



**"Japan-Korea Youth Conference 2007"
in Nagoya, Japan**

Annual Report 2007-2008

YWCA of Japan

President's Message

The year 2007 was very fruitful in the international activities and programmes of the YWCA of Japan. It was delightful that young members were active and took share in our workshop on peace education held in World YWCA Council in Kenya. We were also glad that our proposal of recommendation on 'Abolition of DU Weapons' was adopted, and to be able to raise the awareness on the danger of DU among the members of the World YWCA, particularly in connection with the health of women and children. Let us endeavour to abolish these weapons forever.



I am grateful to inform that the first joint programme with the YWCA of China on peace education under the theme of "Peace Pilgrimage to Nanjing" carried out in December owing to the great cooperation and warm hospitality of the YWCA of China. We hope to hold such programmes every four years or so.

We are also glad to have opportunities to deepen relationship with the YWCA of Korea through both "Japan-Korea Youth Conference" held in Nagoya, Japan, and "The 2007 International Conference of History-Related NGOs" held in Seoul, Korea. I greatly appreciate the YWCA of Korea for their continuing cooperation for such meaningful activities.

We also thank to the YWCAs of Jordan, Egypt and Palestine for their heartfelt hospitalities when we visited these three countries in October as the representatives of the YWCA of Japan to the 2007 Arab-Japan Women's Exchange Programme sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. The Programme has been held every year since 1996 by the National Women's Committee of the UN NGOs in Japan. The YWCA of Japan is one of the ten member organizations of the Committee which take responsibility to send and welcome of representatives of both parts. and it was our turn in 2007 to be responsible for the Programme.

As for the purpose to develop leadership among young women and girls, it is quite certain that new young members are recruited and empowered through various activities and programmes, and are trained to exercise leadership step by step. We emphasize to bridge between young members of local YWCAs and those of Junior & Senior High School YWCAs; for example, by sending the young as observers to the World YWCA Council 2007, and to the summer conferences of Junior & Senior High School YWCAs. The former led them to find the charm of YWCA as an international movement, and the latter made them aware of their responsibilities.

We are now under preparation for adjustment to the new law of public foundation which involves some change in our Constitution. It is very laborious work, but we think it necessary step for our association to be trusted by the general public.

God bless you in the various YWCA activities in the world, and let us strive for our movements in accordance with God's will.

Mayako Ishii
President, YWCA of Japan

Table of Contents

1. YWCA of Japan –Profile ...p1
2. Vision 2015 of YWCA of Japan ...p1
3. Community Service and Activities by Local Associations ...p4
4. Junior and Senior High School YWCAs ...p6
5. International Networking and Activities ...p7
6. Contribution ...p8
7. Board Members and Staffs ...p9

1. YWCA of Japan –Profile



Local Association.....	26
Members.....	3,175
Associate Members.....	783
Jr./Sr. High School YWCA.....	34
Members.....	489
Programme Beneficiaries.....	83,394
Friends of YWCA of Japan.....	743

2. Vision 2015 of YWCA of Japan

The YWCA of Japan has launched “Vision 2015 of the YWCA of Japan” at the 29th National Convention in November 2006, which consists of the following five movement priorities for the next 9 years. Our goal is to build peace by non-violent and non-nuclear ways and by strengthening women’s leadership. The activities of the past two years have been carried under this vision. Details of the movement priorities are available on “Annual Report 2006–2007”.

<http://www.ywca.or.jp/english/report.html>

Five Priorities:

1. Retain Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution that renounces war and use of military forces and expand its principle globally .
2. Peace making in Northeast Asia through civil network and cooperation
3. Protect women and children’s rights
4. Support and work in solidarity with the YWCA of Palestine for peace in the region
5. Develop young women’s leadership

■ PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Priority 1: Peace Constitution: “Article 9” movement

The Constitution of Japan was made after the Second World War with a vow that we forever renounce war.

Article 9.

Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.

In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.

Despite this statement, Japanese Government formed Self Defence Forces in 1954 under Cold War, Japanese minesweepers were sent to the Persian Gulf during Persian Gulf War in 1991, and SDF participated in Cambodia PKO the following year, and further more, triggered by 9.11 incident and US attack on Afghanistan and Iraq, the Diet passed Emergency Legislation which enables Japan to cooperate to the US military activities. These activities may be said to be taken as international cooperation, even though it is a violation of Japanese Peace Constitution. The YWCA of Japan urged to develop Article 9 Peace Movement with solidarity with other community groups and NGOs across Japan.

