



International Network  
of Museums for Peace

From

# General Coordinator's Desk

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INMP's new address: [inmpoffice@gmail.com](mailto:inmpoffice@gmail.com)  
New website: click [here](#)

## New comers to INMP from three influential peace museums in Japan

I have been making efforts to invite as many peace museum workers as possible to INMP in a variety of opportunities regarding museums for peace in Japan.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2018, I made a speech on INMP at the 17<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Japanese Citizens' Network of Museums for Peace (established in 1998) held in Okinawa.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2018 at the 25<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Association of Japanese Museums for Peace (established in 1994) held in Osaka, I gave a brief explanation about current situations of INMP, and urged the members of the Association to join INMP.

Already we had some INMP members of these two important associations of peace museum workers, but I am convinced we need more and more peace museum workers who join us and co-work with us to spread peace cultures.

To date, INMP succeeded in welcoming three directors of very influential peace museums, i.e. Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum, Osaka Peace Museum (Osaka International Peace Center) and Kanagawa Earth Plaza which are respectively visited by hundreds of thousands of citizens every year.

It is essential to make as many people as possible inform about INMP.

## Preparation for the 10<sup>th</sup> INMP Conference in Japan in 2020 is ongoing

The 10<sup>th</sup> INMP conference will be held in Kyoto and Hiroshima, Japan in middle September in 2020. An official call will be made shortly. I sincerely hope that as many INMP members as possible will participate and fully enjoy Japanese peace cultures.

The conference will be co-sponsored by Ritsumeikan University, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, Kyoto University of Art and Design and Kyoto Seika University which is operating Kyoto International Manga Museum in cooperation with Kyoto City



Kyoto Seika University has the Faculty of Manga.

The Kyoto International Manga Museum was established in 2006 as a joint project of the university and the city of Kyoto.



Okinawa Peace Memorial Museum



Many children visit Manga Museum

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of December in Tokyo, I had a chance to see Mr. Hajime Anzai, well-known illustrator, and Mr. Shiriagari Kotobuki serializing four-frame cartoon of Asahi Evening Newspaper over 16 years, who both are very willing to cooperate for organizing a one-frame manga exhibition with a tentative theme of “nuclear-free, peace and reconciliation”. I would like to realize conditions for this exhibition to be exhibited freely throughout the world after the 2020 conference.

Kyoto University of Arts and Design is planning to send Professor Tetsuro Matsuzawa, director of the Institute of Philosophy and Human Values, as a commemorative speaker of the conference who will make a very interesting lecture on the causes and solutions of conflicts in primates such as gorillas, chimpanzees and bonobos.

Participants of the conference will be given a chance to make a day trip by Shinkansen train to Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum scheduled to finish its renovation work in 2019.

The organizing committee will continue to enrich conference program more and more in the year to come, and I sincerely hope as many INMP members as possible will visit Japan in middle September 2020.

**The 56<sup>th</sup> visit to Fukushima in November**  
 Radiation survey of children’s walking path and an interesting talk with a Buddhist monk

Fukushima Project led by Anzai made its 56<sup>th</sup> visit to Fukushima from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> November to respond to the requests from farmers and nursery school teachers.

The nursery school we visited is about 60km away from the nuclear power plant which



Radiation survey along the nursery school children’s walking path. Radiation levels were sufficiently low.

caused that severe accident in 2011. Fukushima Project already visited several times to monitor environmental radiation levels in and around the nursery school. The most important radio-nuclide now is Cesium-137 with a half-life of 30 years. As a result of measurement, we found that the radiation levels were 0.04 μSv/h inside the room (considerably lower than the level in my house in Kyoto), 0.08 μSv/h in the play garden and 0.08-0.2 μSv/h along the surrounding walking path, which proved that the radiation levels were low enough for children to play freely outside.



Children enjoyed sweet potatoes harvested in autumn by making baked sweet potatoes with firs as fuel.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> of November, Anzai had a meeting with a Buddhist monk named Tokuo Hayakawa, who is the thirtieth priest of 700-yr old Hokyoji Temple of Jodo sect since the Muromachi period. Anzai co-worked with the monk since 1973 to stop construction of nuclear power plants in Fukushima, and the two anti-nuclear comrades talked about plans to create an anti-nuclear monument and Fukushima Museum on Nuclear Power in Hokyoji Temple. This is not just a dream, but a reality plan of 78-yr old fellows full of vigour.



Stone statues of Buddhist monks in Hokyoji Temple. Reverend Hayakawa’s dream was to enjoy the full moon in autumn reflected on the pond surface which was broken by the nuclear accident.

Sahar Tafreshi and Saeid Maleki of  
Teheran Peace Museum  
visited Kyoto Museum for World Peace

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of November, Kazuyo Yamane and I welcomed two visitors to Kyoto Museum for World Peace from Teheran Peace Museum, Ms. Sahar Tafreshi and Mr. Saeid Maleki.

