

# World Federalist Movement of Japan



## **2009 Member Organization Activity Report**

**2009 Council Meeting**  
**World Federalist Movement**

New York

27-30 October 2009

1. October 25, 2008

*The 27<sup>th</sup> WFM Japan National Congress held at the United Nations University*



On 25 October 2009, a day after the UN Day in Tokyo, the World Federalist Movement of Japan (WFMJ) held its 27<sup>th</sup> National Congress at the United Nations University in Tokyo. The Congress was hosted by The Japan Association for World Federation (JAWF) and supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), the United Nations University (UNU), the UNU Association of

Japan, the Shibuya Ward, and the Shibuya Ward Council. Over 270 people from all over Japan participated in the event despite the tight security required by the UNU authorities, expressing their enthusiasm to the ideal of world federalism.

In his opening statement, the late WFM Japan President Mitsunori Ueki announced with joy that for the first time the Japanese government has joined the list of supporters of the National Congress and that they have generously provided their formal response to the third policy recommendation that was submitted in August in order to make it on-time for this event.

President Ueki expressed his gratitude saying that this showed the increasingly tightening relations with the government. In response, the Ministerial Aid to the Foreign Minister, Rep. Masahiko Shibayama expressed his gratitude to the people of WFM Japan by stating that Japan's accession to the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court was realized by the massive support from the people of WFM Japan.

2. July 15, 2009

*Japan to become the 14th state to ratify the Cluster Munitions Convention*

On 15 July 2009, the Japanese government submitted its instrument of ratification to the United Nations Secretary-General for the Cluster Munitions Convention, making her the 14th state to ratify the Convention. The Convention will enter into force upon its thirtieth ratification.

As of 24 August there are 17 states that have ratified the Convention. WFM Japan has contributed in this effort by continuously recommending the government for immediate ratification on the Convention. A series of formal recommendations to the government were submitted on July and August, consecutively, on the occasion of the G8 Speaker of the House Summit in Hiroshima.

3. July 19, 2009

*Memorial Service in Remembrance of the Passing of President Ueki*



On the early morning of 6 June 2009, President Mitsunori Ueki passed away due to a heart failure. He was 82. A private funeral service for close relatives took place on 10 June.

WFM Japan decided to hold its own memorial service on 19 July. The service took place at the Gakushi Kaikan building in Tokyo where WFM meetings were commonly held. Over hundred people paid their respects by offering flowers to the late President.

The service was headed by Council Vice Chairman Ayako Sakamoto and Executive Vice-President Kenji Utsunomiya took on the role of Acting President of WFM Japan. A silent tribute was given by the Permanent Council of WFM Japan Religious Committee Tokio Kanakogi, followed by a remembrance speech delivered by Japanese Committee on World Federation (JCWF) President Mayumi Moriyama.

**Biography:** Mitsunori Ueki was *born* in 1927 at Kyoto; *received* a law degree from Tokyo University; in his political capacity *served* as Member of House of Councillors of the National Diet as member of the Liberal Democratic Party for five terms since 1963; in his ministerial capacity *appointed* Cabinet Minister in Charge of General Affairs and Okinawa Development Affairs in 1973; in his capacity of Member of the House of Councillors *served* in the National Diet as Chairman of Committee on Budget, Special Studies Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defense; *served* in the party as Chairman of LDP Diet Affairs Committee, President of Women's Affairs Association, and President of Joint Plenary Meeting of Party Members of Both Houses of the Diet; *retired* from Diet in 1989; *awarded* Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun in 1997; in his social capacity *served* as President of Association of House of Councillors, President of Japan Association for World Federation, World Federalist Movement, and many others. Deceased on June 6, 2009 due to cardiac arrest.



4. July 30 – August 5, 2009

*A cultural exchange between high-schoolers to nurture leaders of peace*



From July 30 to August 5, the **Middle East Peace Project**<sup>1</sup>, an annual student experience project inviting the bereaved children of the Middle East from both the Israeli and Palestinian sides, took place in the city of Kanazawa at Ishikawa Prefecture. The event was hosted by the Executive Committee on the Middle East Project in Kanazawa led by the mayor.

Five Israeli and Palestinian high-school students visited the Japanese city of Kanazawa and were exposed to cultural experiences while staying at the homes of the residents. Two high-schoolers from both sides stayed at a Japanese household in pairs and attended a cultural exchange party which also invited Israeli and Palestinian Ambassadors to attend. Over 300 people attended the party where the necessity of peace was reaffirmed, as Mayor YAMADEHO coined, “in order to prevent wars that cause the most destruction to our environment. There are no social benefit superior to peace.” His voice was echoed by the guest speaker Yasuko SHIKATA, President of the Japanese Council of Local Authorities for World Federation saying, “Children are the next ‘leaders of peace’.”

Following the guest speeches, one of the Israeli students took the stage to say, “Thinking in terms of the others allows us to respect the others. A small peace can be created by linking people to people. You can create a bigger peace by gathering these ‘small peaces’. We have gathered here in Kanazawa despite our sadness of losing our loved ones. We have overcome our sadness. Peace in the Middle East will one day become a reality.” Then a Palestinian student also took the stage to say, “Despite our hardships in the refugee camps, we have not lost hope. We want to overcome hatred and realize peace, hand-in-hand.”

