

## Muse No. 34

### Japanese Citizens Network of Museums for Peace

#### Newsletter: January 2017

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#### Invitation to Choro-kan Sekiya Kohjin Ceramic Panel Museum for Peace: Mashiko in Tochigi

Shiro Yoshioka

Choro-kan is located at Mashiko Ceramic Art Village in Tochigi Prefecture. It takes two and a half hours by bus from Akihabara, Tokyo. Mr. Kohjin Sekiya aged 84 wrote down the messages on ceramic panels. His works are as follows;

- KOREA-Halla-san by Mr Kim Myung-Sik on armed uprising in Cheju Island on Apr 3, 1948. CHORO means morning dew from his poem.

- HIROSHIMA&NAGASAKI-Quo vadis ? (Where are you going ?)

- Victims of Asia & Pacific War-Did you go to CHIDORIGAFUCHI (where the remains of unknown

soldiers who died abroad are buried.)? by Ms Itsuko Ishikawa (his partner, poet for peace)

- CHINA-WANRENKENG-Chinese being moved forcibly to Japan to work

- HOLOCAUST-SHOAH by Mr Claude Lanzmann

(translated into Japanese by Mr Taketomo Takahashi)



erico

-CHERNOBYL — A prayer for Chernobyl by Ms Svetlana Alexievich, the winner of Nobel

Prize for Literature in 2015.

- FUKUSHIMA-name of the town of victims by Nuclear Power Plants

-OKINAWA-Tokyo Ryukyu-kan

Please refer to HP

<http://chorogan.org/>

Korean and Chinese version is ready.

However, English version is under construction.

He graduated from Waseda University and became a teacher. He resigned and moved to Mashiko in 1988. CHORO-KAN was renewed and opened in May, 2015 and supporting groups were organized at Mashiko and Tokyo. Newsletters are published twice a year. DVD (about 30 min) was made by Nagata Seminar of Musashi Univ. He published three photo books and new photo book will be published soon.

Mr Kohjin Sekiya and Ms Itsuko Ishikawa become a member of Japanese Citizens' Network of Museum for Peace recently and attended the national exchange meeting at Auschwitz Peace Museum (Shirakawa, Fukushima) on 29 and 30 Oct, 2016.

If you have a chance to come to Japan, please visit CHORO-KAN and if you have friends in Japan,

please recommend them to visit. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

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A prayer for Chernobyl

### National Conference of Museums for Peace in Japan

Kazuyo Yamane

The national annual conference of the Japanese Citizens' Network of Museums for Peace was held at Auschwitz Peace Museum in Shirakawa City, Fukushima on 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> October. There were sixty participants, and directors and curators of various museums for peace talked about their activities.

They included the Display House of the 5<sup>th</sup> Lucky Dragon, Choro-kan Museum, Chukiren Peace Museum (of the Association of Returnees from China), Manmou Kaitaku Peace Museum (concerning the history of Japanese people sent to Manchuria and Mongolia during World War II), Maruki Gallery for the Hiroshima Panels, Nagasaki Peace Museum, Women's Active Museum, Yamanashi Peace Museum. A special lecture on 'Museums against historical truth in the past and the future after the 3.11 Event' was given by Professor Yoshihiko Kimizuka, as well as on the hosting museum by Kiwamu Kuriyama and Tatsuya Hagiwara. Together with Professor Ikuro Anzai, I introduced the forthcoming INMP conference in Belfast. More than 20 Japanese participants are planning to attend it.



One of the critical issues that museums are faced with is the threat to the freedom of speech. For instance, Ms Eriko Ikeda, director of the Women's Active Museum,

mentioned that the museum was receiving threatening letters from nationalists who do not accept the historical fact that many women were forced to work as sex slaves for the Japanese military during World War II. On the other hand, the conference also heard a report about Choro-kan (Morning Dew Museum) by Mr. Kohjin Sekiya (sculptor of ceramic plates and the museum's founder), Ms Itsuko Ishikawa (his wife and a poet), and Mr. Shiro Yoshioka (museum supporter). Through his art works, Mr. Sekiya expresses the voices of voiceless people such as atomic bomb victims, Chinese who were forced to work in Japan during World War II, victims of the Chernobyl accident, etc. The museum also contains a display of Ms. Ishikawa's poems.

