

## Religions for Peace Japan Annual Report

Religions for Peace Japan presents to the ACRP Executive Committee its National Chapter Report between April 2023 and March 2024.

### 1. Overview of all the activities carried out by your chapter between April 2023 and March 2024

Religions for Peace Japan has been actively involved in national and international issues at stake through inter-religious network and in cooperation with other sectors. Religions for Peace Japan has advanced our projects in following categories:

- I. Networking
- II. Advocacy
- III. Peace Education
- IV. Humanitarian Assistance

### 2. Brief descriptions of prioritized activities carried out between April 2023 and March 2024

- 1) Program #1 The Second Multi-Religious Tokyo Peace Roundtable “Beyond War and Toward Reconciliation: Multi-Religious Peace Roundtables”-

Dates & Place: February 18-21, 2024, Tokyo, Japan

Overview:

Religions for Peace International and Religions for Peace Japan, in partnership with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), hosted the second “Beyond War and Toward Reconciliation: Multi-Religious Peace Roundtables”. Building on the success of the inaugural Roundtable in 2022, this event brought together diverse religious and faith leaders representing various religions from sixteen conflict countries to share wisdom and explore short- and long-term processes and initiatives to advance peace and reconciliation. The delegates included religious leaders from Russia, Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, Myanmar, Haiti and other countries which have been facing serious violence in the country.

Throughout the three days of the Roundtable, participants discussed the necessity and importance of religious and faith actors, policymakers, stakeholders, and civil society to come together to call for the sanctity of human life and dignity. The Second Tokyo Peace Roundtable concluded with the Beyond War and Towards Reconciliation: Multi-Religious Peace Roundtables Statement that made commitments “to continue to pray and work multi-religiously towards a culture of peace that advances shared well-being, grounded in respect for the sanctity of life and human dignity.”





## 2) Program #2 Symposium and Prayers for the G7 Hiroshima Summit

Date: May 10, 2023

Place: World Peace Memorial Cathedral (Hiroshima, Japan)/Online

Overview:

Religions for Peace Japan hosted “Symposium and Prayers for the G7 Hiroshima Summit” and about 300 people from 11 countries were gathered. In the first part, Mr. Shigeaki Mori, an atomic bomb survivor, gave his testimony about his severe experience of atomic bomb in Hiroshima, and multi-faith religious leaders prayed for peace afterward. In the second part, a symposium was held and concluded with "Religious Proposal for the G7 Hiroshima Summit” to propose 6 recommendations to Japanese government, which are 1) Reversing the trend from division to reconciliation and from opposition to dialogue, 2) Averting nuclear war and abolishing nuclear weapons, 3) Fulfilling the responsibility for global sustainability, 4) Fulfilling the responsibility to achieve the SDGs, 5) Correcting extreme economic disparity, and 6) Protecting the freedom of religion. On May 15, Rev. Yoshiharu Tomatsu, Chair of Religions for Peace Japan and other members visited Mr. Fumio Kishida, the Prime Minister of Japan and delivered him the proposal.

Religions for Peace Japan also issued a statement to evaluate the Hiroshima G7 Summit on 13<sup>th</sup> September and delivered it to the Foreign Minister of Japan on 12<sup>th</sup> October.



## 3) Program #3 Humanitarian Support for the 2023 Turkey-Syria Earthquakes

Following the major earthquakes that struck southern Turkey and Syria on February 6, 2023, Religions for Peace Japan launched an emergency campaign to support the victims and conduct humanitarian assistance in those area. Religions for Peace Japan sent donations to 6 international/national NGOs for emergency relief. Also, Religions for Peace Japan dispatched a team to investigate the situation in southern Turkey, and based on this report, Religions for Peace Japan made further contributions to three organizations in Turkey.





4) Program #4 International Seminar of the International Peace Corps of Religions (IPCR)

Date& Place: December 7, 2023, Kobe

Overview:

Religious leaders from Japan, China, and Korea gathered in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture to discuss ways to build a peaceful community in Northeast Asia.



5) Program #5 Commemorating Event of the 50th anniversary of Religions for Peace Youth Committee

Dates & Place: May 13, 2024, Kyoto

Overview: To commemorate the 50th anniversary of Religions for Peace Youth Committee, Youth Committee hosted the symposium to reflect their path of 50 years and pledge their future steps for building peace.





Religions for Peace Japan also holds five taskforces: 1) Stop! Nuclear Dependence; 2) Climate Crisis; 3) Education for Reconciliation, 4) Prevention of Trafficking in Persons, and 5) Disaster Response, and three Standing Committees: 1) Peace Research Institute; 2) Women's Committee; and 3) Youth Committee. Each taskforce teams and standing committees conducted respective seminars and projects throughout the year 2023.



Climate Crisis Taskforce Team has enhanced Tree Planting Project.



Education for Reconciliation Taskforce Team hosted series of "Training Facilitators for Reconciliation and Peace".



Board Meeting was held at Kobe Mosque in September.



Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Taskforce Team visited Vietnamese Temple in Saitama Prefecture.



Women's Committee has been working for refugees in Japan.