

エンパワーするNGO



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.....	2,124
✧	Associate Members.....	138
	✧ YWCA Supporters.....	806
✧	Jr./Sr. High School YWCAs.....	35
	Members.....	707
✧	Program Beneficiaries.....	37613

Junior and Senior High School YWCAs National Conference 2nd-4th August @Yokohama

Theme: “Power of Life, Connecting Globally”



37 junior and senior high school YWCAs are affiliated with the YWCA of Japan, and 723 students are connected to the junior and senior YWCA high school YWCA as members. The affiliated schools hold regional conferences every summer and a national conference once in every three years, learning, thinking and exchanging under different themes.

In the year 2017, the “Junior and Senior High School YWCAs National Conference- Power of Life, Connecting Globally” was held from 2nd to 4th August in Yokohama. 165 participants, including students and teachers of affiliated schools, shared the learning experience through lectures, exchanges, field trips and workshops.

The lecture on the first day was by Ms. Sayuri Watanabe from Japan Baptist Theological Seminary. She explained how we needed “smallness”, through the Parable in the Bible that the small mustard seed grows in to a large tree with branches stretched wide, because of its smallness. This is because the experience of pain and belittlement becomes the power to empathize with others, and makes one able to listen to the voiceless voices of the people in pain. That power will transform into the power to connect globally.

The field trip and workshops on the 2nd day were carried out under 9 themes: ① Encounter and interaction in Kawasaki-Sakuramoto, the Korean Town; ② People living in Kotobukicho, a town of day laborers; ③ Thinking of military bases and peace in Yokosuka; ④ Learning the history of Yokohama from Kanagawajuku; ⑤ Founders and supporters of Christian women’s education in Japan; ⑥ The massive damages from the Great Kanto Earthquake; ⑦ The work of Sawada Miki, the founder of the Elizabeth Saunders Home; ⑧ What is gender and sexuality; ⑨ Nurturing self-esteem through music. The students in different groups each saw, heard, learned, explored, encountered, discussed and pondered from different issues apparent in Yokohama. On the 3rd day, On the 3rd day, the groups each presented their learnings by various methods including drawings, presentations and skits.

Voice of a participant

- I learned that sometimes the power becomes stronger by working together with others around me, instead of giving up because I have only small power. I think it is important to create a condition so as to receive cooperation from others, and to put in a lot of time and effort. I want to become able to think and act on my own accord, and wish that my actions can help someone in this world.





Theme: “’ Roots of Peace’ from 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 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 2017 program was “’ Roots of Peace’ from HIROSHIMA”. “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 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. * This program was supported by “Hiroshima Peace Grant 2017” of Hiroshima Peace Creation Fund.

Voices from Participants

- The testimony of the survivor was extremely powerful. His voice carried his strong emotions, his story sounded very real, and I felt as if I myself experienced what happened in Hiroshima on that day. I am very grateful for the chance to listen to that testimony. I wonder what “Peace” is. Honestly speaking, I cannot organize my thoughts yet, and have a heavy feeling. I think this heaviness is the weight of responsibility that now I know what happened. I think I must continue thinking. (junior high school student)
- Through the materials and stories, I felt for real that the Atomic Bomb was dropped on a city where ordinary people were leading their lives. I learned that Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park lies on added soil that covers the ruins of the Atomic Bomb, and told myself I would always remember that there are still bodies of victims underground the city of Hiroshima. (university student)



Nanjing Peace Pilgrimage 2018 9th – 13th March@Nanjing, China



Theme: “Together, Let Us Walk the Path of Peace”

Nanjing Peace Pilgrimage started in 2007 as a sister program of “Pilgrimage to Hiroshima”, and this year marks the 4th time. It is a peace exchange program co-hosted by the National Council of YWCAs of China and the YWCA of Japan, with the cooperation from Nanjing YWCA/YMCA. This year, approximately 70 people participated, including 20 people (including 12 youths) from the YWCA of Japan and 30 participants and 20 staff members from YWCAs throughout China.

The participants visited two places: “Nanjing Museum of the Site of Lijixiang Comfort Stations” uses the same buildings which were used as a Japanese Military comfort

station. In the museum were many photographs of former “comfort women” who were exploited as sexual slaves by the Japanese military, a room preserved as it was used as a “comfort station”, and medical tools which were used there. “The Memorial for compatriots killed in the Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Forces of Aggression” was built on a site called the “ten thousand people pit”, where bodies of massacre victims were buried. The participants also heard two keynote addresses, shared experiences in group discussions and exchanged culture such as dance, drama and art. In the final program, they created an image of a dove using footprints, in the wish of “walking in the path of peace together”.



Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 8th–19th March 2018 @ New York, U.S.

Theme: Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural 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 2018, 7 members including 6 young women travelled to New York. The participants spent 4 months in preparation, and co-hosted a parallel event “Japanese Gender Equality Policies, from the viewpoint of young women”. The presenters explained the current situation of Japanese gender equality policies, and pointed out the challenges faced, through their own views and experiences. 70 people participated in the event, with a lively Q & A session.



