

エンパワーするNGO



年次報告書



ANNUAL REPORT

2018



YWCA of Japan

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.

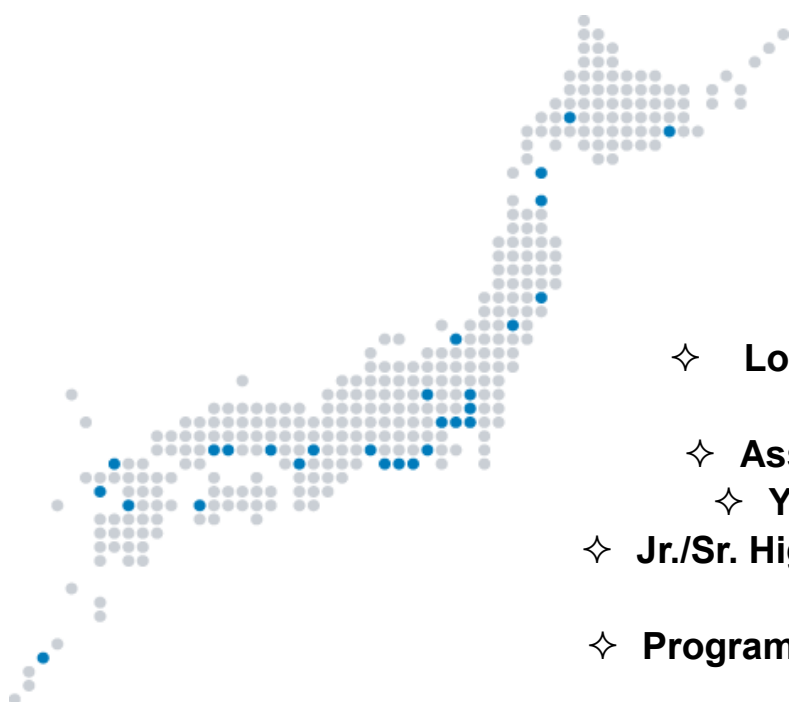
Mission of the YWCA of Japan

- 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.....	2,080
◇ Associate Members.....	126
◇ YWCA Supporters.....	775
◇ Jr./Sr. High School YWCAs.....	37
Members.....	838
◇ Program Beneficiaries.....	29,460

Pilgrimage to Hiroshima 2018

9th–12th August 2018@ Hiroshima

Theme: “Do You Really Know Hiroshima?”

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 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, international 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 program will mark its 50th anniversary in 2021. This year’s program was also joined by guests from the YWCA of Honduras and World YWCA.

“Hiroshima” can be written in a number of different ways: 広島; ヒロシマ; 広島; ひろしま; HIROSHIMA. This year’s Pilgrimage was a journey to find out the meanings and different people’s wills hidden in the name of this city. Many young participants learned together with other participants from diverse generations and cultures, and discussed in small groups, which enabled them to realize the “limitations” of their own views, and to broaden their ideas by encountering diverse values.

On 11th March– 5 April, the YWCA of Japan held an exhibition “Pilgrimage to Hiroshima– Trajectory of 50 years”, in collaboration with the Peace Education Resource Center of the Division of Education of National Christian Council of Japan.

* This program was supported by Wesley Foundation.



59 participants from Japan and abroad

Voice of a Participant

What I loved about the group discussions is how my ideas were gradually changed by listening to other people’s opinions. If 10 people think about one issue, there will be 10 different ideas and opinions. I felt the diversity of people and learned the importance of acknowledging and accepting differences. I recognized big similarities with the Nanjing Peace Pilgrimage; it is possible to learn about Hiroshima in media articles, actually standing here and directly listening to the testimonies has huge meanings. It is also vital how we can embrace this experience and think for ourselves.

Collaboration with Asia–Pacific Sisterhood Program & International Forum for Young Women (Osaka YWCA 100th anniversary events)

20th July–12th August 2018@ Hiroshima

On Osaka YWCA’s 100th anniversary events “Asia–Pacific Sisterhood Program” and “International Forum for Young Women”, the YWCA of Japan collaborated in issuing invitation to international guests, supporting international exchange and young women’s leadership training. In the programs, young women from YWCAs in Australia, Korea, Myanmar, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand and Nepal shared various experiences through 4 week’s stay in Osaka, and also took part in creating the program with young leaders of Osaka YWCA. During the program, World YWCA Vice President Andrea Michelle Gradiz, who also participated in the Pilgrimage to Hiroshima, gave a speech on Safe Spaces for young women and girls, and the global situation of young women.



