



2016

Annual Report



YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) 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 YWCA of Japan works with 24 local YWCAs and 36 junior and senior high-school YWCAs, in order to empower women, children and older people, who are put in vulnerable situations, as well as to train and nurture leaders stipulated in our vision.

Mission of the YWCA of Japan

- Learn from Jesus Christ and realize a world where all can live together.
- Work together with people around the world to address issues of human rights, peace, and environment.

Vision of the YWCA of Japan

The YWCA of Japan, through the active work of women in local communities, strives to realize a society where:

- The peace Constitution of Japan is fully embodied, free from nuclear energy/ weapons and violence
- The dignity of women and children are protected
- Young women's leadership is fully exercised
- People of different generation, cultures and backgrounds are respected and valued.



◇	Local Associations.....	24
	◇ Members.....	2,142
	◇ Associate Members.....	199
◇	Jr./Sr. High School YWCAs.....	36
	◇ Members.....	707
◇	Program Beneficiaries.....	35462

Leadership Training for Young Women

Pilgrimage to Hiroshima 2016 9th–12th August @ Hiroshima

Theme: “From Hiroshima to Fukushima, and to the World”



The Pilgrimage to Hiroshima is a 3 to 4 days program which is held in Hiroshima, in the hope of learning the importance of peace with the younger generation and to realize a peaceful world together, so that tragedies caused by nuclear weapons will never be repeated again. The program welcomes participation by people from different cultures and generations, including junior and senior high school students and university students, exchange students, and participants from Korea and China. The participants listen to testimonies by survivors of the Atomic Bomb, visit the Peace Memorial Museum in Hiroshima, engage in field visits and group discussions, using all their senses to relive the experience of the Atomic Bomb in Hiroshima and thinking deeply about peace.

The theme for the 2016 program was “From Hiroshima to Fukushima, and to the World”, with participation by approximately 70 people. By thinking of Hiroshima through the situation in the aftermaths of TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident, the participants had the opportunity to think about the incident in Hiroshima not as something in the past or as something that happened to someone else, but as their own issue. The program included a session on “Peace in East Asia region”, where the participants learned that each of them have responsibilities for building peace in East Asia, and discussed what they could do. Many young participants were exposed to different value systems, realized the limitations they had imposed on their minds and actions, and widened their views.

Voices from participants

“Both Hiroshima’s damages from the Atomic Bomb and the suffering in Fukushima as a result of the nuclear power plant accident are terrible tragedies. We must learn about what happened, recognize this reality, think about what we should do from now, and keep on learning. I believe what I can do is to pass on my experience to others; I wish to share my feelings, learning and thoughts with others in any possible way. (S.M, 9th grade)

“I spoke to people from different age groups and countries, and saw and heard about small but concrete actions that each of us can take. Even after this program, if the actions by each participant can be spread to others, it will mean a large step forward. Graduating from university in 6 months, I believe there is much I should do from now on. (O.A., College senior)



Leadership Training for Young Women

Korea-Japan Youth Conference 2016

1st-4th August @ Busan, Korea

“Energy shift towards a Nuclear -Free World”

The Korea-Japan Youth Conference is a grassroots exchange program where young people under 30 years old from Korea and Japan spend 4 days together, learning about and discussing various issues shared between the two countries. In 2016, the program was held in Busan, Korea, under the theme “Energy shift towards a Nuclear -Free World”. 14 participants from Japan and 20 participants from Korea engaged in a field trip to areas around Gori Nuclear Power Plant, the oldest nuclear power plant in Korea, and a visit to the “Dandelion Community” which seek an alternative lifestyle from mass production and mass consumption of energy. Through the experiences, they discussed the issue of nuclear power plant which is a serious issue both in Korea and Japan, as well as what they can do for a safer and more sustainable world.



Junior and Senior High School YWCAs Conference

36 junior and senior high school YWCAs are affiliated with the YWCA of Japan, holding regional conferences every summer.

- **Tohoku/Hokkaido area: “Environment”** 28th-30th July 2016, 49 participants

The participants listened to a keynote speech by Ms. Terumi Kataoka (Representative, Aizu Radiation Information Center). They then went on a 4 hours walk at Zao, between Miyagi Prefecture and Yamagata Prefecture, experiencing the nature of Tohoku with all five senses.