Also, the young women participated in CSW Plenary sessions, World YWCA orientation for young women, a breakfast with young women hosted by the Permanent Mission of Australia, various NGO events, a meeting between the Permanent Mission of Japan and NGOs, visits to YWCAs in New York city, and “Youth Dialogue” hosted by UN Women, meeting and learning about the work of YWCA sisters and women around the world.



Japan-Korea Youth Conference 2017 23rd – 26th February@ Osaka

Theme: “Life is hard for young people –social recognition and poverty”



The Japan-Korea 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. A steering committee of young women planned and organized the program, which was participated by 20 people from Japan and 21 people from Korea and discussed “the hard life for young people”, a common and familiar issue of young people in both countries.

On the first day, the participants listened to a comprehensive lecture by a Ms. Kayuri Kim (Chief, HEAL Holistic Education Research and Development Center) about various problems in the modern society and the situation of young people living there. The second day was a field trip day. In Tsuruhashi, the largest Korean town in Japan, they learned about the history of the local community which was built by developed alongside the ethnic Koreans, as well as the challenges currently faced by the community, including hate speech, lack of participation in politics and rights to education. For the young people from Japan and Korea, this became an opportunity to grasp the issue of discrimination and violence against ethnic Koreans as “our problem”. Afterwards, they divided in 3 groups to visit different social care facilities for young people, and learned about the necessity of an inclusive “Safe Space” for young people who are rendered vulnerable in society.

On the third day, they agreed on an Action Plan for youths from Japan and Korea to implement together, and resolved to continue taking actions to tackle the hardships faced by young people, even after the program is over.

* This program has been supported by the Japan-Korea Cultural Foundation.



Voices from Participants

- I learned that, despite language barriers and time limitations, people who have the same goal of improving the society can understand each other. From the field trip and reports, I saw the various forms of poverty in present Japan, and also realized that they exist not only in Japan but also in Korea, and that they are caused by social structure.
- I learned about a different culture. I learned Japanese values, manners and language. I am still not able to speak like a native Japanese speaker, but we worked hard to communicate, and were very happy when we could understand each other.

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. 7 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.

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

142 beneficiaries during 2017



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 2017, such programs were held in 8 areas with the participation of 142 people, enabling them to “play outside”, which has become impossible in their everyday life; playing in beaches and rivers, cooking outdoors in camps, flying handmade kites and so on. 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

22families, 83 people benefited in 2017

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. There are number of repeaters, who say that the warm interaction with the house owners releases them from anxieties and stress they feel in daily life. The houses are lent free of charge by the house owners, and are maintained by nearby local YWCAs. The donations given to the YWCA of Japan cover a part of transportation fees for the beneficiaries.



Voices from Participants

- This is our fourth time in the Second House, and first time in Kobe. I again realized how we are supported by so many people. All I can express is thanks.
- There are no other programs that enable all three of us, father, mother and son, to leave for recuperation. We were able to spend a valuable family time together
- I and my son had previously evacuated outside of the prefecture. We wanted to stay outside for a longer period, but were unable to due to economic reasons. We are grateful for the very happy time we were able to spend in the Second House.
- Our family was able to walk and run together, and go shopping to a supermarket on a bicycle. Such an ordinary thing was such a happy experience. My anxieties went away in an instant.

YWCA Activity Space "Caro Fukushima"

A total of 850 participants in 2017

"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 bringing the local community together and 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. Some participants started their own business, and some formed a group for women with young children, utilizing the network and experience in this Space. During the reporting period, the YWCA of Japan launched "Talking Time in Caro Fukushima", inviting a doctor and an officer from Iwaki Radiation Measuring Center Tarachine. During the events, participants were able to talk about and share their daily concerns with experts, which they cannot talk about in daily life.

- Talking Time in Caro Fukushima (2 sessions)
- Summer school for children by Fukushima YWCA (5 sessions)
- Fukushima Y's Café: Workshop by Fukushima YWCA (4 sessions)
- Fuku Fuku Market: Safe food and workshops by women (2 sessions)
- Workshops on healing environment and fermented food facilitated by women, other sessions including art and craft classes

Thinking of New Energy from Fukushima "Energy Fiesta with Everyone!"

150 Participants

Continued from 2016, The program "Thinking of New Energy from Fukushima" enables high school students living in Fukushima to learn about the nature and usage of natural energy, utilize it in daily life, and spread it among the society. This year, as a compilation of the past two years, the participants had 3 preparatory sessions from June, and held the event "Energy Fiesta with Everyone!" in Fukushima city on 2nd September. In this event, the high school students held an interactive workshop displaying what they learned about and



their views on the future of renewable energy to the participants. One of the contents, the "Renewable Energy Election", consisted of participants voting on different kinds of renewable energy presented by the high school students.



