

Results of the questionnaire survey on Japanese local governments' approaches to issues related to a culture of peace

January 20th, 2010

The Japanese Society for Developing a Culture of Peace

[Introduction]

At the 2000 General Assembly of the United Nations designated the years 2001 through 2010 as the “International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World or *the Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence*”, and proposed to its member nations to promote activities of peace and non-violence. We, the Japanese Society for Developing a Culture of Peace, submitted a report on the activities for the Decade in Japan to Secretary-General of the United Nations (see Appendix A). Although NGOs such as our organization and National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan have been known to do activities for the culture of peace, there were no statistics nor any research to detect how local governments had taken up the activities related to the Culture of Peace.

[Purpose]

The purpose of the present study is to reveal the activities on Culture of Peace done by cities in Japan by a complete enumeration survey.

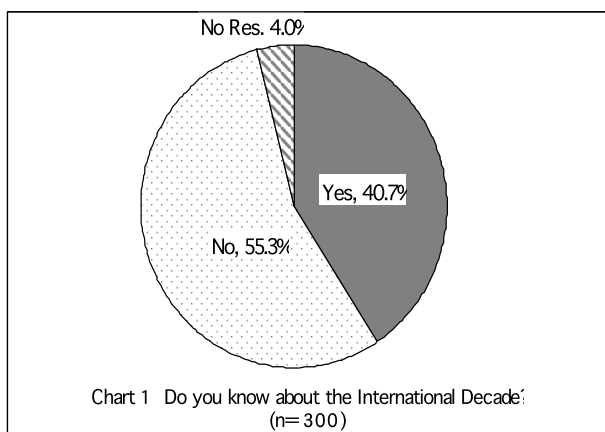
[Method]

In July 2009, we asked 804 municipalities (all 781 cities and Tokyo's 23 wards, excepting towns and villages) in Japan to respond to the questionnaire survey on activities related to a culture of peace, 300 or about 37.5 % of which having replied to our survey by the end of August.

[Results]

1. Overall awareness of the International Decade

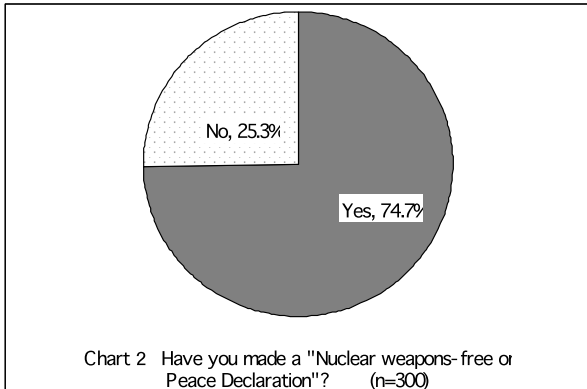
Question: Do you, as a local government, recognize the International Decade?



In view of the fact that 40 % of the local governments know about this, we have to evaluate highly their efforts while the central government and the mass media have deliberately ignored the U.N. resolution about the international decade. The fact that 55 % of them don't know shows that the decade campaign has not gained much social publicity yet.

2. Adoption of “Nuclear-weapons free and peace declaration” at local assembly

Question: Have you made a “nuclear-weapons free declaration” as a local government?

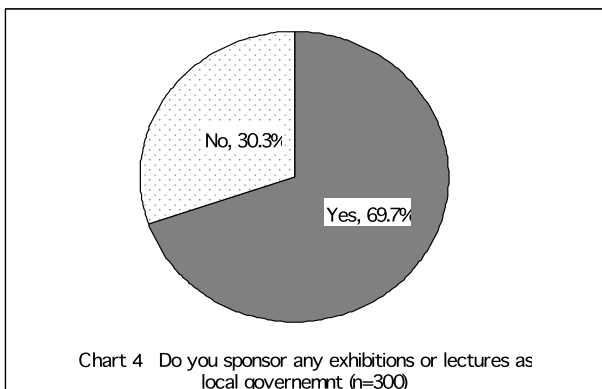


That the 74.7% or three-fourths have made this kind of declaration means most of the cities and wards really aspire to a nuclear-free world. Taking into account the fact that about 63 % of the 804 cities and wards didn't join this questionnaire, we presume a close to 50 % of the communities have made a declaration of this kind.

