

## 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 2015.

#### General review of all the programs, projects and activities carried out throughout 2015

*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 2015, *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, 4 taskforce teams ---1) Reconstruction Support for the East Japan earthquake, 2) Nuclear Abolition and Disarmament, 3) UN Millennium Development Goals, and 4) Peace Education---which were established within *Religions for Peace* Japan in 2012 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 5 statements/appeals in 2015.

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

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

#### **-Dialogue between Muslim and Religious Leaders in Japan-In Pursuit of Shared Visions for Peace-**

-April 9-10, 2015 at the Grand Hyatt Tokyo in Japan

- Setting up four sessions --1) Religions and Peace, 2) Religious Differences and the Culture of Hatred, 3) Religious Values and Common Challenges and 4) Future Plan--, delegates engaged in a lively discussion to reinforce mutual understanding and find common challenges against the current issues.

- The conference aimed to promote better understanding of Islam and strengthen the dialogue among different religions for harmonious society and peaceful world.

-About 300 people attended this dialogue program in two days. At conclusion, a joint communique was issued, which notes that Islam calls for mercy and peace and condemns any violence act and terrorism perpetrated by extremist groups. It also highlights that religions can become a powerful tool to achieve peace in society and world, and should make effort for peace. The communique calls MWL and RfP Japan for explaining true divine messages and organizing continuous dialogues. This conference was broadcasted on TV by NHK (Japan Broadcasting Cooperation)



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

#### **-Nuclear Disarmament Symposium on the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Atomic Bomb –WAR NEVER AGAIN-**

-August 6, 2015 at ANA Crown Plaza Hotel in Hiroshima.

- Sharing the proposal with hopes and visions from this symposium with globally wider circle of political, religious and cultural leaders and to call the international community to take further actions for elimination of nuclear weapons.

- It was aimed that the symposium provide the forum to engage in an open dialogue among religious leaders and experts on disarmament from within and outside of the country and to identify the urgently needed action in this present world where the international community cannot abandon vast number of nuclear arsenals in many parts of the world even after 70 years from the moment of dropping of the atomic bombs.

-About 250 people participated this symposium. Joint appeal was presented, and we called taking action with various fields including nationals, UN institutions, Mayors for Peace and NGOs to promote the lasting peace of the world. This symposium was published on major newspapers especially in Western Japan.



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

**-Dialogue of Scientists and Religious Leaders for Nuclear Disarmament on the Occasion of the Pugwash Conference in Nagasaki**

- November 6, 2015 at Nagasaki Catholic Center in Nagasaki.
- Sharing the proposal with hopes and visions from the dialogue with globally wider circle of political and citizen leaders and calling the international community to take further actions for elimination of nuclear weapons: keynote speeches, panel discussions and appeal for abolishment of nuclear weapons was presented.
- The dialogue was intend to identify common agenda and the urgently needed action through sharing of expert knowledge and experience among participants.
- We could build the relationship with religious leaders and the scientists who has technical responsibility for nuclear weapons. Historically, just having the dialogue has the impact on both sides and the betterment of societies. Also, the Joint proposal was presented at the end of symposium.



Program #4 \*Engaging in the promotion for peace (object 1 of SAP)\*

**-The Roundtable for challenges and the future on Peace Education II –Implementation report at home and in societies-**

- June 12, 2015 at Seisen University in Tokyo.
- Focusing on homes and societies, it aimed to deepening the understandings of the reality and challenges of peace education at home and in society, and devices on its implementation. Moreover, the goal of this roundtable was to search the better peace education by hearing advices on future directions.
- This roundtable invited educators, author of children’s books and video creator, and they shared their activities for peace education.
- There were about 30 participants including educators, author of children’s books, video creator and RfP Japan members. They have learned the importance of talking to children about peace, and this would encourage children a sense of peace. Also, they have learned such approach in parenting period would raise children who can contribute to society in the future.
- For the past 4 years, we have learned and researched how 1) religious based school, 2)at home and societies and 3)NGOs which works all over the world had been promoting peace education. From 2016, we will make a concrete action plan with new taskforce group of education on reconciliation.



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

**-Fukushima Community Project**

-July 2015 to March 2016

- After 5 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 first applicants in 2014 were 25, but the number has grown into 65 in total in 2015. 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.



**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)

Coordinating with other national chapter(s) of ACRP.