Participants visited the Auschwitz Peace Museum which shows authentic artifacts about the Holocaust. The conference was held at the Information Center on Damage by Nuclear Accident; the Center, founded in 2013, is on the site of the Auschwitz Peace Museum. Participants also visited the Center's exhibition. The conference included a general meeting where participants discussed various issues. Since

there was no new candidate to take over the secretariat of the Network, Peace Aichi agreed to continue to function as its secretariat until the next conference which will be held at the Kyoto Museum for World Peace in 2017.

Mr. Sekiya's works can be seen at [this website](#).

### How to Exhibit Current Issues

Tamotsu Asakawa: Director of Yamanashi Peace Museum

A temporary exhibition is held every six months besides the permanent exhibition. In planned exhibition, war, Tanzan Ishimashi (1884 – 1973: who was a Japanese journalist and politician) and current issues are dealt with actively. Exhibited were nuclear accidents and energy (2013), Special Secret Protection Law (2014), the Japanese Constitution and right of collective defense (2015), and the Japanese Constitution and constitutionalism. (2016)

An emphasis is put on facts using newspaper articles in the latest exhibition. Now an exhibition is held on Tanzan Ishibashi and it will be held until the end of May in 2017.

### The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Chukiren: Saitama

Nobuo Serizawa:  
Secretariat of Chukiren

The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Chukiren Peace Museum being recognized as NPO (Non-Profit Organization) was held on November 13 in 2016. Over 200 people participated in it from Yamagata in the north of Japan to Kumamoto in the south in Japan. Dr. Yasuko Claremont attended it with her husband all the way from Australia.

Nobuo Serizawa talked about the 10-year history of the peace museum and a lecture was given by Ms. Hideko Ito whose father was a war criminal during World War II. Mr. Takeji Muno's son named Takeshi Muno talked about his father who was an honorary advisor to the peace museum and a journalist aged 101. There was also a panel discussion chaired by Professor Takao Matsumura, the director followed by questions by participants and answers.

### Museum Movement by WAM

Eriko Ikeda  
Director of Women's Active Museum

It was reported on Dec. 28 in 2015 that both Korean and Japanese governments agreed on the last resolution on solving “comfort women” issues. However, it was without listening to voices of victims of sex slavery and both governments have been severely criticized by the victims. However most of the Japanese media who supports the government reported that the problem was solved and people started to be not interested in the issues.

However, support groups of the victims applied the UNESCO for making the voices of “comfort women” of the Japanese military one of the World Memory Heritage. This is because the victims and former Japanese soldiers are getting older and older and it is urgent to collect materials and preserve them. Since the WAM has been playing the main role in the Japanese Committee on the issues, it has been criticized and slandered by Sankei Newspaper, right wing historians and groups. There was a threatening letter from a right wing bomber demanding historical exhibits be removed. We protested against such terror against freedom of speech and sent a letter to Sankei Newspaper and other media

services. Fortunately, there has been no bombing, but the criminal is not clear yet.

An archive has been made using collected materials so that they can be used efficiently. The fund raising was started because it is necessary to have enough space for translators and experts of images and sound to work and preserve them. New museums on the sex slavery issues have been opened in the Republic of Korea, Taiwan and China recently and we have been asked to support them and cooperate with them. Therefore, we decided to hold the first conference of Asian museums on “comfort women” issues on April 1 in 2017.

We hold an exhibition on victims of sex slavery in Burma since July in 2016 for one year. We also prepare for an exhibition on Japanese “comfort women” by listening to them. Though there is a tendency to deny the historical facts of comfort women’s issues in Japan and many people are not interested in it, our activities at the WAM have been more and more active.



