

# 2014 Annual Report



# For the Safety of Women and Children



During April 2014-March 2015, the YWCA of Japan coordinated various programs including disaster-relief activities for survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake, yearly study tours, as well as national-level training sessions including Junior and Senior High School YWCA Conference and overseas training.

292 Participants and 400 volunteers in "Refresh" Program for disaster survivors

127 people (36 families) participated in the "Second-House" for disaster survivors

966 people visited "Caro Fukushima" 221 participants and 100 volunteers/resource persons in study tours

193 participants and 85 volunteers/ resource persons in "Junior and Senior High School YWCA Conference"

6 members attended overseas training 1,660 volunteers participated in planning and organizing the work of the YWCA of Japan

**The YWCA** is an international NGO where, upon a Christian foundation, women from around the world exceed the barriers of language and cultures and work together to encourage women's participation in society and to realize a peaceful world where human rights, health and environment is protected.

The movement began in Great Britain in 1855, and nowadays, 25million women are working in more than 120 countries throughout the world. The World Office locates in Switzerland as an organization in consultative status with the United Nations. In Japan, the movement has continued for more than 100 years since its establishment in 1905, contributing to the society in various ways.

**The YWCA of Japan** reobtained status as a Public Interest Incorporated Association in April 2013. Together with 24 local YWCAs and 36 junior and senior high-school YWCAs, it conducts the following activities for the safety of women and children.

- Education and awareness raising of global issues including peace, human rights and environment, and training young leaders to work on these issues
- Work for the healthy physical and mental development of young people
- Advocacy work, by way of collaborating with UN institutions and NGOs within and outside Japan, as well as outreach including newsletter and website
- Emergency relief activities for disasters and conflicts within and outside Japan
- Leadership training of volunteers to contribute to local communities

# Preface

Mayako Ishii

(Chairperson, Board of Trustees)



It is all thanks to the many people who supported the YWCA of Japan through the year 2014-2015 that the YWCA of Japan was able to carry out its activities.

In a current world with ever-diversifying values, I realize that there are things that need to be changed with the passing of time, and also things that should not be changed. The program “Pilgrimage to Hiroshima”, which the YWCA of Japan has continued for more than 40 years, is a journey where participants stand in the place where the Atomic Bomb was dropped in the same season, listen to the testimony of survivors, walk through the memorials of the bombing, and think by themselves about what happened. The support activity for survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake, which we have taken on for 4 years, is aimed to become a support for vulnerable women and children who find limited chance of talking about their concerns in Fukushima with an increasingly serious problem of radioactive pollution.

We are willing to be individuals who walk and act together, with our imaginations fully alert, fervently hoping to be “neighbors” for those who are in difficult situations. I wish to express our gratitude for all those who cooperated and supported us, so that all our work became possible.

Naoko Matano

(President)



The YWCA of Japan has made a commitment to stay with the women and children who were affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, until the day when the children who were born on the day of the Earthquake become 20 years old, and continued its support activities mainly in Fukushima. The “Peace” that the YWCA of Japan is yearning for means creating a society where everyone can live in safety, and where everyone can live in harmony. Our support activities for the disaster survivors represent this hope for peace in action.

I wish to express our gratitude for many people who supported the disaster survivor support activity through donations, volunteering, advice and inputs throughout the reporting period.

One large achievement of year 2014-2015 is the convening of the National Junior and Senior YWCA Conference, which was realized for the first time in 44 years. This program, which brought together 120 junior and senior high school students who will become agents of peace in the future, would not have been possible without the support that we received. My gratitude goes to all those who helped us, and I ask for your continuous support.

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# Supporting Survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake

Shizuoka: Let's go catching butterflies and insects!