In addition, as to the questionnaire item of *Have you made a peace declaration?* independently, 50 communities or 16.7 % of the respondents said “Yes.” When the 16.7 % is added to the above 74.7 %, more than 90 % of all the entities amount presumably to have made a peace declaration in some form or another. This data is noticeable from the viewpoint of peace studies.

3. Peace-related events

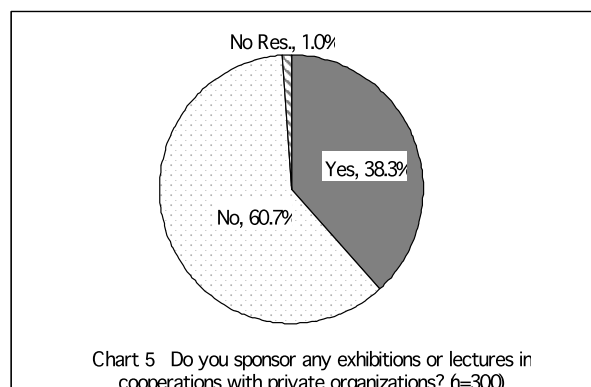
Question 1: Do you sponsor any exhibitions or lectures related to peace and war as local government?



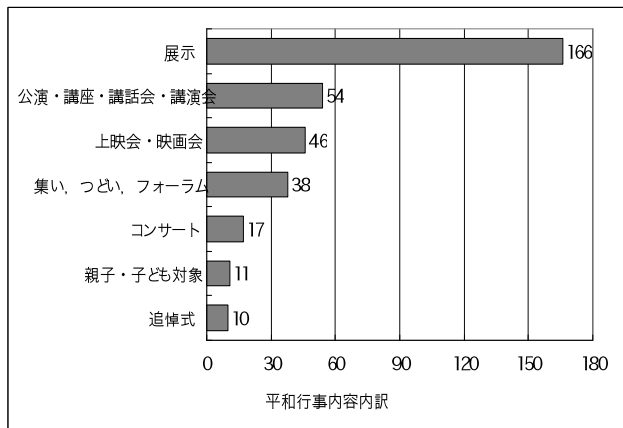
We can highly appreciate that about 70 % of them sponsor such events. The number of the residents living in the surveyed 804 entities accounts for more than 90 % of the whole population of our country. Therefore, it is presumed that two-thirds of the Japan's population are involved in opportunities of such events.

Question 2: Do you give any exhibitions or lectures related to peace in cooperation with private organizations?

That nearly 40% of the entities conduct peace events in cooperation with private groups is also regarded to a certain degree.



* Contents of the aforementioned peace-related events:



Exhibition (166)
 Lecture, seminar, roundtable discussion (54)
 Film showing (46)
 Forum, get-together (38)
 Concert (17)
 Meeting for parents & children (11)
 Memorial service for the war dead (10)

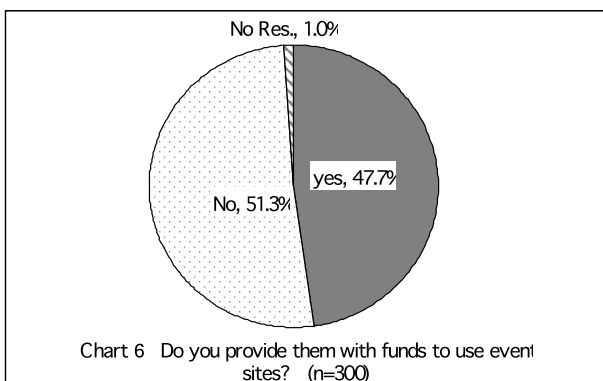
Judging from a variety of the events given above, their awareness that citizens value peace matters, think war should not be repeated, and in no case should nuclear arms be used, reflect these activities.

[Specific examples of the events]

- Talk on experiences by war survivors and atomic-bomb survivors
- Film showing of atomic bombs
- Poster exhibition of cities that have made “non-nuclear declaration”
- “International poster contest” by the Lions Club
- Tour making visiting sites noted for peace and human rights

4. Support for citizen-initiated peace activities

Question 1: Do you support them by letting their citizens use public facilities for their peace activities?

