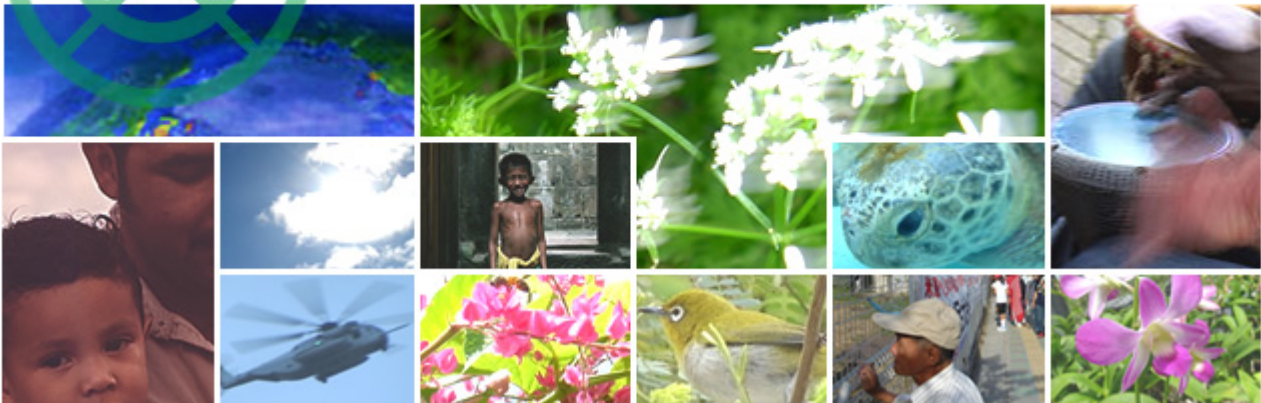


World Federalist Movement of Japan



2008 Member Organization Activity Report

2008 Council Meeting

World Federalist Movement

The Hague, The Netherlands

6-8 November 2008

1. October 1, 2007

Accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court



On 1st October 2007, the Japanese government officially acceded to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as a result of the combined efforts of various actors, including but not limited to: the World Federalist Movement of Japan (WFMJ), the Japanese Parliamentary Committee for World Federation (JPCWF), the four WFMJ-affiliated organizations, the Japanese Network for the ICC (JNICC), legal experts, highly motivated parliamentarians, and government officials.

Our campaign on the ICC began in 2001 when our President Mitsunori UEKI along with other colleagues made a visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to submit a formal request to the Foreign Minister requesting Japan's early accession to the Rome Statute. The campaign continued well into 2007, until representatives of each of the seven political parties made their formal request to all of the relevant ministries. Our activities included the following:

1. Meeting each parliamentarian and setting up study session with the influential members;
2. Upgrading the study session into a parliamentary group for further practical actions;
3. Support lobbying efforts by assisting parliamentary visits to the relevant ministries;
4. Support local petitioning efforts of the regional WFMJ branches.

As a result of these activities the government officially referred their instruments of ratification to the United Nations on 17 July 2007 thereby becoming the 105th state party to the Rome Statute. Although being the 105th state is not as praiseworthy as being part of the first 66 states that enabled the coming into force of the Statute, states like China, Russia, and the United States are still not party to the Statute while heinous crimes remain rampant in the whole of the African and Asian continent. The Court was established to address these crimes, and Japan's contribution to this noble institution is significant, not mentioning the total annual budgetary contribution of over USD30 million. By joining the Court's system Japan has made a significant step forward in becoming a responsible global player in establishing lasting peace and justice in the world.

2. December 17, 2007

The 2nd Policy Recommendation Submitted to the Foreign Minister



On 17th December 2007, WFMJ President Mitsunori UEKI and JPCWF President Mayumi MORIYAMA together visited the office of then Foreign Minister Masahiko KOUMURA to formally submit the second policy paper, “**Policy Recommendation for Realizing a World Federation.**” President UEKI explained the purpose of the proposal and summarized the *three* main pillars stressing the needs of the following:

1. Deepening the efforts in consolidating the support for the ICC;
2. Practical steps towards the adoption of a parliamentary resolution on World Federation;
3. A leadership role in the Toyako Summit on presenting global environmental solutions.

Responding to these recommendations Minister KOUMURA promised that “serious consideration” will be made and that a written response will be returned shortly.

The proposal was a culmination of months of intense debate on the internet listserv conducted by the Theories & Strategies Committee. It was subsequently approved by the Japan Association for World Federation as a formal paper of the WFMJ and was submitted in the name of the presidents and committee chairmen of the four affiliated organizations, Mitsunori UEKI, Mayumi MORIYAMA, Yasuo SHIKATA, and Tsunekiyo TANAKA.

3. August 29, 2008

Proposal on arms reduction submitted to the G8 Speaker of the House Summit



On the occasion of the seventh G8 Speaker of the Lower House Summit held in Hiroshima on 2 September, WFMJ President Mitsunori UEKI and JPCWF President Mayumi MORIYAMA together visited the office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Yohei KONO on 29 August to submit a proposal on arms reduction to be considered during the Speakers Summit.

The arms reduction proposal consisted of the following four points:

1. Illegalization of the use of nuclear arms;
2. Restriction on cluster munitions;
3. Restrictions on DU weapons;
4. Promotion of the Arms Trade Treaty.