The YWCA of Japan conducts long-term support programs for survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, under the name of Project “Com 7300”. The title derives from the Latin word meaning “together”, and the number symbolizes 7300days, or 20 years, describing our commitment to continue supporting the people in the affected areas, especially women and children, for 20 years. The project places special emphasis on protecting the bodies and minds of women and children affected by the nuclear power plant accident, serving as a support in solving the problems they face. This work during the reporting period was supported by the grant from Wuerttemberg Church in Germany.

## Great East Japan Earthquake Survivor Support①

# Refresh Programs

*Have fun outside!  
Run around in the grass,  
find insects and flowers!*

“Refresh” programs enable participants to leave the disaster-affected areas for a while and be refreshed both mentally and physically. Local YWCAs throughout Japan conduct different programs, each with their local characteristics, during school holiday periods in spring, summer, and winter. The programs are rich with enjoyable activities such as enjoying nature, playing in the sea and rivers, exchanging with volunteers and local children. During the reporting period, 84 adults and 130 children participated in 11 programs throughout Japan.



Fukuoka: BBQ Fun



Kure: Look, I found a crab!



Shizuoka: Playing in the stream



- Hakodate: "Summer Holiday in Northern Land 2014" (summer)
- Fukushima: "Refresh Program in Sagae, Yamagata" (summer)
- Tokyo: "Refresh Stay in Winter" (winter)
- Shizuoka: "Parents and Kids' Exciting Picnic" (summer)
- Nagoya: "Nagoya Iryase (Welcome!) Tour" (summer)
- Osaka: "Wai Wai Stay Program" (spring and summer)
- Kyoto: "For Junior and Senior High School Students: Think about Studying in Kyoto" (spring)
- Kure: "Spring Holiday in Orange Island in Setouchi" (spring)
- Fukuoka: "A Time to Relax: Camping in Kyushu with Mom" (summer)
- Kumamoto: "Fukushima and Kumamoto Kids Exciting Camp" (spring)



Osaka: Osaka Castle!



Kure: Playing in the seashore



Nagoya: Flowing noodles



Kure: Orange harvest



Osaka: Having fun in the stream!



Shizuoka: Festival dancing



Shizuoka: Final fun-Hang-gliding

### Voices of participants

"Our host-family treated us like a real family."

"I participated in this program for my child, but I myself felt greatly healed by this environment and warm hospitality."

"Seeing my children run around and laugh with their masks off, I felt grateful from my heart to those who gave us this opportunity."

"Many college students came to play with the children. I was surprised by the fact that they would spend those days of their lives for our sake."

"I thank the organizers for reminding us of 'normal life'; for us, 'normal life' has become something out of ordinary".

Kumamoto: A visit by idol character "Kumamon"!





Great East Japan Earthquake Survivor Support②

# YWCA Activity Space “Caro Fukushima”

*Community space for women and children*

YWCA Activity Space “Caro Fukushima” locates near Fukushima railway station. Various seminars and events are conducted in this space for women and children living in this area.

“Caro Fukushima” aims to be a place accessible to anyone, to drop by and talk with each other.

During the reporting period, the YWCA of Japan conducted various programs including “Women’s Empowerment Seminar”, “Pastel Shine Art Class”, “Hand-made Craft Class” for women, as well as “Summer Holiday Craft Class” and “English Communication Class” for children.



62 events/ classes took place during the reporting period, and 966 women and children visited and benefited from Caro Fukushima. Also, Caro Fukushima served as a venue for reunion for volunteers and beneficiaries of “Refresh” programs, as well as house owners and beneficiaries of “Second House” programs.



The YWCA of Japan also values collaboration with other organizations conducting similar refresh programs. “Caro Fukushima” will continue to strive as a hub in Fukushima for refresh programs.

During the reporting period, activities here were supported by donations as well as the grant from NCC JEDRO.



## Voices of Beneficiaries:

“Meeting people here has given me strength. After the Earthquake, it has been difficult to speak of my own feelings and ideas in my community; this is a place where I feel free to let out my feelings.”