Young women at the International Forum

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

7th–17th March 2018 @ New York, U.S.

Theme: Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

The YWCA of Japan sends participants to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) as a program to expose young women to international leadership training. In March 2019, 9 members including 8 young women travelled to New York. The participants learned about the activities in local YWCAs through preparation sessions, and created a parallel event to present during CSW. The event consisted of 3 themes, namely sexual education, sexual industry, and everyday sexual violence. In the first part, they explained the lack of comprehensive sexual education in Japan; in the second part, they analyzed the characteristics of Japanese sexual industry from a legal point of view, and also reported on porn video industry; in the third part, they introduced cases of sexual violence and discrimination encountered in stations, trains and stores on a day-to-day basis. All these themes have derived from discussions during the preparation sessions. The “Why”; “I want to know”; and “I want to let others know!” that came out of deep conversations over tea, developed into this comprehensive analysis of the situation in Japan. Approximately 70 people participated in this event, with lots of positive feedback. In addition to the event, the participants from the YWCA of Japan attended various events including the CSW plenary meetings at the UN, orientations hosted by the World YWCA, parallel events by NGOs around the world,



Presenting a parallel event

a breakfast meeting between the World YWCA and the Australian Government, a meeting between the Japanese Government and Japanese NGOs, visits to YWCA NYC and YWCA Brooklyn, youth events hosted by UN Women, and a get together between Asian YWCA members. These provided an empowering opportunity to meet and learn from YWCA sisters and activists by women around the world.



Photo taken in YWCA Brooklyn



Voice of a Participant

What I felt during my participation to CSW is that the awareness of students and young people on issues such as women’s social participation and gender issues might be still low in Japan. In the events that I attended, I saw teenage women speaking in panels, sharing their experiences and messages. I also saw young people from around the world actively following and sharing the CSW proceedings. After the conclusion of our CSW participation, I feel this is our start. I want to take actions and deliver my messages as a young person, so that I will not let this be just my personal learning experience.

Japan–Korea Youth Conference 2018: Seminar/Workshop/Booklet on “The Story of My Human Rights”

- 20th October 2018 @Kobe ○ 28th October 2018 @Tokyo
- Launching Event of Booklet “The Story of My Human Rights” 31st March 2019 @Tokyo

“The Story of My Human Rights” developed from the “Japan–Korea Youth Conference 2017”, an exchange program where young people from Korea and Japan discuss common issues between the two countries. A Steering Committee consisting of young women, committed to utilizing the learnings and the Action Plan from the 2017 program and take actions for a better society, planned and implemented the activities in 2018.

Through 2018, the program provided opportunities to think about human rights, through the key word “lookism”. In October, the group organized two workshops in Kobe and Tokyo; they then created a booklet “The Story of My Human Rights”, including the contents of the two workshops, cases of everyday lookism, results and analysis of a survey collected in Japan and Korea, workshop ideas and comments from young members of the YWCA of Korea; In March they organized a launching event of the booklet in Tokyo, also joined by YWCA of Korea members through Skype.



Participants of workshop in Kobe

Junior and Senior YWCAs Regional Conference

37 junior and senior high school YWCAs are affiliated with the YWCA of Japan. The affiliated schools hold regional or national conferences every summer. 2018 was the year of regional conferences, which were held in three areas.

- Tohoku and Hokkaido region: 2nd–4th August @Nanporo, Hokkaido [Theme]Human Rights
- Kanto region: 1st–3rd August @Kusatsu, Gunma [Theme]Learning about Leprosy
- Kansai region: 2nd–4th August @Kyoto [Theme]Living together with the “smaller”

Voices of Participants

I learned that a change in the point of view can totally change one’s ideas. I learned the importance of observing things from not only one direction but from multiple points of view. I want to be able to think from many different perspectives. (A participant in Tohoku and Hokkaido region)

There must have been different reasons, but I think a large part of the cause was prejudice coming from ignorance. If there were people who had a more sincere attitude of trying to “learn”, then the tragedy of detention of patients might have not occurred, and the Leprosy Prevention Law might have been abolished earlier. Therefore, I want to have an attitude of trying to “learn”. (A participant in Kanto region)

“Expressing emotions”; “appreciating others”; “Living together in society”; These questions seem like something everyone knows, but in reality are difficult to practice. The program gave me a chance to deepen my thoughts about how to live together with those rendered “smaller” in society. (A participant from Kansai region)



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. 8 years after the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident, 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”. We are committed to continue to work with the “small voices” of the survivors.

