



エンパワーするNGO
日本YWCA

Annual Report

2005-2006

YWCA of Japan

President's Message



YWCA of Japan celebrated its centennial in November 2003. That was the time when we renew our commitment to the social responsibility as an international women's organization through various projects commemorating the 100 year history.

One of the projects was promotion of the Global Campaign. Through the fundraising activities, members of YWCA raised awareness about YWCA. We, YWCA of Japan would mobilise more people to YWCA movement working for world peace by women leadership. I do hope that young women in Japan maximise their potential to power to change their communities.

It is my continued prayer that as we walk with our sisters around the globe we might be a part of the realization of the peace of Jesus Christ.

Keiko Aoki
President
YWCA of Japan

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1. YWCA of Japan - Profile



Local Associations	27
Members	3661
Associate Members	1014
Programme Beneficiaries	11447
Jr./Sr. High School YWCA	33
Members	550
Supporters for YWCA of Japan	478

2. Movement Priorities

■ **Peace Movement**

“Peace Constitution”

The YWCA of Japan strongly supports the Japanese Constitution promulgated in 1946 for its stance on human rights, the sovereignty of the people, and peace especially Article 9, which focuses on the renunciation of war.

The administration party was going to submit the bill in order to revise the “Peace Constitution” and dispatch troops abroad. Japan YWCA strongly had opposed the revise of the “Peace Constitution” and worked to appeal the importance of the “Peace Constitution”.

Abolishment of nuclear weapons

The YWCA of Japan believes that humanity and nuclear weapons cannot co-exist. We also promote the full-fledged use of environmentally friendly energy as an alternative to nuclear power. Since 1971, every August, a study tour “Pilgrimage to Hiroshima” provides participants from Jr/Sr High schools and local YWCAs with an opportunity to meet atomic bomb survivors and learn of the horrors of the atomic bomb.

In May 2005, Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was held in New York, USA. From Japan, over 500 participants including atomic bomb survivors participated in the conference to share the experience of atomic holocaust and emphasised the importance of abolishment of nuclear weapons. YWCA of Japan sent a request to the Japanese government to take leadership in abolishment of nuclear weapons in the conference.

■ **Advocacy**

Eliminating Violence against Women

The aim of the YWCA of Japan is bring about society where woman can live safely with dignity. We have focused on eliminating violence against women. Domestic Violence is not an individual problem but a social one. YWCAs of Japan do advocacy work for gender equality and provide support to victims of domestic violence in communities.

In Aug, 2005 Japan YWCA developed a leaflet to raise awareness about women’s human rights and promote gender-equal society together with members of local YWCAs. In January, 2006 YWCA of Japan and the committee of women’s rights, Tokyo YWCA held the workshop named ‘ Let’s Expand our Network: Against Violence and For Women’s Rights’ in Tokyo in order to raise awareness about violence against women and uphold women’s human rights in communities. Over 40 members from 13 YWCAs took part in the workshop and the building of a network.

Protecting the Children's Rights

We believe that children naturally have potential. Communities should be prepared to help children develop their abilities and bring out their talents. Local associations provide various programmes such as book reading for kids and camps in communities. Some of them also offer support for families raising children.

ECPAT(End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography And Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes) /STOP JAPAN

According to the status quo, approximately 1.2 million children around the world are being trafficked for sexual purposes every year. Many of them are forced to work in the sex industry that exists in tourist spots. The international development of the Code (Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism) is promoted by major tourism industry representatives, NGOs, and UN-related agencies. In Japan the Code of Conduct was successfully enacted in the spring of 2005 through the efforts of ECPAT/STOP JAPAN, UNICEF and WTO.

Adoption of the code by the suppliers of tourism is meaningful as it protects children from sexual exploitation in the tourism industry, because the international tourism industry in Japan is huge. The YWCA of Japan is one of the core members of ECPAT/STOP JAPAN as it works to stop child prostitution and pornography.

The Fundamental Law of Education

In Japan, a bill to amend the Fundamental Law of Education formulated in 1947 is to be submitted to the Diet (parliament). Education policies are becoming more elitist under the pretext of developing the individualities of each student. The YWCA of Japan strongly opposes this trend.

"Let's Expand our Network: Against Violence and For Women's Rights"

The programme had 4 sections. Firstly, participants read a scenario that described domestic violence and groups presented example situations. Participants then created stories by themselves and filled in the blanks for a scenario. Secondly, Osaka YWCA that established one shelter for victims of domestic violence reported their activities and inspired other participants from other local associations. Thirdly, two lectures were given by experts under the theme of *The relationship between Public Violence and Private Violence and Peace and Violence Against Women*.