## The Center of the Tokyo Raids and War Damage

Masahiko Yamabe: Researcher

The main events in 2016 were as follows:

A collection of photographs on the reconstruction in Tokyo in 1945-1946 (by Masahiko Yamabe & Yuko Inoue: Bensei Shuppan) was published on July 10 in 2016. A catalogue on materials related to movements by victims of U.S. air raids in Tokyo and Kanagawa was published on March 10 in 2016. Another catalogue was published on Sep. 18 with an emphasis on movements by war victims in Japan.

A special exhibition on war experiences by Hitoshi Koike was held from February 24 to April 10. Original paintings on U.S. air raids on Tokyo were exhibited and there were 1201 visitors. They are from his book called *Real Reasons Why We should not Wage War*. The second special exhibition on Tokyo after Japan's defeat was held from July 27 to September 4. There were 2082 visitors. Two lectures were given on July 31 in 2016: Masahiko Yamabe on the reconstruction of Tokyo in the

photos and Yuko Inoue on historical significance of photos by Bunkasha.

A gathering on conveying U.S. air raids to future generations was held on March 6 in 2016. Ms. Sayoko Yoneda gave a lecture on war experiences using imagination and Ms. Shizuko Nishio talked about her war experiences when she was six years old. There were 330 participants.

A special event of "Let's learn the big air raids on Tokyo and convey it to future generations!" was organized from Aug. 12 to 15. 511 people attended it.

## Daigo Fukuryu Maru Exhibition Hall

Yusuke Hasunuma: Curator

A tuna fishing boat called the 5<sup>th</sup> Lucky Dragon is exhibited at Daigo Fukuryu Maru Exhibition Hall in Tokyo. The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the hall was celebrated in 2016. Seventy years passed since the boat was built and there is a special exhibition on the boat. The boat was supposed to be used for twenty years and it is rare to see such a boat today. It is important not only as a peace heritage but also as an

industrial heritage.

The building and the boat are getting old, which should be dealt with. The boat seems to be important to figure out a good way to attract visitors so that they will be able to get interested in the boat that was exposed to radiation by U.S. hydrogen bomb test in 1954, nuclear tests after World War II and the threat of the time of hydrogen bombs. It is an important challenge to make exhibitions that are easy to understand using images and sound as well as the translation into many languages.

Retired teachers and citizens work as guides as a volunteer and they explain exhibits to all the groups that come to the exhibition hall. We listened to former fishermen of the 5<sup>th</sup> Lucky Dragon boat at Yaizu City in Shizuoka, which was its home port. We visited the grave of Mr. Aikichi Kuboyama who was the radio operator and passed away in 1954 after being exposed to radiation by the U.S. hydrogen bomb test in 1954 near the Bikini Atoll, which made us think that our understanding was deepened in the field trip. I hope that the exhibition hall will be used to learn the horror of the nuclear test by watching the real boat.

## Manmou Kaitaku Peace Memorial: Nagano

Hidefumi Terasawa: Vice director

Manmou Kaitaku Peace Memorial deals with the Japanese who were sent to Manchuria and Mongolia as “pioneers” during World War II. Such a museum is the only one in Japan, and three years and a half passed since its opening. We can manage to run the peace memorial thanks to board members, staff and volunteer groups though there are lots of difficulties as a private peace memorial. As for our main events, a lecture was given by Ms. Hisae Sawachi on Nov. 3 in 2015. There was an exhibition on Chinese foster parents who had taken good care of Japanese children after World War II from November to December 2015. A forum with Chinese foster parents was held in December. A video film called “Manchuria from each side: Part 2” was made after listening to stories by Japanese farmers who were sent to China during WWII and also Chinese foster parents in March 2016. We visited Housei Prefecture in Heilongjiang near the border of former Manchuria and the former USSR in September 2016. We went outside the peace memorial and had an event by which people

would be able to learn the history on Sep. 19.