“After attending classes here, I began to want to do something for others myself. And I obtained a license as a therapist.”





Great East Japan Earthquake Survivor Support<sup>③</sup>

# Second House Programs

*Available for families all year!*

Three "Second Houses" in Yokohama, Nagoya and Kobe are houses for disaster survivors to stay and spend free time with their families or in groups. Families who are not able to attend "refresh" programs because their children are too young, or because they have children with large age difference, or families who prefer to spend time by themselves, can use these "second houses" as if they are their own houses. These houses have been provided for free by their owners, and are maintained by local YWCAs.

The YWCA of Japan supports transportation fees from the affected areas, so that the transportation fee does not become a burden for participants.

During the reporting period, 127 people from 36 families benefited from "second houses", with the support from donations as well as grants from Mission 21, Switzerland, and Evangelical Mission in Solidarity, Germany.

### Voices from beneficiaries:

"This was a really helpful program, because the transportation fees had always been a barrier for us."  
"It is not that we aren't thinking of moving away from the affected area; but please understand that, in reality, we have to think about money, job, school, family, our family house, and our ancestors' grave."  
"The owner of the house was so nice to us. We are really grateful."



Notebook with messages from beneficiaries



Kobe



Nagoya



*It's so nice to spend time with my family!*





# International Cooperation

## Through the global YWCA network

At times of natural disasters and armed conflicts, it is hard to reach out support to women and children who are marginalized in the society. The YWCA of Japan works on emergency support through its network with the World YWCA and YWCAs in the affected areas

### Emergency Disaster Relief

In 2014, the Ebola epidemic hit West Africa region. The YWCA of Japan supported the Ebola prevention programs conducted by the YWCAs of Liberia and Sierra Leone. The fund was used for: ① Education and awareness raising to prevent infection, especially for women and girls who often bear the role of treating and caring for the patients, and therefore face higher risk of infection. ② Training women to provide prevention education.



### Olive Tree Campaign

In Palestine, olive trees that have been treasured for a long time are being lost due to conflict. The YWCA of Japan supports the local NGO JAI (Joint Advocacy Initiative), which works to inform of this situation to people around the world and stop this situation through international solidarity, and contributes to its work planting new olive trees in the destroyed olive fields.

During the reporting period, the YWCA of Japan sent donations to plant 413 olive trees.



Planting olive trees

### Supporting the YWCA of Palestine

In Palestine, the basis of people's livelihood has been destroyed due to the long-standing conflict, and the dangerous situation threatening people's lives continues. The YWCA of Japan supports the activities by the YWCA of Palestine, including leadership training for conflict resolution, vocational training to support the independence of women, and running a health-care center. The YWCA of Japan planned to send two members to an international conference hosted by the YWCA of Palestine in 2014, but had to cancel the participation as the conflict situation became harsher.



Separation Barrier







# Participation in International Conferences and Overseas Programs

## Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) @ New York, USA

5th March- 13th March, 1 person

The YWCA of Japan continuously sends participants to the Commission on the Status of Women, and sent one member to the 59th session, on the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Women’s Conference (Fourth World Conference on Women). The YWCA aims for a world where the rights of women, including gender equality, freedom and self-decision are realized, and works for the empowerment of all women.



## International Conference “The 'Energy Shift' from Nuclear Power to Sustainable Forms of Energy” @Arnoldshain, Germany

2nd March- 14th March, 1 person

It is well known that Germany, after the Great East Japan Earthquake, made a decision to stop all its nuclear power plants by 2022; behind this decision, there is a history of its citizens’ continuous activism ever since the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident.

Participants from different countries including Germany, Japan and Korea participated in this International Conference and through their discussion, agreed on the necessity to seek for a true prosperity which values life on a global level, instead of focusing solely on short-term profits, and agreed to maintain solidarity towards the future.