YWCA Activity Space “Caro Fukushima” [525 participants during 2018]

“Caro” means “Dear” and “Precious” in Italian. “Caro Fukushima” was established in November 2012, as a basis of YWCA work in support of survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake. It carries out various activities to support the women and children living in Fukushima, in order to be a “Safe Space” which helps them to face concerns and anxieties in the life after the disaster, including concerns for nuclear pollution, and where they can talk, get together and learn without any threat.

Many participants from YWCAs throughout Japan visit Caro Fukushima and exchanging with women and children in Fukushima.

“Caro Fukushima” hosts various events, including seminars supporting safety of body and mind, workshops adding healing and joy to everyday life, and providing space for women entrepreneurs.

It also works with different organizations providing recuperation programs throughout Japan and disseminates information about them to residents in Fukushima, as well as providing space for such organizations to hold consulting sessions. It also works with NPO Shinjuku Yoyogi Citizen Monitoring Center, acting as its contact point to provide free monitoring of cesium in the urine.

In 2018, as a new attempt, it held “Mame Marche (small market)” with NPOs “Beans Fukushima” and “Thinking About Education in RWANDA”, selling vegetables produced by people seeking employment, and goods and coffee from Rwanda.



Learning session about recuperation programs



Cake baking workshop

- Talking Time in Caro Fukushima (2 sessions)
- Exciting Summer School (Summer holiday event for children hosted by Fukushima, Kumamoto and Matsuyama YWCAs)
- Fukushima Y’s Café: Workshop by Fukushima YWCA (2 sessions)
- Consultation sessions for recuperation programs for residents in Iwaki city, Nihonmatsu city and Shirakawa city
- Office for Second House
- Other activities including art and craft, nail care sessions and Providing space to external groups

Second House Program [A total of 59 people of 18 families participated during 2018]

The “Second Houses” program is a family-based recuperation program for families and groups as well as single women living in Fukushima affected by the nuclear power plant disaster.

It benefits families who are unable to participate in recuperation camps because the children are too young, or their ages are too apart, or when they wish to have a relaxing time a little distance apart from normal life. Many beneficiaries are “repeaters”, indicating the needs for the program as the “Second Home” for those families. In addition to the 3 houses in Yokohama, Nagoya and Kobe, Hakodate YWCA joined this program from 2018. They invited families to a guest house, and deepened exchange with them through activities such as inviting them to events hosted by Hakodate YWCA. The houses are lent free of charge by the house owners, the donations given to the YWCA of Japan cover a part of transportation fees for the beneficiaries. It is also maintained by many actors, including the nearby local YWCAs and volunteers supporting its operation.

Voices of Participants

I am not as tense about radioactive pollution as I used to be, as I became weary from 8 years of life like that. Now, I think I will do what I can, to the extent that it is possible. Support like this is therefore very precious for us. I hope this program will continue in the future.

The good things about using the Second House is that our children were able to rest their bodies, and that we were able to have some time to think and look around. After going home, my daughter started to study for realizing her dream every day. This might also be a result of the recuperation.

Refresh Programs (Recuperation Camps)

@Fukushima, Tokyo, Shizuoka, Nagoya, Osaka, Kyoto, Fukuoka, Kumamoto

The recuperation programs are designed to enable parents and children living in radiation-affected areas to refresh their bodies and minds in safe and supportive environments. Local YWCAs throughout Japan carry out unique programs utilizing their regional originalities in spring and summer holiday seasons. Kyoto YWCA invited junior and senior high school children from Fukushima to their exchange program between Japanese and Korean students in Summer, and hosted the program “Let’s think about future studies in Kyoto!” in Spring. YWCAs in Fukushima, Shizuoka, Nagoya, Osaka and Fukuoka YWCAs provided programs that enable the children to enjoy nature; “Fukushima & Kumamoto Exciting Spring Camp” hosted by Kumamoto YWCA was held with the theme of music, allowing the participants to perform music together. The few days program enables children to play as much as they want in nature, in beaches and rivers, cooking outdoors in camps, orienteering, and so on. In some YWCAs, children participated in such camps every year have become junior-high school students, and now are volunteering as leaders. In Nojiri camp of Tokyo YWCA, a child who had been unable to attend such camps because of disability participated for the first time. We wish to continue the programs, responding to various needs. In 2018, recuperation programs were held in 8 local YWCAs, supporting 206 people.