The number of visitors became over 100,000 on Nov. 7. The emperor and the empress visited the peace memorial on Nov. 17 for the first time.

Though the peace memorial exists in a mountain, about 30,000 people visited there from various parts of Japan since April in 2013. It was the fourth year since the opening and the number of visitors was decreasing. However, the emperor and empress visited the peace memorial because they strongly hoped to visit there. This was a good chance to raise awareness of the history. However, the media did not report this as a big event and the NHK did not report it at all. This may be because “inconvenient historical facts” have been exhibited at the peace memorial. The management of the peace memorial seems to be full of difficulties in the future.

### Peace Aichi: Nagoya

Daisuke Miyahara  
Secretary General

War and Peace Museum called

Peace Aichi was opened on May 4 in 2007 and it will celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017. There are various events for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A part of the events is not free and it is necessary to pay some money besides entrance fees. The details of opening time and fliers are available on the website.

We will hold a special exhibition on Hiroshima Panels by Iri Maruki and Toshi Maruki as well as an art exhibition on the atomic bomb by citizens from Feb. 14 to March 25<sup>th</sup> in 2017.

We will have events related to the exhibition. A curator of Maruki Gallery will give a lecture on Feb. 18 and a film directed by Hideo Sekigawa produced in 1953 (104 min.) will be shown on Feb. 18 and 19<sup>th</sup>. An exhibition on U.S. air raids on Nagoya will be held from April 11 to May 25. Nagoya Castle was burnt down by the U.S. air raids on May 14 in 1945. Recalling the changes of Nagoya Castle and its roles in Nagoya, one of the military city, the target and aims of the U.S. air raids will be made clear using materials of the U.S. military.

An exhibition on the 10-year history of Peace Aichi will be held from



April 11 to May 25 in 2017. An exhibition on unknown facts in Okinawa will be held from May 30 to July 1 with an emphasis on the battle in Okinawa from patients of Hansen's disease (leprosy patients). They were isolated from ordinary people following a law to prevent Hansen's disease established in 1931. They had terrible experiences in the battle in Okinawa.



Children in War

**The 85<sup>th</sup> Study Meeting  
at Peace Aichi**

Yutaka Maruyama

About twenty volunteers attend a study meeting which was started in January in 2009. The 85<sup>th</sup> study meeting was held in November in 2016. One of the characteristics of the study meeting is not just listening to famous lecturers passively. We try to find problems and solve them by ourselves. This is a kind of citizens' study movement of history with an emphasis on war and peace. It is possible to see the meaning of study as the essence of education. Volunteer members can have more confidence in themselves because studying makes it possible to change history for peace. It is needless to say that such study meetings supported the content of exhibitions and planning them. The result of the study meeting will be published in the Journal of



Mother by Chihiro

An art exhibition of Chihiro Iwasaki called "Peace and Happiness for all the Children in the World" will be held from July 11 to August 31. She drew paintings on splendor of life wishing for peace. Panels from her picture books called *When I was a Child* and *Children in War* will be exhibited as well as her major colorful works full of gentleness. Mr. Takeshi Matsumoto, her son, will give a talk about Chihiro Iwasaki on July 23.

Studies at Peace Aichi Vol. 2 in January, 2017.

### Kyoto Museum for World Peace

Kazuyo Yamane: the expert advisor

An exhibition of “Japan and China through Postcards: 1894-1945” was held from Oct. 1 to Dec. 11 in 2016. How the history from the Sino-Japanese War (of 1894-5) to World War II is depicted was shown in the exhibition. Professor Hiroki Futamatsu gave a lecture on the relation between China and Japan depicted in postcards on Oct. 29. A film called Ants Soldiers was shown on Nov. 26 and the director, Mr. Kaoru Ikeya, talked about the film.

