at Masjid Otsuka on February 25, 2017.

3. The members of Women's Committee visited to Kurozumikyo, a member group of RfP Japan, in Okayama from November 6 – 7, 2016.

VI. Youth Committee

1. Summer Camp 2016

Youth Committee organized Summer Camp 2016 with the theme of "To Support Each Other –what's happening in disaster area, what we can do-" from August 26 – 28, 2016. 40 youths from 8 religious communities gathered in Minamisanriku, Miyagi.

2. Public Seminar

Youth Committee organized a Public Seminar on February 19, 2016 at Sensoji temple in Tokyo to look back the disasters of East Japan earthquake, to make prayers for those who lost their lives and who still struggles with severe evacuation life, to learn how to act and support in emergent situation and how to take leadership. Its theme was "To support each other".

3. Japan-U.S.-South Korea Youth Program

RfP Japan Youth Committee's Japan-U.S.-South Korea Youth Program was held from June 10th to 12th in Kamakura, which was full of bright hydrangeas and tourists. Fifteen Cornell University students from the United States, two youths from KCRP, three students from Musashino University, and nine young people from WCRP Japan joined the program.

4. Asia Religious Youth Camp

Youth Committee members participated youth camp in Manila, Philippines from 17 – 20 November, 2016.

VIII. Management

- RfP Japan has organized 6 symposiums, 4 board meetings and 2 council meetings, and issued 3 statements/appeals in 2016. 6 taskforce groups ---1) Reconstruction Support for the East Japan earthquake, 2) Nuclear Weapon Convention, 3) Climate Change, 4) Reconciliation Education, 5) Refugee Issues and 6) Reconstruction Support for Kumamoto Earthquake----which were established and renewed within *Religions for*

Peace Japan in 2016 and consist of affiliate members, promoted their mission projects in each area.

- Secretariat of RfP Japan has moved its office.

New Address is: Fumon Media Center, 2-7-1 Wada, Suginami-ku, Tokyo 166-8531, Japan