Above: Nagoya YWCA camp /
Below: Osaka YWCA camp

Hokkaido Iburi-tobu Earthquake Response

On 6th September 2018, Iburi-tobu area in Hokkaido was struck by a magnitude 6.6 earthquake. YWCA's disaster response activities took place with Sapporo YWCA as a basis, in collaboration with Hakodate YWCA, YWCA of Japan and local churches. The support activities includes donation to Kiyota-ku-Satotsuka area of Sapporo city which suffered from severe liquefaction of the ground, empowering programs for survivors, as well as supporting Tampopo, a local center in Mukawa-cho for children with development disorders as requested by the volunteer project conference of the Central Community Chest of Japan. Immediately after the earthquake, the YWCA sent volunteers to support the leaders tackling the confused situation hindering normal operation of the center. In December, the volunteers helped with holding a Christmas party for the children of the center and their parents, followed by a fun party in March.

With many requests for continuation, the programs in Satotsuka area will be continued until September 2019. Also, a one day "refresh" program will be held for the children of Tampopo and Hobetsu Kirari, another center supporting children's development from June to August.



Christmas party in Tampopo

West Japan Heavy Rain Disaster Response

A record heavy rain struck West Japan in July 2018. Kure YWCA provided running water and washing machine to local residents immediately after the disaster, and also provided accommodation for volunteers. It also hosted a seminar regarding rehabilitation.

Also, informed that a local community center suffered a loss of equipment due to the disaster, it provided furniture and other items so as to mentally support the residents in the community.



News article about Kure YWCA's work

Kumamoto Earthquake Survivor Support

Kumamoto prefecture suffered from a magnitude 7 earthquake in April 2016. Kumamoto YWCA is taking on survivor support activities on a 4 years plan, from 2016 to 2019. It hosted "Waku waku camp" on 24th-28th March 2019, inviting 30 elementary school children from Fukushima and Kumamoto. The program was run by young Kumamoto YWCA members, and provided a safe and happy 5 days camp for children from Fukushima who still have to hold back from playing outside due to radioactive radiation, and children from Kumamoto who experienced the 2016 earthquake. In addition, it carried out summer "Day-program", one-day training for mental first-aid for children in case of emergencies including natural disasters, and provided aid for Aso region, which has not been reached by other aid initiatives.



Wakuwaku Camp

South Asia Flood Response

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. After the flood that affected South Asia in August 2018, it sent donations for disaster response activities of the YWCA of India and the YWCA of Myanmar.

Local Action (Activities lead by local YWCAs)

24 local YWCAs are the basis of social service work by YWCAs in Japan. In the “Local Action” program which started in 2017, the National YWCA supports activities lead by local YWCAs through funding, PR and training. Below are a list of interim reports of Local Actions Phase 1 (2017–2018), endorsed in the National Convention in November 2016.

Youth Skill Up Training and Exchange Program

★Kumamoto YWCA, Osaka YWCA, Nagasaki YWCA, Fukuoka YWCA, Okinawa YWCA, Kyoto YWCA, Kobe YWCA

This program aims at empowering youths and creating local network through chances to get together, exchange and gain skills. In 2018, a “Youth Gathering” was held in Kumamoto, with participation of 14 young people from throughout Japan. They learned about different localities in Japan, and discussed what they want to do in the future. The ideas shared here led to a “Musical Workshop” in Yokohama in march 2019.



Constitution Caf é for Youth

★Tokyo YWCA, Yokohama YWCA

Hold seminars about the Japanese Constitution, to promote political participation of young people. 3 sessions about “poverty”, “relationship” and “election”, joined by 42 people,



Leadership Training of Members -Joint training camp of 3 local YWCAs -

★Kyoto YWCA, Kobe YWCA, Osaka YWCA

Training camp for local YWCA core members, in order to discuss and create a proposal on systems to engage next generations, members’ training, and member organizations. 39 members participated in a session in Kobe, enhancing organization skills in each local YWCA.

Girls Rock Day Camp

★Yokohama YWCA, Kumamoto YWCA, Fukuoka YWCA, Hiroshima YWCA, Kofu YWCA

The program empowers young women through music, by forming a band and holding a live performance. It also trains young leaders. A session was held in August in Kumamoto, benefiting 7 participants.