The report from the YWCA of Japan during the Conference gathered attention from the local media, as the amount of information about the situation in Fukushima is very limited in Germany. Especially, the report about the reality where contaminated soil is heaped throughout the streets of Fukushima and children are passing by them every morning on their way to school was received with great shock.

From the experience of Chernobyl, the necessity for “refresh” programs (having children spend time outside the contaminated area) is well understood in Germany; therefore, the “Refresh” program and the “Second House” program for the benefit of the survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake gathered great attention. There has been some kind offers from German organizations to provide home-staying opportunity for such purposes, which leads to programs planned in 2015.

After this Conference, the participant from the YWCA of Japan made visits to churches and organizations in Germany and Switzerland, expressing gratitude for previous contributions and asking for continuous support.



Citizens participating in a rally



Demonstration against Nuclear

## School for East Asia Leadership (SEAL) 2014- Asia Connecting in Fulsome Localities@ Seoul, Korea

29th August- 2nd September, 2 people

## The 2nd International Forum on Prevention of Domestic Violence on the Family-centered Approach@ Taipei, Taiwan

25th September- 27th September, 2 people





The YWCA of Japan conducted the following programs in order to raise awareness about global issues surrounding women and children, including “peace”, “human rights”, “environment”, “education”, “violence against women”, “HIV/AIDS”, and “SRHR”. These programs put special importance on directly visiting the places where the issues are actually being faced, and included various field visits.

## Pilgrimage to Hiroshima 2014

7th August- 9th August @Hiroshima

Theme: Our Message towards the Future of Peace –For Protecting Precious Human Lives –  
 Number of Participants: 72 (14 junior-high school students, 10 high-school students, 8 university students, 14 adults, 4 international guests, 3 interpreters, 11 volunteers, 2 staff members, 6 intern/volunteer leaders)

This peace-education program held in Hiroshima provided an opportunity to learn and think together about what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki 69 years ago as well as the still ongoing radiation-exposure in various places on earth. Participants included students from all over Japan, mainly junior and senior high school students, as well as exchange students and international guests.

The keynote address was made by Professor Toshiyuki Tanaka of Hiroshima Peace institute, Hiroshima City University, under the title: “Nuclear Weapons, Nuclear Power Plants and War Responsibility: Non-Humaneness of Damages Caused by Radiation and Wars, Seen through Suzuko Numata’s Eyes”. The participants also visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and listened to the testimony of an Atomic Bomb survivor.

During the field visit, the participants split into the following 4 groups as they made visits to the memorials of the Atomic Bomb: ①Touring the City Centre around Hiroshima Castle, ②Story of Hiroshima Told by High School Students, ③Hiroshima through Literature, and ④Tracing the Footsteps of Atomic Bomb survivors with Korean Origin.



### Voices of Participants:

“Listening to someone who actually experienced the Atomic Bomb had a huge impact on me. To this day, I had only vaguely thought that war was something bad; through this trip, I became strongly determined to protect peace. It is us who will shape our future.”

## Japan-Korea Youth Conference 2014

16th August- 18th August @Hiroshima, Iwashima Island (Kaminoseki City, Yamaguchi Prefecture)

Theme: “The Contradiction of Promoting Nuclear Energy”

The participants from Japan and Korea shared with each other the situation surrounding nuclear power plants in each other’s countries, and learned about how nuclear power have been promoted, as well as the prospect of a non-nuclear society, especially the example of Germany, through the lecture “The Energy Policy of Japan, in Comparison to the Global Trend” by Mr. Kazunari Mizota (Hiroshima Citizens’ Association against Nuclear Power Plants). They also visited Iwashima Island in Kaminoseki City, Yamaguchi Prefecture, listened to local residents about their resistance against the construction of a nuclear power plant, as well as about the way of life in the Island where people live in harmony with nature, and discussed the current mass-producing- mass- consuming society and how to live without nuclear power.