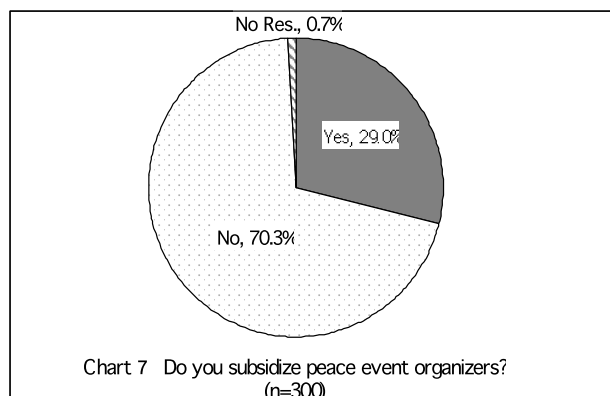


Less than 50 % of those local governments that have made peace or non-nuclear declarations let citizens use public facilities for their peace activities. We hope that a large number of them will encourage citizens’ peace groups by letting them use public facilities.

Question 2: Do you subsidize peace event organizers?

[Examples of specific financial support]

- Subsidy for participation expenses into world conferences against atomic and hydrogen bombs



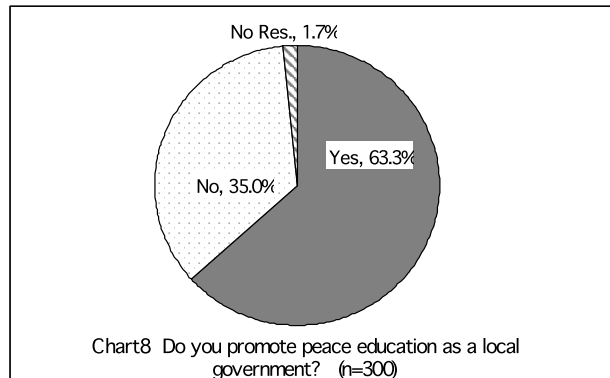
- Donation for peace exhibitions
- Subsidy for peace-oriented groups
- Subsidy for dispatch expenses to official memorial services to Hiroshima or Nagasaki in August

5. Peace-related education

Question 1: Do you promote peace education as a local government?

About two-thirds of public entities have been carrying out peace education. It was learned that they stress peace education as well as human rights and environment education. They are conducting a variety of peace education as given below.

- *Exhibition of peace-related panels at public schools
- *Lecture on experiences by war survivors at schools
- *Enlightenment programs on non-nuclear issues

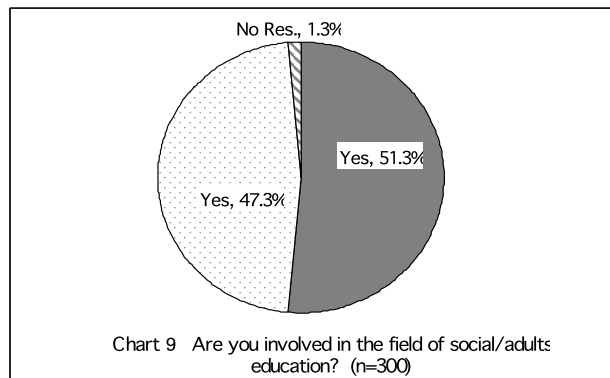


Question 2: Are you involved in peace education in the field of social / adults education?

It is significant that a majority of them are conducting peace education through adult education in some form or another.

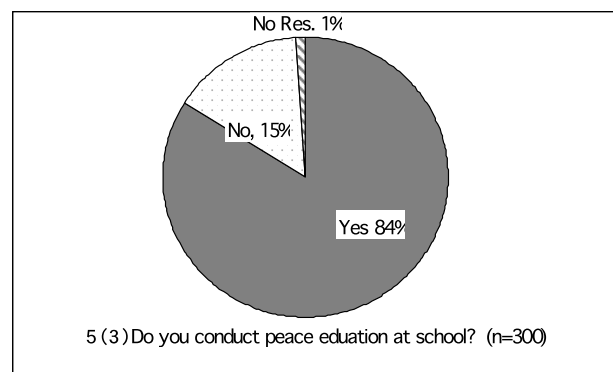
[Some of the examples]

- Erection of peace-related monuments
- Exhibition of peace / war-related books at public library
- Reading peace-related picture books to children
- Showing of animated films
- Sponsoring of peace study seminars



Question 3: Do you conduct peace education at school?

