



Activities and Messages of Japanese & African NGOs involved in the Consolidation of Peace in Africa

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*The Original text in Japanese was translated by TCSF,
and not official translation of these organizations.

Africa Reconciliation Committee, (ARC)

- 511, Yotsuya Sun Heights, 4-6-1 Yotsuya, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0004 Japan
- TEL:03-3351-0892 FAX : 03-3351-0892
- info@arc-japan.org www.arc-japan.org
- Experience in Peace Consolidation in Africa:
 - Rwanda
 - ◇ Support increasing income of war widows and support vocational schools that can be venues for dialogues
 - ◇ Support scholarship programs for war orphans and HIV/AIDS orphans
 - Somalia (2001~2003)
 - ◇ Conduct PR activity of war trauma, caused by internal frictions, and raise fund
 - ◇ Donate blankets, food and medicines to a psychiatry of the general hospital in Hargeisa of NorthSomalia
 - Problems of child soldiers
 - ◇ Hold seminars to enlighten issues on child soldiers, lectures by former child soldiers, and photo exhibitions
 - ◇ Support and research facilities for promoting resettlement of child soldiers in Uganda
 - Participation in TICAD III
 - ◇ Participate in civil action for TICAD III (Action Civil pour TICAD : ACT2003) , coordinate recommendations for the conference by NGOs in Japan, Asia and Africa, and hold a lecture in a session for a dialogue with the civil society during the conference

■ **Message :**

- For peace consolidation in Africa, it is important to make consideration not only for building governance, restoring civil order, and reconstructing economy, but also for reducing tensions and socio-economic discrimination (especially granting benefits to certain ethnicities or ranks, discrimination for former child soldiers) among residents in the community. We also have to focus on facilitating reconciliation and coexistence.
- When the African countries are underdeveloped or failed as state, they may become launch pads for international terrorist groups. The terrorists groups may earn funds for their activities by illegally trading natural resources including nuclear materials. Moreover, citizens can be easily seduced into violent activities when they are in the state of poverty. Globalizing terrorists are threat to the whole world, and hence, we need to recognize that peace consolidation of Africa is greatly related to the matter.

Association for Aid and Relief, (AAR Japan)

- 5F, Mizuho Building, 2-12-2 Kamiosaki, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141-0021, Japan
- Tel : 03-5423-4511 Fax: 03-5423-4450
- www.aarjapan.gr.jp
- Main activities: Emergency assistance, Mine action, Assistance to people with disabilities, Prevention against infectious disease (HIV/AIDS, Malaria), Small arms
- Experience in Peace Consolidation in Africa
 - Mine Risk Education in Lunda Sul Province, Angola
 - Mine Risk Education in Sudan
 - Support for the repatriation of refugees in South Sudan (Assistance to the women and children in the host community)
 - Educational activities such as organizing international conference of NGOs and publication of “A Farewell to Small Arms”.

■ **Message:**

We would like the Conference on Consolidation of Peace in Africa to include empowerment of African civil society as important agenda.

JEN

- 4F, Mild Bldg., 2-26-5 Hyakunin-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 169—0073, Japan
- TEL:03-5332-9825 FAX : 03-5332-9827
- info@jen-npo.org
- www.jen-npo.org
- Main activities: Emergency assistance for natural disasters and in areas of conflict, Mental care, Support for self-sustainability
- Experience in Peace Consolidation in Africa
 - Support for social and economic independence of the Eritrean repatriated women householder(2003-Current):
 - ◇ Establishment of the Poultry Association by repatriated women householder, donating poultry facility, training and monitoring of the two associations.
 - ◇ Establishment of the Tractor Association by repatriated women householder, donating tractors, training and monitoring of three associations.