RENKEI PAX SCHOOL brought together early career researchers from the U.K. and Japan from a range of disciplines to a research endeavour to lay the intellectual foundation that contributes to Peace, Arts, Culture and Science from Sep. 14 to 23<sup>rd</sup>. (PACS = PAX = Peace) The theme of “Enslaving the Mind” was addressed and the peace museum hosted the 2016 program in collaboration with University of Liverpool and Kyushu University. 22 graduate students

attended it from 15 countries and they made an exhibition and peace games after lectures and workshops. One of the graduate students will attend the INMP conference in Belfast in 2017. The research endeavour will continue to the 2017 workshop in Liverpool in collaboration with the International Slavery Museum.

### Grassroots House: Kochi

Mana Abe: Secretariat

An event called the Peace Wave was held from June 25 to August 21 as usual thanks to many people's support and cooperation: the 34<sup>th</sup> Peace Tanabata Festival (6/25 ~ 7/31), The 38<sup>th</sup> Exhibition to Think of War and Peace (7/13~18), the 33<sup>rd</sup> Peace Art exhibition (7/5~10), the 33<sup>rd</sup> Peace Film Festival (8/15), the 33<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Nuclear Peace Concert (7/12), the 20<sup>th</sup> Peace Action: UNICEF Rally in Kochi (7/16), etc. However, a plan of the 10<sup>th</sup> Concert at a former Gun Emplacement on Aug. 21 was cancelled because of a threatening letter to bomb elementary schools and junior high schools in Kochi and we were told to cancel the event. We strongly protest against such an indiscriminate and nasty action.

We were asked to send guest speakers at elementary schools and junior high schools this summer as usual. The director, vice director, curators and researchers visited there using exhibits of the peace museum.

A peace concert was held at a park on Sep. 25 and the theme was “It is not possible to make peace using weapons.” An exhibition on the U.S. military bases in Okinawa and the issue of nuclear accidents was also held. There were about 40 participants.

A symposium on Okinawa was held on Nov. 23 and a group called Hashinchu was invited. They talked about the situation of the U.S. military bases in Okinawa: people in Okinawa have been suffering from the U.S. military bases and protested against the government. About 45 people attended it. There was also a photo exhibition on Okinawa.

In 2017 the 21<sup>st</sup> National Symposium of Preserving War Remains will be held in Kochi. A book of a collection of testimony by former fishermen of tuna boats that were exposed to radiation by the hydrogen bomb tests by the USA in

1954 in the Bikin Atoll will be published on March 1 2017. An exhibition on the same issue will be held in April. The Grassroots House will be full of events in 2017. The details are on its website.

<http://blog.livedoor.jp/kusanoie/>

### Nagasaki Peace Museum

Masakazu Masukawa  
the managing director

Nagasaki Peace Museum is a small art and peace museum which is the base to send messages for peace from Nagasaki to the world. The Nagasaki Peace “Gem Fire” Movement was proposed by Masashi Sada, a singer from Nagasaki City, in 1995, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the atomic bombing, and many citizens supported it. The policy is to send the peaceful earth to children in the future and there are two aims. One is to send the information related to peace and the other is to make the network of citizens who wish for peace. The base of such activities is Nagasaki Peace Museum and it was founded in 2003 near a port of Matsugae in Nagasaki City. All the cost of the construction and the management is from citizens’ donation, and activities are supported by the members and

volunteers. The themes of the exhibitions are not only war and atomic bombing but also issues of starvation, refugees, human rights, discrimination, medical care, education, environment and so forth. The entrance fee is free and open to citizens. We listen to voices of not only Japanese citizens but also those in the USA, Canada, the Netherlands, etc.

We also have a project to spread ideas of Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution which renounces war using an accessory called “war broom” (in Japanese houki means a broom and also renunciation.) There is a photo of children’s smile in the world by a photographer named Koji Kitagawa. We ask visitors to think what they can do to protect such a smile. The image of peace museums tends to be dark, but we hope that visitors will step forward livelily for tomorrow after their visit. We would like to make great efforts with 800 members and volunteers who wish for peace all over Japan.