84 % of them conduct peace education at school. A variety of peace education are given ranging from visiting Hiroshima / Nagasaki on school trip to attending school to observe atomic bombing-related services on August 6th / 9th. It is expected that peace education at school will be mutually exchanged nationwide.

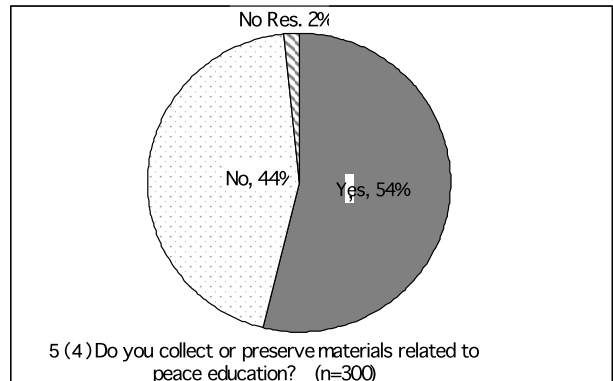


[Some of the examples of peace education at school]

- Compilation of peace-related compositions
- Using peace / non-nuclear arm declaration as teaching materials
- Lecture by atomic bomb survivors

Question 4: Do you collect or preserve materials for peace studies?

A majority of public entities collect / preserve those materials. Specific methods are given below. Some governments use their public museums or library for that work, and others have their education boards and schools do such work. It is desirable that those collected materials be open more to citizens.



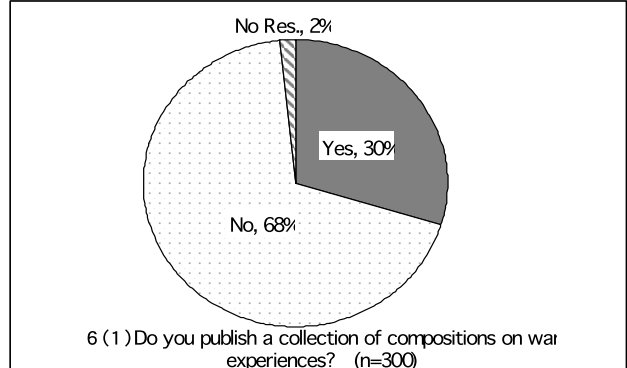
[Examples of specific methods]

- Purchasing audio-visual peace-related materials
- Purchasing peace-related books at public library
- Collecting / preserving air-raids-related materials for public exhibition
- Collecting / preserving peace-related materials by education boards

6. How to pass down war-experiences to younger citizens

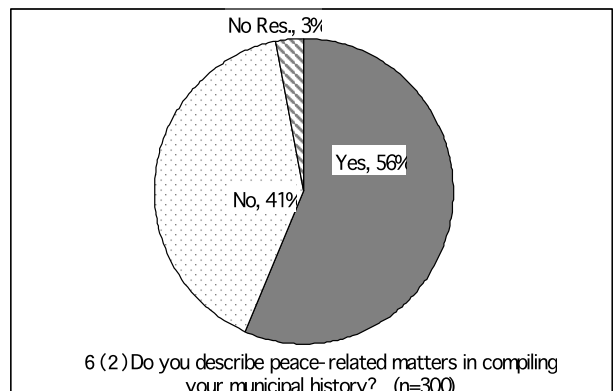
Question 1: Do you publish a collection of compositions on war-time experiences?

About 30 % of them publish such a collection. It is more than 60 years since World War II ended. Recording such wartime experiences in written form is significant since the number of war survivors is on the decrease. Passing down war experiences to young citizens who didn't go through the war is important to build a peaceful society, and public entities should tackle this task more proactively.