Specifically, the proposal called for the following:

1. Establishment of an international law prohibiting the use and threat of the use of nuclear arms;
2. Disposal of existing cluster munitions and preparation of relevant implementing laws for the ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions;
3. Exercise of voluntary restraint on the use of DU arsenal and active participation to the efforts involving the studies on the effect of the DU arsenal;
4. Actively engagement in the efforts to accelerate the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty

Receiving these recommendations, Speaker KONO promised to distribute the paper to each of the participants of the Summit as a document of critical importance following its completion.

The document was submitted by JPCWF Secretary-General Osamu SHIOHAMA and was translated by the collaboration of Akira TAKAGI and Takahiro KATSUMI, the Chairman of the WFMJ Council, and the Member of the Executive Committee, respectively.

4. July 28 – August 2, 2008

Middle East Peace Project: A cultural experience event held in Koganei City



From July 28 to August 2, a student experience project inviting the bereaved children of the Middle East from both the Israeli and Palestinian side, the **Middle East Peace Project**, was held in the Koganei City of Tokyo, hosted by the Executive Committee on the Middle East Project in Koganei led by Koganei City Mayor, Takahiro INABA.

Five Israeli and four Palestinian high-school students along with one NPO mentor visited the Japanese city of Koganei for the event.

The students enjoyed cultural experiences while staying in the homes of the residents. The climax of the event came on the last day when Mayor INABA said in his closing remarks, "It is my sincere wish that through such cultural experience and various civilian exchanges, you can learn that ending the cycle of hatred is possible by simply spending some time together in one place."

One of the Israeli students, fifteen-year old Noam Oren took the stage to answer an interview and said, "My purpose of coming to Japan was to help you understand what the realities are. We don't live in hatred, and that is what I wanted the people of Japan to know."

The Palestinian mentor, Mr. Khaled Abu Awwad¹ also took the stage saying, "I've lost two of my brothers in an Israeli air attack. But they won't come back even if I took revenge. I would like to promote understanding and love so that we can realize peace."

Before returning home, on August 1st, the students made a courtesy visit along with WFMJ President UEKI to the Prime Minister's Office, the Israeli embassy, and the Palestinian Representatives Office and were warmly welcome by all participants.

A municipal, grass-root effort like this may become a great engine of peace in the Middle East, as mentioned in Prime Minister Aso's speech at the UN General Assembly late September. Japanese municipalities will continue to engage in efforts like these to sow the "seeds of peace."

**The Middle East Peace Project was first held in the City of Ayabe in 2003. In 2004, the Municipal Consultative Assembly decided to subsidize the project. The project was then taken over by the cities of Okayama, Tokushima, and Kameoka, but the project came to a halt in 2006 and 2007 due to deteriorating conditions in the Middle East. This year's event marks the fourth round after three years since the last event.*

¹ Mr. Awwad is the General Manager of an NPO program "The Parents Circle - Families Forum" of Bereaved Families Supporting Peace, Reconciliation & Tolerance.

5. September 17, 2008

The 3rd Policy Recommendation submitted to the Foreign Minister



On 17th September 2008, WFMJ President Mitsunori UEKI and JPCWF President Mayumi MORIYAMA together visited the office of then Foreign Minister Masahiko KOUMURA to formally submit the third policy recommendation paper on realization of a *World Federation*. Representatives of the WFMJ Secretariat and the Secretary-General of the AO JPCWF were also present at the meeting. President UEKI explained the purpose of the proposal and summarized the *four* main pillars stressing the needs of the following:

1. Assuming a leadership role in tackling environmental issues;
2. Deepening the efforts in consolidating the foundation of the ICC system;
3. Proactive role in promoting arms reduction towards lasting global peace;
4. Establishing a common understanding on the principles of a World Federation.

Expressing his appreciation that the World Federalists are moving forward with their goals in a practical manner, Minister KOUMURA said that although execution of these recommendations are difficult, “we support the direction it holds is promising and the government will endeavor towards realizing the goals presented in the report by doing what we can for each of the set goals, one by one.” A written response is to be prepared by the ministry.

As with the last report, the six-page report was a culmination of months of intense debate on the e-listserv conducted by the Theories & Strategies Committee. It was submitted in the name of the presidents and committee chairmen of the four affiliated organizations, Mitsunori UEKI, Mayumi MORIYAMA, Yasuo SHIKATA, and Tsunekiyo TANAKA.

6. April 16, 2008

Executive Committee Meeting: Contemplating for a New Article 9

By Tadanori Ogino, Chairman of the Theories & Strategies Committee
Translated by Takahiro Katsumi, Member of the Committee

In the Executive Committee Meeting held on April 16, an intense debate took place concerning the position of the organization on the pacifist clause of the Constitution.

The seventh draft of this position paper, “**The Position of the World Federalist Movement of Japan on the Pacifist Clause of the Constitution**” was presented to the Committee for discussion and it was decided that the position may present a ‘direction’ but not a concrete policy of the organization on the matter concerned. This view was reflected in the finalized document and was presented and *acknowledged* by the WFMJ Congress held on May 27.

WFMJ Final draft position on the revision of Article 9

1. Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.
2. In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.
3. In order to achieve full effect of the aims of the preceding two paragraphs, a world federal institution that would maintain peace and security throughout the world shall be established.