Lastly, a human sculpture which was designed to give some hindsight to participants about the strategies to their activities was created. By becoming part of a sculpture, participants expressed their ideas coming from the group discussions at the "exhibition" and other participants guessed what they were expressing and developed new aspects.

All participants enjoyed the sessions and developed ideas and strategies for their future activities. Also, at the pre-workshop seven participants from 4 local associations were trained how to create a program through discussion by using a "logic model" and a "concept map". Because of the workshop, participants were introduced to new enjoyable methods, and they learned how to create and develop programmes.

3. Community Service by Local YWCAs

Based on movement priorities, local YWCAs in Japan provide various services not only for women and children but also for others who need support in the community.

< Main community services of YWCAs in Japan >

- Health/physical education
- Programmes for physically-challenged children
- Programmes for parents
- Day care centers
- Outdoor education/ camps
- Peer educator programmes for youth
- Care support for the elderly
- Feminist counseling
- Support groups for victims of domestic violence
- Support for foreign nationals/ international students
- Support for people with disabilities
- Support for people living with HIV/AIDS
- Language courses
- Bible study classes
- Courses for volunteer workers

Tokyo YWCA 100th Anniversary Project
Program for Post-op Breast Cancer Patients
ENCORE (April, 2005)

In commemoration of our 100th anniversary (2005), the Tokyo YWCA extended its activities to a new field. With the help of the YWCA of Australia, it began with a support programme for women. This programme is entitled ENCORE and is a support programme for post-op breast cancer patients. It was started in May 2005 and organised for four terms by March 2006. It has been reported in the media and received great response with 54 women participating in the programme. ENCORE is an eight-week program that focuses on both exercise in a studio and/or a pool and a time of sharing for participants. This YWCA-original program offers support to enable women to move forward into a new and brighter way of life. Tokyo YWCA will continue this programme to support women with breast cancer as they develop a positive life.

4. 100th Anniversary Programmes

- The 100 year History of YWCA of Japan.

YWCA of Japan published a history book of YWCA of Japan. It describes how YWCA of Japan had been developed and how its priorities had been changed. The summary in English will be published by August 2006.

- International Peace Programme-Pilgrimage to Hiroshima

The year 2005, YWCA of Japan celebrates its 100th anniversary. At the same time it marks 60th anniversary of the atomic bombing. Celebrating the centennial, YWCA of Japan hosted Pilgrimage to Hiroshima to an International Programme by inviting guests from sister associations in China, Korea and Palestine, and international students from 8 countries studying in Japan. It was held from 18th to 21st August 2005 in Hiroshima. Japan and nearly 150 participants from teenagers to seniors were gathered from throughout the country and also from overseas.



Pilgrimage to Hiroshima is one of the distinctive programmes that has over 30 years history in YWCA of Japan. It started originally from visit to Hiroshima in order to learn the atrocity of an atomic bomb and realise the problem related to the nuclear problems. The programme was gradually turned into the programme for teenagers to provide an opportunity to learn what happened in Hiroshima by listening to the atomic bomb survivors. It has also become one of the core programmes of YWCA of Japan for peace promotion. Today, we find broader meanings of this programme and are committed to provide young generation with opportunities to exchange opinions and share ideas relating peace.

When we recall the fact that numerous people including Korean labours forcibly brought from their country and war prisoners were killed instantly by a single atomic bomb, we should simultaneously recall the atrocities by Japanese armed forces in other Asian countries. Also, now we have to work together to achieve peace in many different areas in the world suffering from conflicts, injustice and violation of human rights. This year, the programme aimed to look for the way to eliminate violence from the world beyond generations, races, religions and borders.

Through contact with those who were exposed to radiation and the monuments to the victims participants reaffirmed the importance of not repeating the mistake of going to war and the necessity to become involved in actions aimed at achieving peace in the world. The programme also included a keynote speech by Professor Tetsuya Takahashi. He emphasized the importance of "judging" the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki to affirm that the incidents were

unforgivable criminal acts. He believes that this is the key to abolishing nuclear weapons and never allowing such a thing to happen again.

Workshops on five issues based on the theme, *Eliminating violence from the world; Peace in Palestine, Peace in East Asia, Abolishment of Nuclear Weapons; Constitution Article 9(renunciation of war), Constitution Article 24 (equality of sexes)*.

Approximately 150 participants adopted "Hiroshima Appeal" as their action plan after the programme.

■ **Global Campaign**

YWCA of Japan participated in the Global Campaign as soon as it started and each local associations made a lot of efforts to raise the funds and to develop new partners and sponsors. Marking its Centennial, YWCA of Japan organised a classical concert by Bach Collegium Japan. The profit from the concert was contributed to the "Power to Change" Campaign. We have achieved its aim, 10million JPY (equivalent to 100 million US dollars).