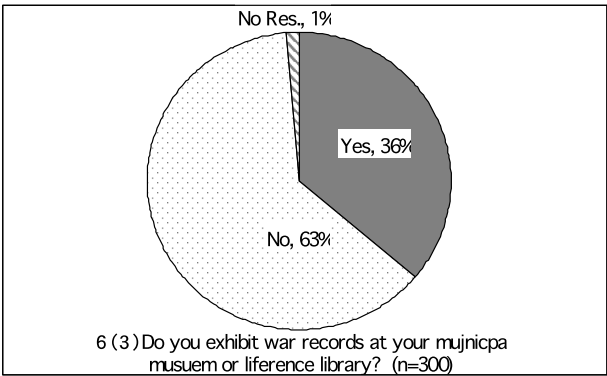
Question 2: Do you describe peace-related matters in compiling your municipal history?

A majority of the cities describe peace-related matters in their history. Putting the data given in the 6(2) question with this item together, 86% of them record wartime experiences. It can be said that local governments tackle important activities as a war-ravaged country.



Question 3: Do you exhibit war-time records at your museums or reference library?

More than one-thirds of the entities exhibit such records for citizens. Museums and reference library are quite important facilities that help citizens access peace issues.

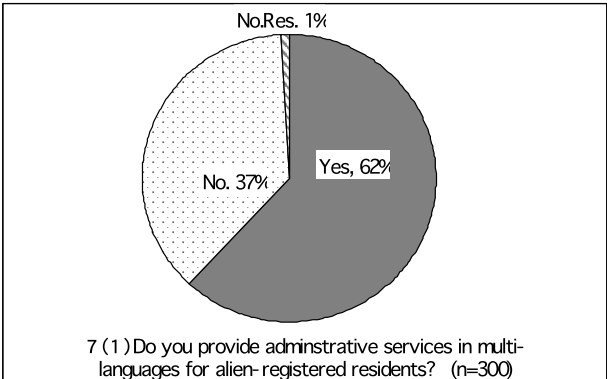


8. Promotion of multi-purpose coexistence

To recognize each other's differences is an essential viewpoint in the international decade of peace and non-violence. We have set such a questionnaire item in this survey from this viewpoint. Over two million people with a foreign nationality reside in Japan. If foreigners without alien registration are added, presumably more than three million foreign people live in Japan. The "internationalization" policy of the government as to the issue of how to deal with these alien people has come into question.

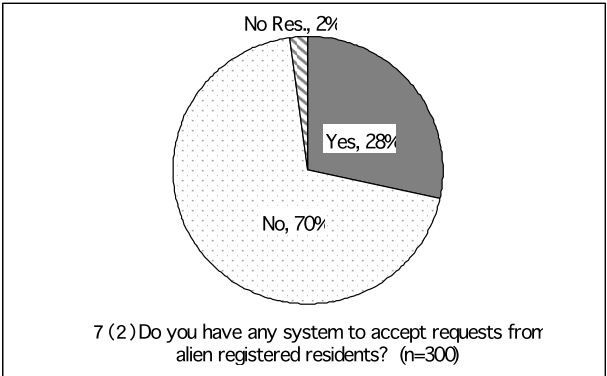
Question 1: Do you offer administrative services in multi-language for foreign people?

As "internationalization" advances in local governments, about two-thirds of them are faced with providing foreign residents with language services in administration.



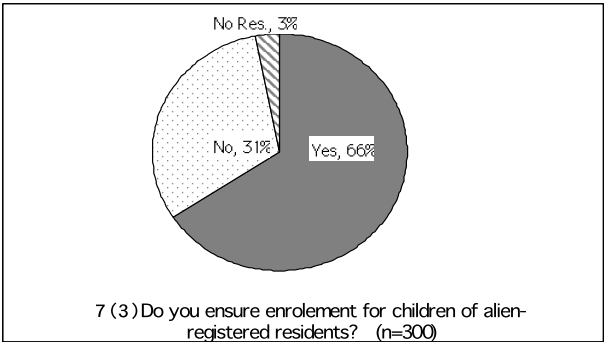
Question 2: Do you have any system to accept requests from alien-registered residents?

Less than 30% of them have a system for those residents. Since the number of those residents increases, and their requests are diverse, hopefully this system will prevail in other governments.



Question 3: Do you ensure enrolment for children of alien-registered residents?