Ms. Tafreshi raised a question about the definition of so-called “peace museum” and “war museum” in our meeting, and I gave her a book titled “Museums for Peace: Past, Present and Future” edited by Joyce Apsel, Sikander Mehdi and Ikuro Anzai which was published by the organizing committee of the 6<sup>th</sup> INMP conference in 2008 in Kyoto, in which I discussed about the definition of peace, peace museum and museum for peace.

Mr. Maleki sent me an email later in which he suggested that he hopes to cooperate with the Kyoto Museum for World Peace in the future.



Saeid Msleki. Kazuyo Yamane, Ikuro Anzai and Sahar Tafreshi from the left at the lobby of Kyoto Museum for World Peace

A new inter-art museum in Kyoto

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2018, Kyoto Wang Inter-Art Museum was opened in Kyoto which is directed by Mr. Chung Il Wang, Representative Director of Mitsukoshi Tochi Co. Ltd. From young age he had a deep cultural interest and collected about 1,800 pieces of art and craft works. Deputy Director of the new museum is Mr. Jo Ishida, an experienced art director who once took care of “Joint Art Exhibition of Ikuro Anzai, Shiriagari

Kotobuki and Hajime Anzai” who are now co-working for the success of a one-frame manga exhibition in the 10<sup>th</sup> INMP conference in Japan.



Mr. Jo Ishida and Mr. Chung Il Wang

The opening ceremony of the Kyoto Wang Inter-Art Museum was attended by more than a hundred people including guests from South Korea and Germany. Anzai greeted in the ceremony that this museum is expected to be an intersection of international cross-cultural understanding through art and called for cooperation to the scheduled INMP conference in Kyoto in 2020.

Encountering an Imperial Army Museum in Takayama on the way of World Cultural Heritage Tour to Shirakawago known as a village of thatched roof houses

My wife, Kimie Anzai, and I enjoyed a World Cultural Heritage Tour to Shirakawago Village, Gifu Prefecture, about 3.5 train ride + 1 hour bus tour from Kyoto. We were fascinated by a settlement of thatched roof houses which are called *Gassho-zukuri* in Japanese. Shirakawago Village was registered as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage in 1995.



Kimie in front of a *Gassho-zukuri* house

On the way we had the opportunity to walk around the castle town Takayama city where houses of the style of the Edo period remained. The town was crowded with tourists including those from Asian and European countries.

Next to an Italian restaurant in the shopping street, I discovered an Imperial Army Museum which is exhibiting materials on the Imperial Army and Navy, Yasukuni Shrine, collection of remains, seat of Zero Fighter (Mitsubishi A6M Fighter), Japanese Naval Aviation Preparation School, home front, and land, sea and air self-defense forces. The museum seems to be operated by an individual who miss the militaristic war time.



War museum in Takayama city

I know that there are a number of private museums for peace in Japan such as War Museum on Soldier and Common Folks in Kumamoto (below left) and Room of *Shokokumin* (nation's children) in Nagasaki (below right).



I again realized that, among individuals in Japan, there are “people who miss the age of warfare” and “people who deny it as a thing that should never be repeated”. This seems to be a miniature of the opposing relationship between *Yushukan* (a notorious war museum in Tokyo attached to Yasukuni Shrine) and many other museums for peace participating in Japanese peace museum movement.

※ Note: The soldiers of the Japanese invasion wars are enshrined as a spirit at Yasukuni Shrine

## Nagasaki A-bomb Museum hopes to cooperate with Gernika Peace Museum

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2018, I was requested to attend a meeting with the people of Nagasaki A-Bomb Museum when I visited the city for making a public lecture organized by Nagasaki Prefecture on the risks of fraud and how to deal with it. As I am also known as a magician, I have often been asked to make public lectures on the risks of fraud, fanatic occultism, non-scientific superstition, etc.

Mr. Akitoshi Nakamura, director of Nagasaki A-bomb Museum, has been aware of commonality of the atomic bombing on Nagasaki in 1945 and the indiscriminate bombing on Gernika in 1937. At the meeting, I was asked to provide information about Gernika Peace Museum.

Mr. Nakamura hopes to cooperate with the Gernika Peace Museum in the nearest future, and he first would like to make an opportunity to interact each other by making use of the chance of the ICOM conference next September in Kyoto in which Ms. Iratxe Momoitio, director of the Gernika Peace Museum, is going to participate

As General Coordinator of INMP, I would like to strive for bridging these important historical museums.

## Anzai donated 1,010 € to INMP

The finance of INMP fundamentally depends on membership fees and donation. Kazuyo Yamane, our treasurer has been appealing to the members about the significance of paying membership fees in terms of supporting the network and is striving hard to raise the membership payment rate.

Unless there are special circumstances, all members other than Peter van den Dungen who was given the title of Pioneering Honorary General Coordinator at the Belfast conference are obliged to pay the membership fee. I expect the members to have a kind understanding of the significance of paying membership fee to support and vitalize the network

In November, I donated 1,010 € to INMP. Professor Ryotaro Katsura, Vietnam-Japan University, also donated 500 €.

“From General Coordinator’s Desk” is a monthly mini-newsletter. Please send your comments to :  
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