### Voices of Participants:

“This experience made me think about what richness means. While being impressed by the way of life in Iwashima Island, I thought that it is difficult for us to abandon all the privilege of material prosperity that we enjoy. Still, it is surely wrong that that prosperity should trample upon other people’s lives.”





# Junior and Senior High-School YWCA National Conference

31st July- 2nd August @Tokyo

Theme: "The Power of Life Leading to the World"

Participants: 193 people from 23 schools (119 students, 28 teachers, 12 volunteers, 32 resource persons, 2 staff members)

Every year, the YWCA of Japan holds regional junior and senior high school YWCA conferences as a means of leadership training for students. In 2014, all the schools across regions came together in Tokyo, and held a National Conference. From the keynote speech by Kayuri Kim (Chair person, Holistic Education Research and Development Institute), the participants gained inspiration about the power that enables people to live, through the life experiences she shared.

In the exchange party titled "Y's Wonderful Night", video messages were shared from YWCA youths from a number of different countries as well as World YWCA Secretary General Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, enabling participants to learn about the activities of YWCA youths in other countries, as well as how the YWCA network provides power for women and girls around the world to solve the problems they are facing. During field visits, the participants came face to face with different people, cultures, and history, and actively reflected upon and shared thoughts about these new experiences.

The field trips included visits to Central Tokyo, a ship which was hit by radioactive fallout from a nuclear test in Bikini Atoll in 1954, a national leprosy hospital and resource center, a slaughterhouse whose workers are historically discriminated against on the basis of work and descent, an area resided by ethnic Korean minorities, visiting the Parliament building and meeting a Member of Parliament, and the disputed Yasukuni Shrine where the spirits of "war criminals" during WWII are commemorated among other deceased military personnel. There were also sessions focusing on girls' empowerment and SRHR. Through this program, the students renewed their commitment to become the "power" to create a peaceful world.



# Seminars and Classes



The YWCA of Japan believes that continuous leadership training is indispensable in order to enhance and maintain our social contribution work on a global level. Volunteer members play a central role in planning and organizing programs including national level assemblies and training seminars. Through these programs, the YWCA of Japan aims to train leaders with international viewpoints, by developing their management and facilitation skills, as well as nurturing abilities to analyze social conditions through the experience in these programs.

- "Empowerment Seminar for Women @Caro Fukushima": 2 sessions, 26 participants
- "International Contribution by Women- First Step to International NGO": 4 sessions, 48 participants
- "Listening to Women's Stories": 4 sessions, 102 participants
- "Mental Maintenance @Caro Fukushima" 2 sessions, 17 participants
- Volunteer seminars: 6 sessions, 58 participants
- Seminar "Economy should Value Every Person- Goodbye to Abenomics" (4th October): 101 participants
- Angry Women's Club "No More Old Men's Politics!" (22nd November, Co-sponsored with Magazine 9): 130 participants
- Angry Women's Club "No More Old Men's Economics!" (14th March, Co-sponsored with Magazine 9): 110 participants



Training Session



# Advocacy

Advocacy work, by way of collaborating with UN institutions and NGOs within and outside Japan, as well as outreach including newsletter and website

## Gender Equality

In order to protect the rights of women and children, it is necessary to question our society through gender perspective. Abolition of gender inequality and violence against women is closely connected with the basis of our goal of a peaceful world. The YWCA of Japan stresses the need for women to participate in all decision-making arenas and for their voices to be reflected.

During the reporting period, the YWCA of Japan conducted 2 workshops for volunteers, 1 workshop for junior and senior high school students, as well as creating a brochure on gender, and took part in advocacy work spreading the message on the International Girls' Day and the Week Without Violence.



Workshop



Week Without Violence

## Protecting the Peace Constitution

On 1st July, newspaper “Tokyo Shimbun” featured the YWCA of Japan’s activities to encourage discussion about the Japanese Constitution through various creative ways including an original board game. During the reporting period, the YWCA of Japan conducted one workshop for volunteers, one workshop for junior and senior high-school students, as well as two sessions of “the Angry Women’s Club” in collaboration with a partner organization “Magazine 9”, which discussed women’s roles in politics and economy and gathered great media coverage. The YWCA of Japan also actively sent out information through its Twitter accounts both in Japanese and English language.