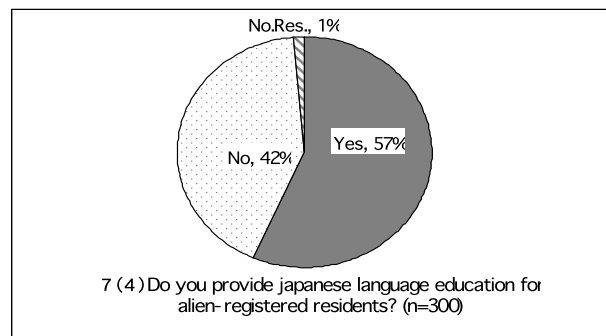
About two-thirds majority of local communities with large numbers of foreign children have such a system. From the standpoint of the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the United Nations in



November 1989, it is only natural that the central and local governments should take such a measure.

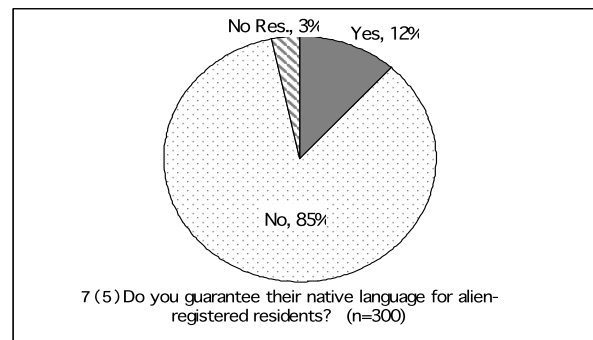
Question 4: Do you provide Japanese language education for alien-registered residents?

Since the “Language barrier” affects various sides of local administration services, this kind of education for foreign residents should be more strengthened. The central government should support financially local governments’ efforts in this respect.



Question 5: Do you provide their mother tongue education for the children of foreign residents?

To improve their native language skills is quite indispensable for foreign residents, especially for their children. It is vital for them in case those children return to their parents’ home country in future. In this regard, Article 28 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child stipulates that states parties recognize the right of the child to education.



7. Introduction of other, unique local governments’ activities

- Joined the Mayors for Peace, and the association of nonnuclear & peace-declared cities
- Joined the World Federalist Movement in Japan
- Built a monument of non-nuclear / peace city declaration
- Dispatched junior high school students to Hiroshima Peace Memorial Service on August 6
- Send a guidebook for enrollment of children of alien-registered residents
- Give a roundtable discussion for foreign residents
- Sponsor a “peace talk meeting” on August 15th
- Give an exhibition of a collection of war-related materials

[Conclusion]

The response ratio from the cities was fairly well high. Overall, the results of our survey suggest that Japanese cities have strong interest to plan and implement activities for the promotion of Culture of Peace. They have expressed strong desire for abolition of nuclear weapons and any kind of wars.

The decade has almost been neglected by the successive, conservative Japanese governments. However, the Japanese cities are more flexible enough to include activities for the Culture of Peace in their local governance. Those activities are more grass-rooted based on community level to establish peace and nonviolence. But the notion of Culture of Peace and the significance of the Decade initiated by the U.N. were not as well disseminated

as we had expected. We still hope that more cities will be more aware of the meaning of the Culture of Peace.

As we live in the history when the U.S. President Barack Obama recently addressed his strong will for abolition of nuclear weapons, we have to proceed more for the anti-nuclear weapons movement beyond the experiences of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Japanese Society for Developing the Culture of Peace will further continue to promote the Culture of Peace together with National Federation of UNESCO in Japan.

Appendix A

January 30th, 2010

The Honorable Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations

The Japanese Report on the “International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World”

At the 2000 General Assembly the United Nations designated the years 2001 through 2010 as the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (the Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence) and proposed to its member nations to promote activities of peace and non-violence. It also requested member nations to submit results of activities to the general assembly in 10 years.

This report is based on the ten-year report request. It includes a summary of our approach to issues of non-violence and a list of our activities as given below. We would also like it to be known that it is our deepest wish that the United Nations continue the tasks and goals of the Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence after it ends officially in 2011.

1. The formation of the Japanese Society for Developing the Culture of Peace

We formed the “Japanese Society for Developing the Culture of Peace in 2000” in response to the U.N. proposal. This society has carried out various activities for the past decade in cooperation with UNESCO, and we are registered as one of the supporting organizations for UNESCO Japan, and registered as a council member organization this fiscal year. We have been publishing a newsletter to our members, with 60 issues published as of this year.

