



New Japan Women's
Association

Japanese Women Today

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Address: 5-10-20, Koishikawa, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo JAPAN
Phone: +81-3-3814-9141 Fax: +81-3-3814-9441
E-mail: s-intl@shinfujin.gr.jp <http://www.shinfujin.gr.jp>

For a Peaceful and Just World Free of Nuclear Weapons and War

**Stop Global Warming! Abolish Nuclear Weapons!
Eliminate Poverty and Hunger! Establish Food Sovereignty!
Let Us Work Together to Make Our Planet Sustainable!**

Human beings are urged to take up an immense challenge, to save the planet from annihilation. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a scientific body tasked to evaluate the risk of climate change caused by human activity, issued its fourth report early 2007, which presented serious conclusions such as "Warming of the climate system is unequivocal," "Most of the observed increase in global average temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations," "Anthropogenic warming could lead to some impacts that are abrupt or irreversible, depending upon the rate and magnitude of the climate change." It is up to all humanity, particularly those developed countries that have emitted a tremendous amount of GHG as they have enjoyed the benefit of economic development, to implement effective measures to stop global warming before it is too late. Equally crucial is soaring crude oil and food prices largely due to the speculative activities by hedge funds, which are driving more and more people into starvation. We must all start thinking about how our money and resources should be used. There's no time to waste them in making weapons, whose only aim is to kill people and destroy their properties and environment. Now is the time to tell the governments to drastically cut their military spending and redirect it for human needs and for addressing the urgent issues facing the world.

In this issue, the New Japan Women's Association (N JWA/Shinfujin) informs of the two big events held in

Japan, which showed that people have the power to generate change.

Global Article 9 Conference to Abolish War Over 33,000 Gathered in the Three-Day Event Held in Four Cities to Explore Ways to Achieve Peace without Using Force



The Global Article 9 Conference, a joint event organized by a broad range of NGOs and civil society organizations, was held from May 4 to 6 in Japan attracting more than 33,000 participants in four venues: over 22,000 in Makuhari Messe, Chiba Prefecture, 8,000 in Osaka, 2,500 in Sendai and 1,200 in Hiroshima. 7,000 people had participated, in the Peace Walk between Hiroshima and Makuhari, informing the local communities of the Conference and calling for their support for and joining in the campaign to preserve Article 9. 11 had walked all the way from February 24 through May 4.

With the participation of more than 150 overseas guests from 31 countries, including Nobel Peace Laureates, intellectuals, cultural figures and NGO activists, the Conference provided a space in various forms for the participants to learn from the experiences in each area of work, country and region, and to exchange views on how to bring the principle of Article 9 into practice as a way to promote disarmament, demilitarization and culture of peace.



On May 4, the opening plenary in Makuhari Messe was overflowed with some 15,000, who had come from all parts of Japan. The opening plenary had two keynote speakers: Mairead Corrigan Maguire, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1976 with Betty Williams for her work to end the violence in Northern Ireland; and Cora Weiss, a long time peace activist who was President of the International Peace Bureau, (Nobel Laureate 1910). She, as President of the Hague Appeal for Peace, is leading a campaign to abolish war. Other speakers included Beate Sirota Gordon, known for her effort to insert language in the new Constitution that would ensure equal rights to Japanese women.

On May 5, around 7,000 attended the 12 symposiums, panel discussions and workshops, more than 30 self-organized events and cultural performances. 121 groups set up booths. Shinfujin, as member of the Conference Organizing Committee, sponsored together with other Japanese women's groups, "Women's Symposium " Women's Power For Building Peace~Weaving Together Women's Initiatives Worldwide." 800 participants listened to the presentations by 7 panelists from five countries: Ann Wright, retired US Army Colonel and diplomat, now anti-war activist; Ellen Woodsworth, former Vancouver City Councillor, co-founder of the World Peace Forum (2006); President of WILPF-Canada, Florence Mpaayei, Acting Executive Director, Nairobi Peace Initiative- Africa; JUNG Gyung-lan, Women Making Peace, Director of the Center for Peaceful Future of Korea; TAKASATO Suzuyo, Co-chair, Okinawa Women Act Against Military Violence; NISHINO Rumiko, Co-chair of the Violence Against Women



in War-Network (VAWW-NET) Japan, Director of the Women's Active Museum on War and Peace; and TAKADA Kimiko, President, New Japan Women's Association. Cora Weiss gave solidarity greetings to start the session, which was coordinated by AKIBAYASHI Kozue, WILPF Vice President. They shared their experiences of peace building effort in different places of the world, talking about how women have demonstrated their initiatives for creating peace. The panel provided an opportunity for women to exchange ideas for making peace, and to build ties between women all over the world working for peace on the ground.

In the closing plenary on May 6, the participants adopted the Global Article 9 Declaration to Abolish War with recommendations to governments and a call on civil society for their commitments to implement the principles of Article 9. Along with the declaration, two statements were issued, one addressed to the Preparatory Committee of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference taking place simultaneously in Geneva, and the other to be taken to the G8 Summit in Hokkaido, Japan in July.