■ **Ceremony**

Following the classic concert, a ceremony to celebrate its Centennial with Ms. Monica Zetzsche, World YWCA President as well as guests from sister Bangladesh, Hong Kong, India, Korea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and USA in attendance. Prof. Chikako Taya, the ex-judge at the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia made keynote speech. Together with the partners, the guests and members YWCA of Japan celebrated its past and renewed its commitments to the future works. The international guests also enjoyed Japanese culture and visit to Tokyo YWCA buildings.



5. International Networking

■ Young Staff members from YWCA of Palestine Visited Local YWCAs

Young staff members from YWCA of Palestine visited 8 local associations. They shared their experience as well as the work of the Joint Advocacy initiative by YWCA of Palestine and East Jerusalem YMCA. Many members of YWCA of Japan renewed their commitment to partnership with YWCA of Palestine for peace in Palestine.

■ Young Women from China and Korea visited a local YWCA

The young women from China and Korea participated in the International Peace Programme “Pilgrimage to Hiroshima” was invited to the Asian Youth Meeting organised by Hiratsuka YWCA and exchanged ideas with Japanese youth.

■ Korea-Japan Youth Conference

Thirty young women from Korea and Japan gathered in Kyoto, Japan from November 18th -21st, 2005. The Korea-Japan Youth Conference was organised by YWCA of Japan. Participants learned what is happening to migrant women in Japan and Korea and discussed what the members can do through YWCA or individually. The programme has been held between YWCA of Korea and YWCA of Japan to exchange ideas, learn and discuss about specific topic.



■ “Support YWCA of Palestine Project”

YWCA members have involved in the Olive Tree Campaign to show solidarity with Palestinians living under the conflict. Donors and members participate in the campaign not only by fundraising for olive trees but also by advocacy for peace in Palestine.

Tokyo YWCA 100th Anniversary Project

Senior Care Support Programme in China

Commemorating its 100th Anniversary, the Tokyo YWCA started a project to provide training for the YWCA of China’s Elderly Care Programme. From April to July 2005, two trainees from Beijing and Tienjin received training at the Tokyo YWCA College. After the training, these women went back to China where they are now maximizing what they learned in Japan.

Many donors funded their visit and training. The follow-up training was organized by YWCA of China and Tokyo YWCA send instructors to the training for local YWCA staff in China. Tokyo YWCA will continue responding to requests by the YWCA of China and offering them support.

6. Challenges

- **To increase youth members and get them involved in decision-making**

Currently, over 25% of the Executive Committee members are under 35 years of age. Some local associations are struggling with a decrease in membership and the aging of their members. To strengthen public recognition of the YWCA, new standards for making the YWCA more visible have been adopted. We are now challenged not only to find ways to conduct public relations activities but also to pinpoint what we want to advertise. We need to strategise how to attract young women to YWCA.

- **Functions of the National YWCA**

Functions of the National YWCA have been questioned with relation to local associations. It is necessary to strength relations and commutative networks with them. We are now seeking better way of activities, management and leadership development as well as how to support their governance.

- **Christian basis**

It has been over 20years since we opened our membership to women of all faiths who support YWCA 's vision. How to retain the Christian basis of the YWCA and to promote understandings of Christianity have been called into question.

- **Leadership development**

There has been an increase in the exchange of leadership-training programmes among YWCAs in neighboring countries. The YWCA of Japan hopes that the sharing of practical resources and skills between YWCAs around the world will continue to move forward.

7. Board Members and Staff of YWCA of Japan

National Board Members

President	Keiko Aoki	
Vice President	Reiko Kawado	
Vice President	Mineko Nagayama	
Secretary	Mika Kurato	
Treasurer	Ritsuko Mibae	
Member	Kyoko Ishida	Mari Sasabe
	Kiyomi Ishihara	Takako Takei
	Misako Ichikawa	Kimiko Terashima
	Naoko Iwata	Asako Tomita
	Hiroko Umemoto	Kuniko Tomiyasu
	Mari Endo	Mitsue Nakayama
	Takako Okawa	Ikue Nanba
	Kazumi Oshima	Ayako Nishi
	Masako Kajikawa	Junko Fukahori
	Etsuko Kiyota	Satomi Masui
	Noriko Kiyozuka	Naoko Matano
	Sakie Kuninaka	Yuko Matsuura
	Junko Kuroki	Chie Yoshimura

Staff of the National Office

General Secretary	Kuniyo Kawabata
General Administration	Hiroko Nitta
Finance and Accounting	Emiko Miyaki
Accounting Assistant	Mitsuko Kayama
Advocacy	Satoko Fujitani
Local Associations Coordination	Yasuko Narita
Communications & Advocacy	Izuho Hagio
International Affairs	Sayaka Azuma