- **Kanto area: “What it means to live- Learning from the history of the leprosy sanatorium”** 3rd-5th August 2016, 47 participants

The participants visited Gotemba Catholic Church, as well as Kamiyama Fukusei hospital where leprosy patients were being treated. The students also made presentations out of their experiences.

- **Kansai area: “Learning from Toyohiko Kagawa”** 8th-10th August 2016, 85 participants

The participants spent three days learning about Toyohiko Kagawa a Christian social activist, including watching the movie “Across the Death-Line” and visiting Toyohiko Kagawa memorial museum. During the group work on the final day, the participants discussed what they have learned from Toyohiko Kagawa; Answers from students included “Love for neighbors” and “Way of living”.

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 9th–17th March @ New York, U.S.



The Commission on the Status of Women, held annually in the U.N. Headquarters in New York, sees thousands of NGO participants every year, bringing the voices of the women on the ground to the United Nations. The World YWCA has participated every year since the establishment of the Commission in 1946. It strongly advocates for the recognition of the situations and human rights of young women, and works with a strong focus on building space for young women within the CSW. In 2017, more than 120 YWCA members from around the world joined the meeting.

On March 2017, the YWCA of Japan sent 5 members including 4 youths to the CSW as a part of the World YWCA delegation. The participants observed the U.N. plenary meeting, participated in the World YWCA training session and other NGO events, meetings between NGOs and Governments including Japan and Australia, and the “Youth Forum” of which the World YWCA was the originator, and encountered many YWCA friends and activities by women. Also, they held an individual parallel event in New York, titled “Young Women’s Leadership for Peace– Learning from the Pilgrimage to Hiroshima”.



Voices of Participants

- Through the communication with the people from the World YWCA, I realized that leadership is not about top-down orders; it is about communicating with others, so that they feel “they are being accompanied”.
- While I have participated in exchange programs between the YWCA of Korea and the YWCA of China, this experience of participating in a place shared by people from the entire world made me feel even closer to the Korean and Chinese people. I realized that I am a member of the East Asia region.
- In the Youth Forum, I felt the vibrant power of the young people from around the world. I learned many things that I want to make use of in my future activities.
- During our parallel event, we were able to talk about war and peace with participants around the world, exceeding nationalities. It was the first time I made a presentation in English, but the participants listened very earnestly, and I was able to present among a very warm atmosphere. The experience gave me confidence.
- It was sometimes hard when I did not understand English as I wished, but it was a good opportunity to reflect on myself.
- I plan to utilize my experience in my local Osaka YWCA. I want to create chances to connect youths in Japan and abroad.



Leadership training for volunteers

The YWCA of Japan carried out the following activities during 2016.

- April- February 2017: “Movie Project: Attract YWCA fans!” (All local YWCAs)
- May: Training on movement planning for volunteers throughout Japan (venue: National Olympics Memorial Youth Center)
- November: Yasushi Tsukamoto Talk live- Calling for Peace through Picture Books; Home-Delivery Class on Japanese Constitution(Kobe YWCA Peace Activity Committee) (Venue: Tokyo YWCA)



Images from the Movie Project

Korea-Japan YWCA Conference 21st-25th August 2016@Gyeongju, Korea

“Women Creating East Asia Peace Network”

15 people from Japan and 24 people from Korea participated in this program, co-hosted biannually between the YWCA of Japan and the YWCA of Korea. The Participants listened to a testimony of a 2nd generation survivor of the Atomic Bomb living in Korea, met residents near the Wolsong Nuclear Power Plant, exchanged situations and reports from each country, and after discussions, adopted a “Joint Statement for East Asia Peace Network Created by Women of Korea and Japan”.



Emergency Relief Activities

The YWCA of Japan collaborates with sister YWCAs abroad, and contributes in emergency relief at times of disasters by calling for donations within Japan to support the work of the YWCAs on the ground.