# Statements and Letters

- Protest Against the Cabinet Decision on the "Basic Energy Plan" (19th April, 2014)
- Protest Against the Cabinet Decision on "Collective Self Defense" (17th June, 2014)
- Protest Against the Forcible Construction of U.S. "X-band Radar" Base in Tango city, Kyoto (27th June, 2014)
- Protest Against the forcible implementation of Offshore Operation for the Construction of a New Military Base in Henoko, Okinawa (22nd August, 2014)
- Statement Demanding the Withdrawal of the Screening-Report of the 1st and 2nd Reactors of the Kyushu Electric Power Co.'s Sendai Nuclear Power Plant (19th September, 2014)
- Protest Against Forcible Implementation of Landfill in Henoko, Okinawa (28th January, 2015)

## Towards a Non-Nuclear World

After the Great East Japan Earthquake on 11th March, 2011, it has become widely known that nuclear power plants cause serious and long term radiation damages just like nuclear weapons. The YWCA of Japan is working upon a renewed commitment to choose ways of life to value "life" over short-term profit or economy.

During the reporting period, the YWCA of Japan conducted one workshop for volunteers and one workshop for junior and senior high-schools students, as well as one study tour visiting the planned Oma Nuclear Power Plant (12nd to 13th October). It also made two issues of a mini-magazine and continuously sent out information through its Twitter account.



## Military Bases and Violence against Women

It is clear from the experience of women in Okinawa and numerous other parts of the world that military bases cause threat towards the safety of women and children. The YWCA of Japan works with Okinawa YWCA in tackling the issue of military base through the perspective of women.

During the reporting period, the YWCA organized the "YWCA Festa in Okinawa" (14th to 16th February, participated by 114 people), where participants renewed their recognition that the issue of military bases in Okinawa is a problem of the Japanese society as a whole, and discussed various issues deriving from the existence of military bases.

It also conducted a workshop and a fieldwork for volunteers, and made 5 issues of a newsletter.



# Donations

Throughout the reporting period, the work of the YWCA of Japan has been supported by generous donations from within and outside Japan. Overseas donors include the Evangelische Kirche in Hessen und Nassau, and donations given through NCC JEDRO. Thank you from our hearts to all the donors!

	(JPY)
* Friends of YWCA of Japan Membership Fee	1,944,000
* "Peacemakers" Donations	7,263,543
* Donations and Grants for the Great East Japan Earthquake Survivor Support Activities	16,187,506
* Overseas Disaster Support Fund (During the reporting period, the YWCA of Japan sent emergency relief fund for the outbreak of Ebola crisis through the World YWCA "Power to Change" fund.)	403,869
* Donations for Olive Tree Campaign	1,239,651
* Donations for YWCA of Palestine	160,000
* Donation for World YWCA Council Participation (During the reporting period, the YWCA of Japan sent donations to support the World YWCA Council, through the World YWCA office.)	1,624,507
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 28,823,076

## Donate to women and Children in Fukushima

Let us support women and children affected by the **nuclear power plant accident in 2011**.

bank account to be transferred into Bank of Mitsuisumitomo (SWIFT CODE: SMBC JP JT)

Iidabashi Branch (888)

ordinary savings account No. 1198743

Bank add.: 1-8, Agebacho, Shinjyuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0824, Japan

YWCA of Japan

Tokyo YWCA Bldg. Rm# 302, 1-8-11Kandasurugadai,

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## Connect with us Online

Like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/YWCAJapan](http://www.facebook.com/YWCAJapan)

Follow us at Twitter at <https://twitter.com/YWCA9Girls>

Website <http://www.ywca.or.jp/english/topnews>

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