



September 10, 2008

Prime Minister FUKUDA Yasuo

Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology SUZUKI Tsuneo

**Petition requesting elimination of reference to the Takeshima (Dok-do) islets
in the revised teachers' guidelines for junior high school social studies text books**

The World YWCA, an international NGO with the consultative status at the UN Economic and Social Council, is an organization with a network in 125 countries, including South Korea. We of the YWCA of Japan, one member of this organization, believe that it is the role and responsibility of the Japanese Government to apologize and make compensation for the crimes our country committed in the Asia-Pacific War, to spread Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution throughout the world, and to work so that the people of the world can live in peace, without the fear of violence. We think that the peace and stability of Northeast Asia is a particularly urgent issue.

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan recently included for the first time mention of the Takeshima (Dok-do) islets in the revised teachers' guidelines for junior high school social studies text books, although it was aware that the action would arouse strong objections from the people of South Korea and create a diplomatic issue. We are very apprehensive that this action will destabilize Japan-South Korea relations and create tension between these two countries. We are opposed to giving a one-sided account in junior high school textbooks for teaching in schools of an issue on which these two countries take opposing positions and which is not subject to an easy solution, either politically or diplomatically. The role and responsibility of the Japanese Government is, we believe, to lead the way in diplomacy to a peaceful solution of the Takeshima islets issue acceptable to the world without giving rise to tension in Japan-South Korea relations.

Therefore, we of the YWCA of Japan strongly request that reference to the Takeshima islets be eliminated from the revised teachers' guidelines for junior high school social studies textbooks.

Mayako Ishii

YWCA of Japan

ISHII Mayako, President

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KAWABATA Kuniyo, General Secretary