- February 2016: Earthquake in Southern Taiwan, Province of China
Supported the work of the YWCA of Taiwan, Province of China sending social workers to the affected areas and providing documentation support for survivors
- October 2016: Hurricane disaster in Haiti
Supported mid to long term support activities by the YWCA of Haiti including social and mental empowerment and leadership training for women and girls affected by the disaster

Work in Support of Disaster Survivors

After the Great East Japan Earthquake and resulting nuclear power plant accident in 2011, the YWCA of Japan has launched the “Com 7300” Committee, with the pledge of continuously working beside the affected people until the children born on the day of the disaster turn 20 years old. “Com” means “Together” in Latin, and “7300” is the number of days in 20 years. 6 years after the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident, and a number of nuclear power plants in Japan are being restarted; however, the situation of the damaged nuclear power plant is far from stabilized, and the difficulties from the radioactive disaster are still looming on each persons’ life. The YWCA of Japan is continuing support activities for the survivors upon 3 pillars: “Refresh” short-stay recuperation program, “Second House” program and activities based in the YWCA Activity Space “Caro Fukushima”.

YWCA Activity Space “Caro Fukushima”

“Caro” means “Dear” and “Precious” in Italian. “Caro Fukushima” was established in November 2012, in the hope of becoming a precious and refreshing place of exchange for women and children living in Fukushima. It is operated aiming protect the affected women and children physically and mentally and support them as they work to solve the problems they face, by functioning as a “Safe Space” where they can drop by freely and feel at ease to talk about their concerns which are impossible to speak of outside, as well as gaining and sharing information.

“Caro Fukushima” hosts events and seminars adding healing and joy to everyday life, provides support for women striving to become independent, opportunities to exchange with organizations within and outside Fukushima providing recuperation programs, information on recuperation programs run by YWCAs throughout Japan, holds briefing sessions about the “Second House Program” as a contact base for application, and hosts a program for high-school students to learn about renewable energy. At the time of the Kumamoto Earthquake in April 2016, in collaboration with Fukushima YWCA, it functioned as a base to send support materials from volunteers including regular program participants to the affected areas.

“Caro Fukushima” is supported by the help of everyone around the world who connects with Fukushima and keeps it in heart.



5/18 Seminar: Learning hints for happiness from the world’s “richest” President

5/27 Color therapy & Color coordination class

6/29 Workshop making decorated card cases

7/23 Reports from Kumamoto Earthquake relief activity

11/24 “Care work Café” to for lively care work full for smiles

12/1 Christmas Cooking: pot-au-feu with handmade sausages

2/10 Making flower jellies

※ Caro Fukushima also hosted programs by Fukushima YWCA, “Fukufuku Market” providing safe food and workshops, exchange sessions with visitors from Tokyo YWCA and Kumamoto Gakuen university.

A total of 871
participants in 2016

Voices from participants

- I will have held a monthly workshop in “Caro” for 2.5 years soon. At first I was anxious, but with the participants enjoying and continuing to come to my workshop, I gained confidence to work towards independence.
- I participated in a seminar during some spare time I managed to find while working. The classes are one-shot instead of a series, so I feel free to casually pop in. I was exposed to a new experience, made new friends; it was very refreshing.
- Our crafting club rented this space. The large parking lot was convenient and the carpeted room felt safe for children.

Work in Support of Disaster Survivors

166 beneficiaries
during 2016

Recuperation Programs @Hakodate, Fukushima, Tokyo, Shizuoka, Kyoto, Nagoya, Osaka, Fukuoka, Kumamoto

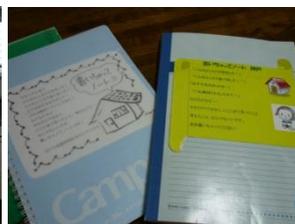
The recuperation programs are designed to enable parents and children living in anxiety in radiation-affected areas to refresh their bodies and minds. Local YWCAs throughout Japan carry out unique programs utilizing their regional originalities in spring and summer holiday seasons. During 2016, such programs were held in 9 areas, consisting of encountering nature, playing in beaches and rivers, and exchanging with volunteer students and local children, with the participation of 166 people. Donations given to the YWCA of Japan were utilized to support such local activities and to help with the beneficiaries' transportation to the venues.



Second House Program

23 families, 84 people
benefited in 2016

The 3 "Second Houses" in Yokohama, Nagoya and Kobe are accommodations where families, groups or single women from the affected areas can spend time freely. It can be used just like a real home for families who are unable to participate in recuperation camps because the children are too young, or their ages are too apart, or who want to spend time with family members only. The houses are lent free of charge by the house owners, and are maintained by nearby local YWCAs. Donations cover a part of transportation fees for the beneficiaries.