Before returning home, on August 4th, the students made a courtesy visit to the Prime Minister’s Office and the House of Councillors building of the National Diet. Prime Minister Aso commented by saying that he has introduced this project in the last year’s UN General Assembly as one of the “private diplomacy projects that only country like Japan can engage.” The local Israeli Ambassador also praised the project and commended the participants by saying “You have dedicated yourselves for this cause to bridge the gap between both sides.”

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<sup>1</sup> *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 sixth round following last year.*

5. August 14, 2009

*“Japan Can Change” A Survey conducted towards a Nuclear-free World*

The ICNND Japan NGO Contact Group<sup>2</sup>, an NGO counterpart of the ICNND (International Commission on Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament)<sup>3</sup>, in which WFM Japan is part of, conducted a survey during 3-10 August 2009 targeting parliamentarians on the question of Japan’s policy of dependence on U.S. nuclear deterrence, or so-called “nuclear umbrella.” All seven political parties responded to the survey by 13 August. Following are some of the highlights of their response:

- DPJ: Nuclear weapons should not be used in disregard of Japan’s policies. No-first-use is a matter of discussion with our U.S. counterparts.
- LDP: The role of nuclear weapons is to allow consultations with the U.S. We do not support nuclear no-first-use.
- NKP: The role of nuclear weapons should be limited as a measure against the use of nuclear weapons. We support nuclear no-first-use provided there is an international agreement.
- SDP: We shall “gracefully exit the nuclear umbrella,” and limit the role of nuclear weapons as measures against the use of nuclear weapons.
- JCP: We shall “exit the nuclear umbrella,” and as a first step urge the U.S. for nuclear non-first-use policy.
- KNP: We support the policy of nuclear no-first-use, provided that assurances to nuclear deterrence will be guaranteed.
- DAICHI: We will aim to exit the “nuclear umbrella,” and we support the policy of nuclear no-first-use.

On the objective and results of this parliamentary survey, the Co-Representative of the NGO Contact Group released a press statement on 14 August, stating that the purpose of the survey was to bring to light a subject that has not been discussed in details until today, owing to a shift in U.S. nuclear policy as can be observed in President Obama’s April speech in Prague. The aim of the survey as laid out in the statement was to shed light on each of the party’s changes in policy (if any) on their views of (A) the role of nuclear weapons, (B) nuclear no-first-use, and (C) conditions for departure from the “nuclear umbrella”. The Co-Representative’s statement also observed that the vision laid out by the Obama Administration has greatly impacted the debate on nuclear policy and is opening up possibilities for changes in Japan’s security posture.

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<sup>2</sup> ICNND Japan NGO Contact Group: A national NGO contact group formed in January 2009 to take the consultative role with the government-initiated ICNND. WFM Japan joined the Group in April 2009.

<sup>3</sup> ICNND: International Commission on Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament was founded on October 2008 through an informal agreement between the Japanese and Australian government. Led by the co-chairmanship of H.E. Gareth Evans and Mme. Yoriko Kawaguchi, former foreign ministers of each country, by January 2010 the 40-member Commission aims to compile a comprehensive report with recommendation to the international community on a practical phased-out plan on global nuclear disarmament.

6. October 17-20, 2009

*NGOs to meet ICNND to consolidate the path towards nuclear abolition*

On 17-20 October, Hiroshima is to become the new venue for the meetings of International Commission on Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament (ICNND). The members of the Commission is to compile their views after the Hiroshima meeting to publish a report by the end of the year. The ICNND Japan NGO Contact Group is to meet the delegations of the Commission on 18 October. WFM Japan will take part in the meeting as a representative of the civil society to voice its support and advocacy towards a world without nuclear weapons.

7. November 22, 2009

*The 28<sup>th</sup> WFM Japan National Congress to be held in the City of Kanawaza*

On 22 November, The 28<sup>th</sup> National Congress of WFM Japan entitled “*Towards Realization of a World Federation: Contemplating the Path Towards a Global Welfare Society*,” will be held in the city of Kanawaza in Ishikawa Prefecture of Japan. The National Congress will be hosted by the Japan Association for World Federation (JAWF), sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ishikawa Prefectural Government, the City of Kanazawa, the Hokkoku Shimbun News Agency, and NHK Kanazawa Broadcasting Division.

The event will feature a keynote speech by Prof. Takehiko Uemura of Yokohama City University on the possibility of the introduction of an international solidarity tax to fund sustainable global welfare system, and a panel discussion inviting young experts from various field that has impact in building peace and maintaining an international community based on rule of law.

Keynote Speaker

**Prof. Takehiko Uemura**



The following individuals are included in the list of panelists:

- **Mr. Yu Tanaka**, President of Future Bank Business Union
- **Ms. Kanae Doi**, Attorney at Law and Tokyo Director of Human Rights Watch
- **Mr. Takahiro Katsumi**, WFM Executive Committee Member and Foreign Policy Aide to Senator Tadashi Inuzuka