Voices from High School Students

- We were able to share responsibilities and work together in a limited time.
- The participation by experts was effective for a deep discussion.
- I was very happy that the event was a success, since we worked together very hard for preparation.
- This was my first time to try to convey information and messages to others, so this was an important opportunity.
- I was able to deepen my understanding about renewable energy, and also convey the knowledge and information to others.

Kumamoto Earthquake Disaster Relief Activity

Kumamoto YWCA works on the below 4 year program from 2016 to 2019, as relief activities for the damages from M7.3 earthquakes in April 2016.

1. Day programs for mental care of children and spring 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

On 25th-29th March, a spring camp was carried out inviting 15 children from Fukushima and 15 children from Kumamoto. Young members of Kumamoto YWCA, who spent more than half an year in preparation, lead the program, providing a safe and enjoyable 5 days camp to children from Fukushima, who are unable to play outside freely because of radioactive pollution, and children from Kumamoto who were affected by the 2016 earthquake. Also, summer and winter “Day Programs”, building repair, and provision of financial support for 10 members and international students who were affected by the earthquake were realized thanks to our generous donors throughout Japan and overseas.



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.

<p>Constitution Café for Youth ★Tokyo YWCA, Yokohama YWCA Seminars about the Japanese Constitution, in order to promote political participation of young people. 2 sessions about “Work” and “Education”, participated by a total of 17 people, mostly youths.</p> 	<p>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. 41 participants in a camp in Kyoto, followed by two joint meetings.</p>
<p>Youth Skill Up Training and Exchange Program ★Kumamoto YWCA, Osaka YWCA, Nagasaki YWCA, Fukuoka YWCA, Okinawa YWCA, Kyoto YWCA, Kobe YWCA Empowering youths and creating local network through chances to get together, exchange and gain skills. In 2017, 18 people participated in a camp to discuss future actions.</p> 	<p>Girls Rock Day Camp ★Yokohama YWCA, Kumamoto YWCA, Fukuoka YWCA, Hiroshima YWCA, Kofu YWCA Empowering young women through music, by forming a band and holding a live performance. 11 participants benefited in 2017.</p> 
<p>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 2017, a movie screening and talk live was held with a total of 303 participants.</p> 	<p>YWCA Protectors of Peace ~Let us Create a Local Peace Map!~ ★Hakodate YWCA, Hiroshima YWCA, Sapporo YWCA Creating a Peace Map of Haokodate for youth exchange and program usage. In 2017, a total of 25 people participated in a seminar and field trip, and printed 2000 copies of the Peace Map.</p> 

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 2017, the YWCA of Japan made a total donation of approx. 288 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 nursery schools



National Convention of the YWCA of India / Youth Forum

During the reporting period, members of the YWCA of Japan participated in the "Youth Forum" of the YWCA of India in August 2017, and the National Convention of the YWCA of India in February 2018. The members learned about the situation of women in India and the work of the YWCA of India, shared the work of the YWCA of Japan, and took part in exchange of culture and information.

YWCA of India Youth Forum 8th-13th August @Delhi

The Youth Forum took place under the main theme of "Safe Space". The participants explored the 8 aspects of Safe Space through workshops and panel discussions, and applied them to real life. They also visited the communities around Delhi which the YWCA of India works with.

National Assembly of the YWCA of India 11th-13th February @ Goa

The 30th National Assembly of the YWCA of India took place in Goa, with the participation of 300 members from 82 local YWCAs. The program under the theme "Women Standing up Against Violence" included a keynote speech, workshops and panel sessions around subthemes relating to violence against women. Prior to the National Assembly, there was a session for youths, where the participants shared the actual voices of young people regarding what they need in order to realize Safe Spaces.



Statements/ Appeals

- "Hibakusha Appeal"
- Protest Against U.S. Missile Attack on Syria and the Abe Administration's Support for the Attack (11th April)
- Protest Against the Railroading of the Act on Punishment of the Preparation of Acts of Terrorism and Other Organized Crimes, Establishing the "Conspiracy Law" (24th May)
- Letter Protesting Against the Japanese Government's Submission of General Assembly Resolution on Nuclear Abolition, and Requesting to Ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (13th October)
- Letter of Request to Oppose the Statement by the U.S. President "Recognizing Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel" (12th December)
- Signed on to a letter by "Women and Gender Constituency" on concern over nuclear lobby during COP23 (16th November)

Donations Received

Donations Received (JPY)

YWCA of Japan supporters fee	1,226,000-
“Peacemakers” donation	1,952,932-
Great East Japan Earthquake Survivor Support Disaster Relief Donations (Including Support for the YWCA of Palestine, Kumamoto Earthquake and South Taiwan, Province of China Earthquake survivors)	3,952,395-
Olive Tree Campaign	772,687-
Others	849,000-
Total	6,000-
	8,759,014-

Thank you so much for your generous donation during the year 2017-8. 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

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