Voices from Participants

- This program is really helpful for us because we can set our own schedule, as it is difficult for us to take days off work, making it hard to participate in short-stay programs far away. We had been very exhausted after being alert to all information about radiation. Thanks to the program, all my family members have regained energy, and can keep going. (W, from Koriyama)
 - In our house, the radiation dose in the garden seems not to be going down, and while the young children are running around barefoot, us the grown-ups are secretly very worried. Like this, the parents in Fukushima are struggling with something invisible and feeling stress every day. During stay in Second House, the children were able to spend time vibrantly in nature, picking up twigs, leaves and nuts. We live somewhat distant from urban life, so riding on a train was also a great experience for them. The house-owner is a kind and warm person, and every time I see her, I feel happy and calm. (H, from Fukushima)

Thinking of New Energy from Fukushima 24th July– 19th November 2016, 8 sessions

As a continuation from 2015, the YWCA of Japan implemented the program “Thinking of New Energy from Fukushima Part 2”, as a series of 8 sessions. This program aims to enable high-school students in Fukushima to learn about the nature and usage of natural energy, utilize it in daily life, and spread it among the society. Especially this year, the participants learned about and discussed the future energy in Fukushima, focusing on renewable energy initiatives within Fukushima prefecture. The participants visited actors producing various forms of sustainable energy including thermal energy, solar energy, and biomass energy on different levels from governments to individuals and discussed new ways of producing energy, to be chosen in Fukushima, after the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident.

On the final presentation, the high school students spoke with their own words about what they felt and learned through the program. Last of all, the students developed a plan for an “Energy Festival”, which is an opportunity for people from different generations to enjoy discussing renewable energy.

Voices from participants

- Through this program, I was able to think about my future life and carrier. I used to want to go abroad just out of curiosity, but now I feel I want to go abroad to learn about renewable energy.
- I used to think that I knew all about Fukushima, but I learned that I only knew a part of it. Through the program, I was able to learn many things I never know about Fukushima, even it is where I live.

- 1) 7/24 “Kick-off meeting” @Caro Fukushima, discussion on renewable energy policy of Fukushima prefecture
- 2) 7/31 “Visiting initiatives in Fukushima prefecture”
Visit to “Genki Up Tsuchiyu” geothermal energy plant and other places (transportation by car)
- 3) 8/18~20 “Programs outside Fukushima”
Learning about initiatives in Germany, Solar-cooker crafting, and other places (two nights in Tokyo)
- 4) 9/22 Students planned and hosted their own seminar on “Thinking of New Energy from Fukushima”@ Locopa Fukushima
- 5) 10/2 Initiatives within Fukushima and wrapping up①
Theme: Our life and significance since the accident
Speaker: Mr. Shunkichi Nonaka (COOP Fukushima Executive Director)
- 6) 10/16 Initiatives within Fukushima and wrapping up②
Theme: Biomass energy generation in Fukushima
Speaker: Mr. Ryozo Hakozaiki (“Town Development Implementation” Chief Director)
- 7) 11/13 Initiatives within Fukushima and wrapping up③
Looking back on the previous activities and thinking of possible future action
- 8) 11/19 Final Presentation @Tokyo YWCA
Let us share with many people our learnings and opinions!
(Overnight in Tokyo)



Work in Support of Disaster Survivors

Kumamoto Earthquake Disaster Relief Activity

On the night of 14th and early morning on 16th April, a series of earthquakes as large as M7.3 hit Kumamoto, and 40,000 people evacuated in Kumamoto city. The YWCA of Japan launched emergency relief activities from 17th April, one day after the earthquake.

Support materials from YWCAs throughout Japan

First of all, the YWCA of Japan called for emergency relief materials through the network of 24 local YWCAs in Japan, with Fukuoka YWCA functioning as a base. On 18th April, the first packages including fresh vegetables, toothbrushes and toilet papers arrived in Kumamoto Gakuen University Survivor Support Center, which was a workplace of a local YWCA member. More materials followed until 5th May.