For further information and speech texts, visit http://www.whynot9.jp/index_en.html

**G8 Toyako Summit
NGOs and Civil Society Urge the G8 Leaders to Assume Responsibilities for Addressing the Global Issues**

The G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit that focused on the issues of global warming, the food crisis, and market speculation, closed its three-day session on July 9 after

Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution

- 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.

adopting a declaration and the Chair's Summary. The G8 nations failed to show their political will to do their utmost in tackling those issues. On global warming, they revealed their inability to meet their historical responsibility to set a long-term target for cutting greenhouse gas emissions, not to mention setting a mid-term target, which was vital. No effective anti-speculation measures were set out, including direct controls over misconduct. The ones to be blamed for the failure are the U.S. government, which has consistently been reluctant to address these issues, and the Japanese



government, which, by following the U.S., failed to take the initiative at the Summit as the host country. They were even criticized for the sumptuous

dishes they ate during their stay when they were supposed to be talking about ways to combat hunger.

While those G8 leaders were discussing without results, NGOs and other civil society organizations were actively engaged in various activities, including symposium, forums and workshops, as well as street performances and demonstrations to attract citizens' interests to the global issues. Many activists from abroad, including La Via Campesina (farmers' organization), Friends of the Earth, Focus on the Global South participated to share the severe realities facing people all over the world. The participants protested the Japanese government for its refusal to the entry of 19 Korean farmers into the country evidently labeling them as dangerous elements.

Shinfujin members took part in many events, such as the International Forum on Food Sovereignty and Climate Change, "Challenge the G8 Summit Peace Walk," the International Symposium for a Peaceful and Just World. The highlight for Shinfujin members was the "Women's Day Meeting sponsored by 9 groups including Shinfujin, Women's Sections of the National Confederation of Trade Unions and



National Federation of Farmers' Movements, and La Via Campesina. 135, mostly women, from 8 countries attended



it. Oversea guests from the Philippines, Canada, Thailand, Basque, and ROK spoke not only about difficulties and discrimination facing women but also about women's initiatives to defend lives and environment and to promote peace.



Shinfujin's Proposal to the G8 Nations

Prior to the G8 Summit, Shinfujin issued a statement with proposals on five points to the G8 nations. Shinfujin President and other board members visited the US, Canadian, British, French, German embassies in Tokyo and exchanged views with embassy officials. Below is the text of the statement.

To Make Our Earth Truly Sustainable: Five-Point Proposal of Japanese Women to the Governments of the Group of Eight Nations

May 30, 2008

New Japan Women's Association

The Group of Eight Summit, which will take place in Toyako, Hokkaido, Japan, from July 7 to 9, is now a focus of global attention. Between 2008 and 2009, there will be a series of United Nations meetings on issues of vital importance to the survival of humanity and the Earth.

The New Japan Women's Association (NJWA) is a women's organization in special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council.

It has a history of more than forty-five years

working for peace and human rights, calling for women's rights, better living conditions, well-being of children, environmental protection, and abolition of nuclear weapons. Being a non-governmental organization as such, NJWA presents a statement entitled "To Make Our Earth Truly Sustainable: Five-Point Proposal of Japanese Women to the Governments of the Group of Eight Nations." We urge the governments of world's major industrialized nations attending the G8 Summit, to take lead in the international community by coming up with measures to address the following five pressing issues. To the government of Japan, we have already made representations on our proposal.

1. Abolition of Nuclear Weapons

NJWA calls on the G8 nations to make the Summit an opportunity to open up a new path toward the abolition of nuclear weapons, instead of confining the nuclear weapons issue to "nuclear non-proliferation." We urge the nuclear weapons states to implement in good faith the "unequivocal undertaking to eliminate nuclear weapons," which nuclear weapons states themselves agreed on at the 2000 NPT Review Conference. We call upon G8 nations to seek to reach an agreement on the commencement of negotiations on complete prohibition of nuclear weapons, with concrete program toward the elimination of these weapons in place.

2. Prevention of Global Warming

At the UN-sponsored Conference on Climate Change held in Bali, in December 2007, it was recognized that the developed nations overall must reduce their CO2 emissions by 25 to 40 percent by 2020, as compared to 1990 levels. Based on this shared recognition, G8 nations, which bear a major responsibility for global warming prevention, should come up with effective measures and action plan for stopping global warming, including total reduction goal set by each country.

3. Food Sovereignty

We call upon major industrialized countries to recognize food sovereignty as the right of every nation, and to play a leading role in increasing food self-sufficiency not only of themselves but also of developing and all other nations of the world.

4. Regulation on Speculation

Price increase due to the soaring crude oil and grain prices are hitting peoples' lives worldwide.

We urge the G8 nations to work out international rules to control profit-first hedge funds and other speculative money, which are largely responsible for price rise.

5. Reduction of Military Expenditures to Fight Poverty

The world is spending 1,200 billion US dollars a year on war, armament and nuclear weapons, things that produce nothing but destruction and ruin, taking a toll particularly on women and girls. NJWA calls upon G8 nations to end this folly, and to drastically cut the military expenditure redirecting the resources into living, welfare and education. Resources should also be used for stronger measures to fight hunger and poverty, including assistance to African countries. In order to free humanity from destruction and fear, enabling them to live a peaceful, decent living, we urge the G8 nations to commit themselves to the removal of military bases on foreign soil, cancellation of the missile defense program, and the abolition of nuclear weapons. NJWA calls upon the governments of industrialized nations to take lead in redressing gender inequality, which is hampering progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