■ Message:

- **Instead of pulling out the aid due to the worsening security after the end of conflicts, there is a need to prevent reoccurrence of conflicts, continuing the concentrated support.**
- **In countries like Eritrea where the Western Assistance is not very welcome, Japan should put aid more actively.**

The Japan Center for Conflict Prevention

- 4F 5-10-20 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 106-0032 Japan
- TEL:03-5772-0078 FAX:03-3401-2298
- E-mail: iitsuka@jccp.gr.jp URL: <http://www.jccp.gr.jp>
- Main activities : Humane land mine removal projects(Sri Lanka・Afganistan)、DDR projects (Afganistan)、Desarmament of small arms projects (Cambodia)、Building elementary schools,wells, and latrines (Cambodia)、Emergency support (Earthquake in Pakistan, Tsunami disaster in Sri Lanka)、Development of human resources for conflict prevention (Japan)、Holding seminars and symposium (Japan) etc
- Experience in Peace Consolidation in Africa :
 - Scheduled to start land mine removal activity in Southern Sudan from May



■ **Message :**

- **Various aid activities are being developed, but due to defects of the Sudan government and of systems to receive aid and to a lack of information, the donors have started their aid activities without enough coordination or preparation. If nothing is done, it is concerned that aid activities will be continued without matching local needs.**
- **Therefore, a speed-up of development of Sudan's aid-receiving systems and creation of a system for information sharing are desired.**

Mozambique Support Network

- 5-6-46, Shindaiji-Motomachi, Chofu, Tokyo, 182-0017, Japan
- Fax:0424-83-5643
- <http://www1.jca.apc.org/mozambique-net/>
- Main activities: Support for the grass-roots groups in Mozambique, Policy recommendation
- Experience in Peace Consolidation in Africa
 - Assisting the "Transforming Arms into Ploughshares TAE" project
 - Promotion of dialogue between Mozambique and Japanese CSOs

■ **Message:**

- **Marking the 11th year since the end of the war, Mozambique has achieved the economic growth that is placed as a model for post-conflict reconstruction. Moreover, is also said to be the role-model for the "Consolidation of Peace" as the third multiple-party general election was conducted without any violence.**
- **However, the conflict has not been solved at the local level. There was a violent incident regarding the election results in Northern Mozambique in September last year. The manipulation through ethno-politics is also becoming more prominent.**
- **While we support the effort to eradicate corruption in the new government, we hope that they will also work hard for fair elections and eradication of political violence.**

Japan-Sahara Association

- Western Sahara Campaign – Tokyo
C/O Prof. Iijima Midori, Rikkyo University
3-34-1, Nishi-Ikebukuro, Toshima-ku, Tokyo, 171-8501, Japan
- Japan-Sahara Association-Kagawa
c/o Research Center for Western Sahara Affair



#107, Zentuuji-cho 1774, Zentuuji, Kagawa, 765-0004 Japan

- <http://www5e.biglobe.ne.jp/~dorogame/w-sahara/> (Western-Sahara Campaign)
- support the exercise of the right of national self-determination by Saharawi people through the implementation of free and just referendum through the UN Peace Process in Western Sahara as well as educational activities about Western Sahara issues in Japan
- Experience in Peace Consolidation in Africa
 - Support for the realization of referendum for national self-determination of Saharawi people on the UN Peace Plan.
 - Enlightening of the public about the Western Sahara issues through research and providing information as well as requesting, approaching open inquiry to the Japanese government to give more active support for the peace process of Western sahara.

- **Message**
 - **If the Conference was about the “Consolidation of Peace” in Africa, Japanese Government, or co-hosts of TICAD should have treated Africa as an equal partner. At least they should have prepared to include the AU as the co-host.**
 - **The conflict in Western Sahara is the longest one in Africa and is included in the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations based on the Security Council Resolutions. Japan, as the country that has been elected for the Security Council 9 times (a record number in the U.N. member state) and aims at becoming the permanent member of the Security Council, holds a great responsibility in the delay of Western Sahara Peace Process.**

The resolution of the Western Sahara conflict is a necessary ingredient in the “Consolidation of Peace” in the region of North Africa, Sahara and Sahel. Therefore, If Japan claims to be interested in the “Consolidation of Peace” in Africa, they should cooperate actively in the process in a fair and positive manner rather than taking the stance of a passive observer. In order to contribute to resolution of the conflict which is the base of “Consolidation of Peace”, a fair attitude to the main party is necessary. However, while building a relationship with Morocco (who has refused the U.N. Peace Plan) through economic cooperation and invitation of the king (on the 30th year after the invasion), Japan has been refusing completely the dialogue with the other party, Polisario Front, or Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, who is a member of the AU.
 - **We hope that the Japanese government treats both parties more equally by actively engaging in a dialogue with Polisario/RASD as well as pressurizing Morocco to stop the human rights violation and cooperate with the U.N. Peace Process. We also would like them to consider the meaning of this Conference being held in Addis Ababa, where the AU headquarters is located, and not in Tokyo.**