Kumamoto YWCA building after the earthquake

Work in Kumamoto Gakuen University Support Center



While Kumamoto City had announced its 176 evacuation centers could accommodate 1700 “disaster-vulnerable people”, as of 4/24, they supported only 104 people, and many were isolated without access to information, water, or relief materials. Whereas, the Survivor center where the YWCA of Japan sent relief materials accommodated the elderly and people with disabilities. There were many people moving in from other evacuation centers, and 750 people at the largest and 400

people as of 4/19 evacuated there. “With definite shortage of food, it is only today we began to receive rice balls and miso soup three times a day. Relief materials began coming in today, and each evacuee is getting a bottle of water, a blanket and a pack of biscuits. The overall atmosphere is good; in the halls for people with disabilities and elderly people, they are eating together and sharing snacks they brought from home” .(Report from the affected area, 18th April)

Work of Kumamoto YWCA

Kumamoto YWCA hosted a recycle bazaar to support international students who were affected by the earthquake, hoping also to provide them with a space to see each other and feel safer. 60 people showed up to this bazaar.

Also, Kumamoto YWCA carried out laundry volunteer especially for people with disabilities evacuating in Kumamoto University. They went to the evacuation center to collect laundry, washed and dried them at home and brought them back.

Support from within and outside Japan, and future activities

Since 14th April, queries and messages of solidarity regarding the situation in Fukushima arrived from many parts of the world, and the YWCA of Korea sent 6800 packages of Korean seaweed, which was very much appreciated by the evacuees. A total of 5,361,657 Japanese yen was donated for Kumamoto Earthquake /survivor support. We wish to express our deep gratitude. With this precious donation, Kumamoto YWCA plans on the following activities (On years 2018-2019).

1. Day programs for mental care of children and summer camp (For children of Kumamoto and Fukushima)
2. Reinforcement of building, so as to obtain a safe place to hold activities
3. Supporting international students and members who were affected
4. Training and nurturing people to take over long-term work (especially for young people)
5. Providing support for other organizations affected by the earthquake



Support for the YWCA of Palestine / Olive Tree Campaign

In Palestine, people's lives, especially those of women and girls have been threatened ever since Israeli occupation. The YWCA of Japan supports the activities by the YWCA of Palestine, including leadership training for conflict solution, vocational training for the independence of women, and running of nursery schools.



The YWCA of Japan also supports the Olive Tree Campaign by JAI (Joint Advocacy Initiative by East Jerusalem YMCA and the YWCA of Palestine). Currently in Palestine, olive trees are being forcibly destroyed or deprived by force as a result of separation walls and Israeli settlers. The JAI works on job creation, environment preservation and stabilization of livelihood by way of a nonviolent way which people from other countries can join by donating.

3,000 yen will plant an olive tree. During 2016, the YWCA of Japan made a total donation of approx. 250 trees .

Statements/ Appeals

- Protest against violence against and murder of a woman by an ex-marine, in Uruma city, Okinawa (5/22)
- 9th Korea-Japan YWCA Conference "Joint Statement for East Asia Peace Network Created by Women of Korea and Japan" (8/23)
- Protest against Japanese Government for voting against "Nuclear Ban Treaty" negotiations (11/2)
- Emergency petitions demanding to stop construction of helipads in Takae (8/9)
- "Call to stop the reprocessing in Monju and the restart of nuclear power plants" (10/1)
- Supporting the movie "Mother- A story of Takiji Kobayashi's Mother"
- Joint Appeal against Japan-India Nuclear Treaty (No Nukes Asia Forum Japan, 10/26)

Donations Received (JPY)

Donations Report

YWCA of Japan supporters fee	1,284,000-
"Peacemakers" donation	1,015,321-
Great East Japan Earthquake Survivor Support	6,317,733-
Disaster Relief Donations	6,525,883-
Olive Tree Campaign	729,000-
Donation for YWCA of Palestine	320,000-
Others	23,650-
Total	16,215,587-

Thank you so much for your generous donation during the year 2016. The YWCA of Japan is resolved to continue to support women's proactive initiatives towards a peaceful society where everyone is respected. We ask from our hearts for your continued support.

Chair of Board of Trustees, Mayako Ishii
President, Satoko Fujitani