Okinawa and Us, Peace and You in Kanagawa

★Yokohama YWCA, Shonan YWCA, Hiratsuka YWCA

Seminars, workshop, movie screenings to think about the situation of Okinawa as our own issue. In 2018, a reporting session of election campaign in Okinawa, dramatic reading and a seminar attracted 170 participants.

YWCA Protectors of Peace ~Let us Create a Local Peace Map!~

★Hakodate YWCA, Hiroshima YWCA, Sapporo YWCA

Created 2000 copies of a Peace Map of Hakodate that shows the memories of war and provides a chance to think about peace. During 2018, 2 talk sessions in Hakodate and 1 “Constitution Cafe” in Sapporo were held, participated by a total of 119 people.



Support for the YWCA of Palestine / Olive Tree Campaign

In Palestine, people's lives are threatened ever since Israeli occupation. The JAI works on job creation, environment preservation and stabilization of livelihood by a nonviolent way which people from other countries can join by donating. The YWCA of Japan supports this "Olive Tree Campaign." 3,000 yen will plant an olive tree. During 2018, the YWCA of Japan made a total donation of approx. 572 trees. Also, 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 children's day-care centers.



YWCA of Palestine International youth Conference / Olive Picking Program

10th–22th October 2018 @Theme: Youth Participate and Youth Decide: Towards Freedom and Justice

On 2018, which marks the 70th year since the "Nakba", where hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were driven from their land, the YWCA of Palestine held its International Youth Conference "Youth Participate and Youth Decide: Towards Freedom and Justice", with 516 participants including 337 youths and 2 members from the YWCA of Japan, also joined online by youths from Gaza. The situation where youths in Palestine are continuously violated their human rights was shared during the conference, including the lack of jobs even for educated youths, inability to enforce the rights to vote, and the threat of imprisonment for only participating in demonstration or posting in social media. Participants from Japan also presented a workshop during the conference with the support of Okinawa YWCA. They also participated in the Olive Picking Program organized by JAI, and worked in olive fields threatened by settlers, together with other international participants. They also visited old cities in Hebron and Jerusalem facing threat of occupation and deprivation by settlers, a huge settlement nearby Jerusalem, a Bedouin village under threat of forcible evacuation, and a refugee camp resided by multiple generations, unable to return to their land.

Statements/ Appeals/Support

- Citizen's Action Demanding Continuous Installation of Monitoring Posts (14th April)
- 2018 Summer Recuperation Programs Consultation (14th April)
- "Stop Constitutional Change! 8.6 Newspaper Opinion Advertisement" (25th April)
- Korea-Japan International Symposium commemorating agreement between Keisen Women's University and Ehwa Women's University (25th July)
- Film "Ginko Ogino"(25th July)
- Protest for rigging Entrance Exam scores of female applicants in Tokyo Medical University, and Calling for Gender Equal Society (7th August)
- Study Tour to Korea by Waseda Hoshien (6th September)
- Joint NGO Appeal for New Okinawa Governor (6th September)
- Joint Statement of Faith Groups Protesting Against Minister of Education's Statement on the "Imperial Rescript on Education" (18th October)
- Protest Against Landfill in Okinawa (10th December)
- Joint Statement for Peace in East Asia Created by Women in Korea and Japan(4th January, 2019)
- Protest Against Article on Weekly Magazine "SPA!"(15th January, 2019)
- Women's March Tokyo 2019 (7th March, 2019)
- Joint Statement of Faith Groups Calling For Freedom of Press (20th March, 2019)

Donations Received

Donations Received (JPY)

YWCA of Japan supporters fee	1,679,000-
“Peacemakers” donation	2,830,930-
Great East Japan Earthquake Survivor Support (Including 166,500JPY from Caro Fukushima Supporters)	4,050,139-
Disaster Relief Donations (Including disaster response within and outside Japan, Support for the YWCA of Palestine, and Hokkaido Earthquake)	4,842,676-
Olive Tree Campaign	1,710,000-
Donation for World YWCA Council Participation	232,025-
Donation for Leadership Training	500,000-
Total	15,844,770-

Thank you so much for your generous donation during the year 2018-9. 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, Ritsuko Mibae
President, Satoko Fujitani

YWCA of Japan

c/o Tokyo YWCA, Rm#302 1-8-11 Kanda Surugadai, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0062, Japan

Tel: +81-3-3292-6121 /6122(fax)

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



BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS
-MATTHEW 5.9-