Motherland Academy International

- 5-16-14 Minami-Shinagawa, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 140-0004 Japan
- TEL:03-3450-5829 FAX:03-5461-8929
- Main activities : Projects aimed for children to learn an equality and a preciousness of human life, and to grow as brothers in arm to fight against inequality in the world.
- Experience in Peace Consolidation in Africa : Mali, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia
 - For activity in Mali, fallow fields in Japan and rice paddies in Mali were named “Rice Paddy of the world, Everyone’s rice paddy”. In both paddies, children from both countries transplant rice in order to learn “conflict prevention, sharing food, and an equality of human life”. The children would donate rice harvested from the ‘Rice Paddy of the world’ to refugees flowed into the country or people who need support, before they eat by themselves.
 - Moreover, forestation projects by children are conducted. A theme of the project is “Trees enrich desert, and education enriches people”.

■ **Message:**

We have learned that sad wars and terrible famines have occurred so many times over the century. On the other hand, we also learned that people discovered and invented many great things, and that they have contributed to a progress of humankind over the same century. However, there are things that are not included in these discoveries and inventions. There are things needed to be done quickly. One thing is “to discover a medicine which makes people hate war”. Another thing is “to invent a machine that can distribute food equally.”

We would like to ask everyone participating in this conference to help children learn the followings.

- **“Right to obtain food equally” and “Duty to divide food equally”**
- **The way to increase factories that produce medicines which make people hate war**
- **Peace is not a gift from someone else. It is something each one of us has to put an effort and create for other people.**

Motherland Academy International Junior representatives

L.Diallo(Mali), K.Nordstorm(U.S.A), Miki Kozu(Japan)

Nippon International Cooperation for Community Development (NICCO)

- 101 Rokkaku-choSinmachi Nishiiru Nakagyoku, Kyoto,
- <http://www.kyoto-nicco.org/index.htm>
- Main activities : Rural development based on sustainable agriculture, job training, emergency

support

- Experience in peace consolidation in Africa :
 - Distribution of seeds for famine prevention in Malawi (Jan-Feb, 2006)
 - Rural development based on sustainable agriculture aiming for food security in Malawi (from Dec 2006 (tentative))

■ Message

- **When Japanese NGOs try to act for peace consolidation in Africa, before they conduct projects, they have to solve many issues such as assuring security, raising fund, and establishing logistics. However, cooperation with NGOs at grass-roots level is fundamental in order to conduct delicate 'Japanese' projects that match eye levels of local people.**
- **Accordingly, it is desired that the Japanese government cooperates more with NGOs if it wishes to play a role in peace consolidation and poverty reduction in Africa by redirecting resources previously devoted to Asia.**

WORLD VISION JAPAN

- 1-17-8-3F, Hyakunin-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 169-0073 JAPAN
- <http://www.worldvision.jp/>
http://www.wvi.org/wvi/global/peace_building.htm
<http://www.justice-and-peace.org/>
- World Vision peacebuilding programmes
WV has developed expertise in building community-level conflict management capacity, through training of staff in conflict management techniques or through more implicit means such as the mainstreaming of the Local Capacities for Peace (LCP) methodology in relief and development programmes, WV seeks to promote peace and reconciliation. WV has been an active member of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), the Humanitarian Coalition on Small Arms, the World Diamond Council, the Global Policy Forum's NGO Working Group on Security Council, etc.
- World Vision advocacy for peace
Three basic convictions undergird WV's advocacy on contemporary conflict: development brings peace; forgiveness heals societies; and justice and peace belong together.
 - The sustainable holistic socio-economic development enables indigenous conflict management resources to re-emerge or new ones to evolve. Thus WV has focused on researching demand-side approaches to the small arms problem.