Broom accessories to get rid of war

※Note: ”Broom” is called “houki(箒)” in Japanese which has the same pronunciation with the word “放棄(houki)” which means “renunciation”. Broom accessory named “senso houki” expresses “renunciation of war” in homophonic way connoting “sweeping out dangerous symptoms” at the same time.

## Himeyuri Peace Museum

Noriko Koga: Curator

70 years has passed since a monument of Himeyuri was made for students and teachers who passed away in the battle in Okinawa in April 2016. A photo exhibition on 70-year history of the monuments was held from June 1 to September 30. There were many visitors who were interested in it and surprised at changes of the monuments: it was first made on April 5<sup>th</sup> in 1946 and a repository for the bones of the dead with a cross was constructed. Then a statue of a girl was set up and a new monument of Himeyuri was founded in 1957 and renewed in 2009.

As a special event in summer, former students of Himeyuri talked about their war experiences on August 11, 13 and 14. A peace lecture was given by the next generation on August 23-28. Ms. Masako Arasaki, Ms. Masako

Nakazato and Ms. Yoshiko Shimabukuro talked about their war experiences. Six staff members gave a peace lecture and 305 people attended it.

A special exhibition on teachers leading Himeyuri students' party in the battle of Okinawa has been held since December 2015, the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. It was renewed on October 1 in 2016 by adding surviving teachers' post-war life, a crime being forced to cooperate for the war and voices of the visitors.

A guidebook in English and animation called Himeyuri in DVD were made for sale. Many events for teachers were held such as a guide tour for teachers, a course of lectures for teachers, a training session for new teachers and staff and so forth.

Tel: 098-997-2100 Fax:098-997-2102  
<http://www.himeyuri.or.jp>

### Peace Museums Overseas

As for news on peace museums abroad, please read the INMP Newsletter on its website. It is possible to read it in Japanese.

<http://www.museumsforpeace.org/news/newsletters.html>



Tree-People: Lady Headdress  
by Pegge Patten(American artist)

### The 9<sup>th</sup> INMP Conference

It will be held on April 10-13 in Belfast in Northern Ireland. The theme is "Cities as Living Museums for Peace". 25 people are planning to attend it. If you are interested in it, please contact the Japanese branch of the INMP.

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Editors' Notes
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Muse Newsletter in English version is not literal translation: some information is added for non-Japanese and also some are summarized.

The membership fee will not be collected and we need volunteers who are willing to translate Muse into English. If you are interested in it, please contact the above address.

*Editor's Monologue*

Memories of a short trip  
to Okinawa in December, 2016

Ikuro Anzai; Editor of "Muse"

I made a 3-day tour to Okinawa in late December, 2016. Major aim was taking photos of peace-related sites for 5-volume books on Okinawa now writing for school children.

I visited following facilities:

- Tsushimamaru Memorial Museum (Museum about the tragedy of a ship which was sunk by a U.S. submarine on the way of evacuation of Okinawan school children to Nagasaki on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August, 1944. Nearly 1,500 people including 779 school children lost lives.)

- Himeyuri Peace Memorial

Museum and related monuments

- Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum

- Exhibition room on Kadena U.S. Air Base

- Okinawa Airakuen Community Hall (Museum for peace and human rights focused on Hansen Disease in Japan, visited by more than 10,000 people since its opening in 2015)

- Haeburu Culture Center (Museum of Culture and Peace established by Haeburu Town vividly exhibiting people's life before, during and after the World War 2)

- U.S. Army Helicopter Crash Site at Okinawa International University

- Sakima Art Museum

I was especially moved by excellent exhibitions of Okinawa Airakuen Community Museum which was established in 2015 and yet on the way of completion. Airakuen is a national sanatorium for Hansen disease patients in Nago City originally established in 1938. Due to discrimination and prejudice generated by the government policy, patients had unutterable inhuman experiences during wartime and in the post war period. I think it highly recommendable for you to visit.