To stop this trend of expanding military power and loose interpretation of the Peace Constitution renouncing war, the YWCA of Japan has been advocating to protect and to expand the idea of Article 9 locally and globally. Local YWCAs have promoted various activities on Article 9, such as study programmes, advocacy action on the streets, peace education workshops, and “Action 9” campaign. On “Action 9” campaign, local YWCA members put on T-shirt with “9” logo or bake “9” shaped cookies etc on the 9th of every month.

In 2007 ‘Asia Inter-religious Conference on Article 9 and Peace in Asia’ was held from November 29th to December 1st and Mayako Ishii, the president of the YWCA of Japan, took a role of Co-Chair.

Priority 2: Northeast Asia Peace Making Programmes

◆ Pilgrimage to Hiroshima 2007

The YWCA of Japan started the programme “Pilgrimage to Hiroshima” in 1971 with a firm policy of “No Nukes”. This programme, held annually for 36 years, is not only for remembering the devastating experience of Hiroshima and Nagasaki but for raising a voice of “No more Hibakusha” around the world. The programme consists of testimony by A-bomb survivors, open discussions, field trip to historical sites as well as currently controversial areas such as military bases and related facilities. Participants meet the people struggling for peace on the

spot and find the severe facts, discuss and think about what those facts mean to live truly as human beings and what the peace really is.

The programme has become globalized recently, with some international students and participants from the world including guests from the YWCAs of Korea and China. In August 9–12, 2007, 108 young participants including 6 guests from Korea and China gathered in Hiroshima under the theme, "Building Community Where Everyone Is Respected".

Many other related peace movements led by local YWCAs are such as A-bomb Art Exhibition, Nagasaki Peace Messengers, study tours, seminars, movies and advocacy using YWCA's original peace cards and goods.

◆ Japan–Korea YWCA Youth Conference 2007

This Japan and Korea co-organizing youth specific programme was first started in 1990's for the purpose of having face-to-face relationship between youth members of the YWCAs of Japan and Korea no matter how politics put obstacles between Japan and Korea. This programme aims at raising awareness about common issues such as history, gender, environment, violation of human rights, and discussion is held to find some idea for solving the problems.

The YWCAs of Japan and Korea alternatively host the Conference. In 2007, it was Japan's turn to hold the conference. We chose the issues of migrant women in the context of globalization which is often undermined in both Japanese and Korean society and held the conference in Nagoya in November.

The purpose of the programme is not only to deal with issues but to develop young people's leadership. Moreover, young participants from Korea and Japan deepen their mutual understandings and friendship through the programme which enables them to share the process of exploring solution together

◆ The Peace Pilgrimage to Nanjing 2007 — from Nanjing to Hiroshima

Proposed and hosted by the YWCA of China as a reciprocal action to Pilgrimage to Hiroshima, the Peace Pilgrimage to Nanjing was newly started and held in December 2007 under the cooperation of the YWCAs of China and Japan. The purpose of this joint project is set for the youth of both countries to make them understand the history and importance of peace and friendship based on mutual trust.

The year 2007 was 70th anniversary of Japan–China War and in December 1937 Japanese Imperial Army attacked Nanjing. The participants visited renewed Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall, listened to a lecture by a local Nanjing researcher, and heard a testimony by Nanjing Massacre survivor.



Participants of both Japan and China together had group discussions.

33 Chinese and 19 Japanese participants ranging from teenagers to the seventies learned about the historical facts of aggression for which Japanese participants apologized with deep remorse. They had serious and constructive discussion over the past and the future. This programme will continue every two years or so to deepen mutual understanding and promote action-oriented peace-building in Northeast Asia.

Vision 4 : Olive Picking Tour 2007

The YWCA of Japan supports the United Nations' recognition that rights of Palestinians, protected by Charter of the United Nations and Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are violated. In response to the call for action by the World YWCA, the YWCA of Japan has been working on support action for the YWCA of Palestine.



Olive Picking Tour Photo: Kimiko Terashima

Two Japanese YWCA members participated in JAI's Olive Picking Tour in 2007, and brought live report back and shared their experience with local YWCA members in Japan. We also publish newsletters regularly and spread the message of "Keep Hope Alive" Olive Tree Campaign promoted by the YWCA of Palestine. Donations for planting over 900 Olive trees have been sent to Palestine since 2004.