- As a Christian organization, WV draws attention to the public-policy implications of forgiveness in resolving long-standing conflict. WV also takes a view, however that without some form of justice in relation to violations of people's basic rights and crimes against humanity, forgiveness can be hollow and destructive.
- Good governance must be built on conflict prevention. WV's three key demands for the future:
 - (1) Increased funding for the prevention of armed conflict and grassroots peacebuilding by governments.
 - (2) Improved interaction between grassroots peacebuilders and UN agencies, especially UNDP.
 - (3) Inclusion of peacebuilding objectives in the Millennium Development Goals.

Recommendations

(1) Invest in conflict prevention

- **Of countries in the poorest half of the Human Development Index 45% experienced war in the past decade. Increase overseas development assistance as a preventive measure.**
- **Support initiatives specifically designed to promote non-violent conflict resolution and to reduce demand for weapons.**
- **Increase Security Council capacity to take pre-emptive preventive steps with incipient conflicts in precarious pre-conflict situations.**
- **Support Recommendation 27 of the Secretary-General's 2001 Conflict Prevention report which invites NGOs to organize a major international conference on conflict prevention.**

(2) Fix the international conflict management system

- **Implement the Brahimi Report. Despite a 90-page implementation report, only one UN mission (UNAMA) has fully instituted the Panel on Peace Operations recommendations.**
- **Give troop-contributing countries more say in how their troops are deployed by the Security Council to enforce peace resolutions.**
- **Involve NGOs in providing specific training for troops carrying out peace operations.**

(3) Upgrade the toolbox of non-coercive conflict resolution tools

- **The Security Council Sanctions Committee spent two years refining smart sanctions proposals but its report has never been published due to dissent among member states. The report must enter the public record.**
- **Engage a variety of existing NGO private sector dialogues to arrive at accepted**

business best practice in conflict zones and consider enforcement mechanisms for destructive private sector players.

- **Examine numerous NGO proposals on developing a rapid reaction non-violent peace force.**

(4) Improve international post-conflict responses

- **Post-genocidal societies must have tools both to bring violent perpetrators to justice and to empower the healing of society by publishing the whole truth.**
- **Codify international standards for disarmament de-mobilization and re-integration (DDR) programmes to avoid repeating known errors in post-conflict reconstruction.**

ETHNO-NET Africa

- Address: BP 1862, Yaounde, Cameroon
- asocpa@ethnonet-africa.org URL: www.ethnonet-africa.org/
- Main activities: monitor, collect and analyse conflicts of an ethnic nature; provide an early warning systems to help prevent conflicts; promote peaceful co-existence among ethnic nations with nation states in the African countries we operate.
- experiences in the field of Peace Consolidation in Africa (projects in this field): our experience has shown that by the time open conflict emerges, various actions, political and social, had intentional or intentionally prepared the ground.
- The project started as a UNESCO/MOST project and ran out of funds, and today, it needs finances to strengthen and energises its activities.

Message: "Strategic Ethnicity: Not for peace consolidation in Africa"

Peace building and consolidation of social order in Africa are critical ingredients for sustainable development. Without these, it is difficult to enhance and sustain development. The destruction of social harmony is often the work of African politician, when under extreme circumstances and in search or consolidation of their power base often, falls back to what I call "strategic ethnicity". This has been used over and over again, especially during the failed democratization process in Africa.

All African countries, especially those in sub-Saharan Africa are made up of small ethnic nations, that pre-date the modern state, and efforts in consolidating these units have often not been successful. ETHNO-NET Africa, a comparative research network of African scholars, have reported time and time again, about the role ethnicity (strategic) has been used to destroy the social fabric of some nations. It said "Politicians strategically use ethnicity to take advantages from others to exclude others".

There is nothing wrong in belonging to a human group (ethnic group) but when it is



used to exclude others to gain political leverage or advantage, then, it does not augur well, in building social peace and harmony within the nation. Cultural diversity must be used as a constructive value and not as creating its differences. (Paul Nchoji Nkwi)

JA Justica Ambiental

- c/o Museu de Historia Natural
- Pc Do Zambeze Maputo, Mozambique
- E-mail: ja@uninet.co.mz
- Main activities: promote the Nature conservation in a wide sense through a variety of project areas as well as enhancing community's participation in environmental decision making.

Without transparency and partnership between government and civil society, peace in Africa would be a very difficult if not impossible to achieve.