2. 10- year publicity activities through our website

We launched a website in 2000, and have conducted PR activities related to the Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence. The site has had numerous access records, and we believe that the site has become a medium to serve to establish the term “a culture of peace” within society. The site consists of explanations of the Declaration of Culture of Peace and our organization’s action programs and activities in order to make known the U.N.’s role in the international decade.

3. CPNN (Culture of Peace News Network)

The U.N. selected UNESCO as a focal point of the International Decade campaign. UNESCO organized the Culture of Peace News Network (CPNN). We joined CPNN activities since its inception. We have published about 400 articles on the CPNN website to date, showing documents related to peace and non-violence (<http://blog.goo.ne.jp/cpnn/>). The website introduces interesting and moving events in our daily life, films, books, songs and poems

concerning peace and non-violence.

4. GCPEJ (Global Campaign for Peace Education Japan)

We launched the Global Campaign for Peace Education in Japan (GCPEJ) in 2000 with the objective of pushing ahead with a global peace campaign to embody the Hague Appeal adopted at the 1999 Peace Civil Society Conference. We have been carrying out a variety of activities through this group, and are pleased to note that the term Peace Education, which before had been regarded as an exceptional theme for study or education in Japan, has become a common phrase.

5. “My peace appeal (Manifesto 2000)”

We have carried on the “My peace appeal” movement begun by UNESCO in concert with the 2000 U.N. “International decade for peace & culture” resolution. The National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan has entrusted our organization with this movement. The number of the people making their personal peace appeals has exceeded one million in this country. “My declaration against violence campaign” in which individuals declare ‘non-violence,’ although fewer in number than those making the peace declaration, has been helping to consolidate the foundation of a peace culture in this country.

6. Publications

In addition to publications on the World Wide Web, at the outset of the 2000 campaign we published a book entitled *Toward a culture of peace from a culture of violence* in 2000. In 2001 we published *Declarations for Freeing Ourselves from Violence*; in 2001 *Surviving in Non-Violence; Gandhi*, in 2006 *Eight Keywords for a Culture of Peace*, and in 2007 *Build a culture of peace and non-violence*. We also published a translation of *Peace Education to End War* by Betty Reardon.

7. Lectures by guests

We prepared venues and invited lecturers from many countries to talk about peace, non-violence and related issues. We invited Arya Bhushan Bharadwaj (India) in 2001, Johan Galtung (Norway) in 2002, Die Bresaton (Australia) in 2003, Betty Reardon (U.S.) in 2004 and 2009, David Adams (the U.S.) in 2006, Alicia Cabezudo (Argentina) in 2007, and Tod Thorn (U.S.) in 2008.

8. Survey on local governments’ approaches to issues related to a culture of peace

With the aim of confirming results of our campaign, we conducted a “survey on local governments’ approaches related to culture of peace” last summer. Nearly 40 % of all the local governments replied to our questionnaire. The results of the survey show that more than 40 % of those that responded have been taking various approaches of their own from the standpoint of a culture of peace. These include peace education, and multi-cultural co-existence, and others.

2005 interim report on our activities to the U.N.

At the request of the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan, we submitted a report to the United Nations on our activities at the five year mark. In that report we reported on our activities in Japan related to peace and non-violence, and related these activities to the overall goal of helping to create an innovative peace-oriented movement in the world.

9. Collaborative activities with peace movement and peace education groups

We have worked together with many peace movements and peace education groups in Japan, such as the Japan Peace Committee, peace museums, war exhibitions for peace, the Article 9 Association, and civic education research groups on peace and non-violence. In addition, we cooperate with the Organizing Committee of the Mothers' Congress, the Defense for Children International, the Japan Teachers' Association, and the All Japan Teachers and Staff Union.

Fujita Hideo
Representative of the Japanese Society
for Developing the Culture of Peace in Japan,
and professor emeritus of Rissho University

Contact: Takiguchi Masaru,
Secretary-General of the Japanese Society for Developing a Culture of Peace in Japan
(takiguchi-masaru@rh.dion.ne.jp)
2-15-1-1004 Kawaguchi, Kawaguchi City, Saitama Prefecture, 332-0015 Japan

(Translated by Nara Katsu Yuki)