3. Community Service and Activities by Local Associations

Local Associations in Japan provide services to meet the needs of women, children, youth, and elderly people in communities.

< Main community services of YWCAs in Japan >

- Courses and classes: peace making, Bible study, foreign languages, volunteer works, environmental issues
- Health and physical education and programmes, including day care services, counselling
- Outdoor education and camps
- Peer educator programmes for youth
- Support group and activity for/with; foreign nationals, international students, people with disabilities, survivors of domestic violence, people living with HIV & AIDS

◆ Fukuoka YWCA : Happy School



Gathered for BBQ

In 2005, responding to the needs of families from abroad on increasing population, Fukuoka YWCA opened a place for children to learn Japanese as a second language. It started with 6 children and now 14, the place was named as Happy School and continues as a place for 1st to 9th graders to come and learn together.

Putting as the first priority support for children to learn Japanese language, Happy School also provides services such as leaning support for school curricula, and serves as a place to make friends. Those who completed the Japanese Teacher Training Course as well as local college and university students teach them on volunteer basis, and play a role of mentor for the children. The programme also includes field trips, barbecue and other fun activities!

“I can meet many different friends here, and I’m so happy about it. I enjoy talking a lot here and enjoy speaking both Chinese and Japanese.” says a 9th grader.

◆ Tokyo YWCA : Kids Garden

Kids Garden is a place providing care and support for children with disability. Started with a few children, Kids Garden has now grown to 90 members of age 2 to 13, and celebrated its 5th anniversary in 2007.

Around 10 qualified care workers are working daily and respond thoroughly to each child’s needs. Children are placed in 4 groups by age and the level of development, and medical treatment, rehabilitation, care and support are provided accordingly.

Kids Garden has two main objectives. The first is to value the idea of “together with family”. Accepting the child as she/he is, the centre develops and promotes correct understanding of each child, and works with the children properly. The staffs respond to the children’s immediate needs as well as necessary skill training for their future. All this is made possible by cooperation with the children’s family.

The second is to provide support to the children to develop the power and skills for life. Physical training, basic skills in daily living, and social skills as the three basic matters, and children achieve those three matters by experiencing Kids Garden’s professional care and its programmes which are well organized to be integrated into the local community.

◆ Kyoto YWCA : Positive Action Now! (PAN)

Setting up “do what you can do” as a slogan, Kyoto YWCA started programme for HIV & AIDS issues in 1993. In the following year, the activity was vitalized further by having an official name as “HIV & AIDS Project with Youth and Women”. Provided services include; phone counselling, youth advocacy, healthy meal delivery, support for positive foreign nationals. “I’m always with you” was the message sent when the meal was delivered. The project gradually became trusted and received various consultation. The project members also supported the plaintiff of Medical Trial on HIV & AIDS where the HIV positive plaintiff fought for their rights and dignity under the condition of physical suffering and surrounding discrimination and stigma. They won the suit in 1996!

**“Society where positive persons can live as she/he is, is where “I” can live as I am.
Challenges they face is also mine as we live the same times in the same society.”**

---voice of a member ---

After the 14 years of activity, the project renamed itself as Positive Action Now!(PAN) In these 14 years, the social attitude towards people living with HIV & AIDS has been somewhat improved. Medical technology has been developed, and people living with HIV & AIDS are gradually able to have job and family. PAN keeps its policy of “do what you can do”, and responds to today’s needs. The meal delivery with the message “I’m always with you” is on going, and has expanded the service to elderly people and those who have patients in family.

4. Junior and Senior High School YWCAs

29 member schools and 5 associate schools have regional Summer Conferences every year.

In 2007, in the Kansai (the West) district, students chose the theme of “natural disaster and volunteering”, based on the experience of the Great Hansin-Awaji Earthquake back in 1995, under which over 4500 people lost their lives and local YWCAs worked as relief centres. Over 120 students from 8 schools gathered and learned the preciousness of life and what they can do as volunteers through field work and talks of survivors and relief volunteers.



Participants pose in a local church.

In the Tohoku and Hokkaido (the North East) area, the theme of the conference was “environment” and in the Kanto (the East) district, students took a peace making field trip to a war time Military/Imperial Headquarter site where many Korean people were forced to labour.



Furthermore, participants of 2007 Nairobi World Council joined the Conferences to share the World YWCA priorities and activities with those students, and tried to attract their concern to the world outside school and to connect their daily activities to the world issues.