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

N/A

**Overall comments and suggestions**

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## ACRP National ‘additional’ Chapter Report

### RfP Japan:

#### All the programs, projects and activities carried out throughout 2015-2016

##### I. Networking

###### 1. Participation in interreligious network

- 1-1 IPCR International Seminar from November 21 – 23, 2015 in Seoul, South Korea.
- 1-2 Meeting with CCRP Advisor, Madam Zhang Quijian in July 30, 2015.
- 1-3 Meeting with KCRP Secretary General, Rev. Kim Gwang Joon in March 30, 2016. (the latest)
- 1-4 Meeting with RfP International Secretary General, Dr. William Vendley on January 9, 2016
- 1-5 Religions for Peace International meeting from July 24 – 26, 2015 in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- 1-6 Dialogue between Muslims and Religious Leaders in Japan from April 9 – 10, 2015 in Tokyo, Japan.
- 1-7 Meeting with RfP Myanmar leaders

The RfP Myanmar delegation visited Japan from April 4 – 8, 2016. During their stay, they met religious leaders and parliamentarians on partnerships to advance peace and democracy in Myanmar as well as the public symposium; the Practice and Challenges of Welcoming the Other” on April 6 in Tokyo.

###### 2. Support for reconstruction after the earthquake and tsunami 2011

- 2-1 Organized a public seminar at United Nations University in Tokyo on May 19 – 20, 2015.
- 2-2 Supported having Summer Festival held in Kesen-numa on August 11, 2015.
- 2-2 Organized a Gathering for Fukushima Community Project in Fukushima on November 10, 2015.
- 2-3 Supported Fukushima communities throughout 2015-2016.

##### II. Advocacy

###### 1. Statement/Appeal/etc.

- 1-1 Released the statement against the self-proclaimed Islamic extremist group Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) on February 6, 2015.
- 1-2 Issued the joint statement of Disaster Reduction and the Role of Religions on March 16, 2015.
- 1-3 Issued the joint communique notes that Islam calls for mercy and peace and condemns any violence act and terrorism perpetrated by extremist groups on April 10, 2015.
- 1-4 Issued the joint statement of PNND Japan and RfP Japan on May 8, 2015.
- 1-5 Issued the joint appeal. International Symposium on “WAR NEVER AGAIN-in pursuit of the abolition of nuclear weapons”, commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the atomic bombing on August 6, 2015.
- 1-6 Issued the joint appeal at the Dialogue between Prominent Scientists and Religious Leaders for Nuclear Disarmament, held in parallel with the Pugwash Conference in Nagasaki on November 6, 2015.
- 1-7 Released the statement by RfP Japan on the Nuclear Test on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016 by Democratic People’s Republic of Korea on January 9, 2016.

###### 2. Roundtable Meeting on Disarmament with Parliament members (Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament/ PNND) on April 21, 2015.

##### III. Education and Ethical Education

###### Peace Education Taskforce

1. Organized two roundtable seminars on June 12, 2015 and March 9, 2016.
2. Organized Spring Seminar on January 27, 2016. Theme: Conflict to Reconciliation ~based upon footsteps of postwar ~

#### IV. Humanitarian Contribution

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

#### V. Women's Committee

1. Published a report book including the opinion toll on 'life' to young people, and its analysis and recommendation on January 2015.
2. Launched a working group "advocacy committee" to advocate a need of preparation for special assistance on disabled and aged people at the time of disaster.
3. Study Tour
  - 3-1 The members of Women's Committee visited to Ittoen, a member group of RfP Japan, and Chion-in Temple in Kyoto from March 25 – 26, 2015.
  - 3-2 The members of Women's Committee visited to Chichibu Shrine, a member group of RfP Japan from October 26 – 27, 2015.

#### VI. Youth Committee

1. Summer Camp 2015
 

Youth Committee organized Summer Camp 2015 with the theme of "Let's Turn on the Light of Peace ~Link with Memories of 8.6~" from August 6 – 8, 2015. 43 youths from 11 religious communities gathered at Taikoji Temple in Hiroshima.
2. Seminar
  - 2-1 Public Seminar
 

Youth Committee organized a Public Seminar on March 29, 2015 at Sumida Dharma Center of Rissho Kosei-kai to hear the experience of Great Tokyo Air Raids, and to discuss how youths can cooperate each other to make action.
  - 2-2 Youth Committee organized a Public Seminar at St. Ignatius Church's KIBE Hall in Yotsuya, Tokyo on March 13, 2016 with the theme, "Opening your hear".
3. Korea-Japan Youth Exchange Camp
 

From January 30 to February 2, 2016, KCRP Youth committee and RfP Japan Youth committee had the Korean-Japan Religious Youth Exchange Camp in Paju, Kyoung gido, South Korea with 70 multi-religious youth participants.

#### VIII. Management

Religions for Peace Japan has organized 6 symposiums, 4 board meetings and 2 council meetings at different religious facilities, as Buddhist temple, Shinto shine and so on. Each taskforce; 1) Reconstruction Support for the East Japan earthquake, 2) Nuclear Abolition and Disarmament, 3) UN Millennium Development Goals and 4) Peace Education, group held 4-5 meetings throughout 2015. Moreover, Peace Institute of RfP Japan held 7 research seminars and 9 meetings in 2015.