Photo: Youth with Pastor Hiroo Sekita, who also participated in Peace Pilgrimage to Nanjing.

5. International Networking and Activities

◆ **World Council 2007 recommendation: Abolition of Depleted Uranium (DU) weapons**
Many people, especially women and children suffer from illnesses caused by the exposure to 'depleted' uranium. In areas such as southern Iraq, where uranium munitions were used by the US and the UK, increase of the number of cases as cancers, leukemia and birth defects has been reported.

On December 5th 2007 the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution calling for further research on the harmful health effects from DU. The YWCA of Japan lobbied our government to abolish DU weapons and paid intense attention to the vote. November 6th is the International Day of Action Against Depleted Uranium Weapons. We appealed to other national YWCAs to take actions for advocacy on this issue.

Since 1970, the YWCA of Japan has been advocating "No Nukes", which means not only the abolition of all forms of nuclear weapons but also denuclearization. Learning from the experience of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and also from Chernobyl, we are against even the 'peaceful' use of nuclear power plants as "clean energy to stop global warming" and reconsidering our current lifestyle built on nuclear civilization, in order to be free from any risk of the radio-active contamination. The YWCA of Japan calls for **No** nuclear pollution but **New** clear solution!

◆ International Conference

Ms. Naoko Matano, Vice President, and 5 other delegates participated in the 2007 International Conference of History-Related NGOs (Organizer: the Northeast Asian History Foundation and the Organizing Committee, Seoul, Korea) on invitation and arrangement by the YWCA of Korea.

Photo: Participants with YWCA of Korea members



◆ **The 20th and 21st Japan–Arab Women Exchange**

Started in 1996, members of several women’s organizations in Japan visit to, and welcome women leaders of Arab countries to hold the exchange programme for mutual understanding sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

The ten member organizations of National Women’s Association of the UN NGOs of Japan alternatively take the responsibility of dispatching Japanese delegation and hosting of the guests from Arab countries. The YWCA of Japan took the responsibility in the 2007 fiscal year and Mayako Ishii, the president of the YWCA of Japan, and two other delegates visited Egypt, Palestine, and Jordan in late October, and welcomed women leaders from those countries in late January of 2008. The focus of the programme was “informal education” (“life-long education”, “community learning” and so forth), on which the YWCA of Japan has put emphasis for long time. The programme includes meeting and talking with Ministers as well as members of parliament and mayors, field trip to local education centres, and to national and local YWCAs of respective countries.

The Japanese delegation visited the national office of the YWCA of Egypt, Cairo YWCA, the national office of the YWCA of Palestine, Ramallah YWCA, and Amman YWCA in Jordan, and appreciated their heart-warming welcome. On return, Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka YWCAs hosted a welcome party when the guests visited to Japan.

6 Contribution

Contributed to	Solomon Islands Tsunami Relief	Bangladesh Cyclone Relief	Kenya Crisis Relief	Olive Tree Campaign	Palestine Support Fund
Amount (JPY)	150,000	412,188	192,646	585,500	299,250

Contributed to (cont’ d)	Lebanon Conflict Relief	Honoring Leadership and Dr.Kanyoro Fund	Resource Sharing Programme	DU Elimination
Amount (JPY)	165,000	100,000	65,000	119,870

7. Board Members and Staffs



Board Members

President	ISHII, Mayako	
Vice-President	MATANO, Naoko	MIBAE, Ritsuko
Treasurer	TERASHIMA, Kimiko	
Secretary	ARAKI, Noriko	
Member	FUJIWARA, Reiko	FUKUSHIMA, Yuriko
	IKEGAMI, Mikiko	KATSU, Mie
	MANNEN, Rei	MATSUURA, Hiroko
	MITSUMATA, Masako	NISHI, Ayako
	TAKEUCHI, Yuki	TAWARA, Kyoko
	YOKOYAMA, Yumiko	
	General Secretary	KAWABATA, Kuniyo

Staffs

NISHIHARA, Mikako	Advocacy/ Administration and management
NITTA, Hiroko	Administration and management
HAGIO, Izuho	Communications & Networking / Advocacy
MIYAKI, Emiko KABURAKI, Reiko OGAWA, Chiko	Finance & Accounting/ Fundraising
AZUMA, Sayaka NEGISHI, Tomoko	International Affairs & Communication