

World Federalist Movement of Japan



2011 Member Organization Activity Report

2011 Council Meeting
World Federalist Movement

Washington D.C.

24-26 October 2011

1. May 14, 2011

The 66th WFM Japan Regular General Assembly adopts a 6-point declaration



On 15 May 2011 the World Federalist Movement of Japan (WFM Japan) held its 66th Regular General Assembly in Tokyo, adopting a six-point declaration on issues such as international criminal justice, energy shift, nuclear abolition, disaster relief, tackling the global financial crisis, and others. Dignitaries such as Sen. Yumiko Himei of Democratic Party of Japan attended the session and offered a message of appreciation for the work WFM Japan has done.

Highlights of the six-point declaration:

- **Call for a shift to renewable energy:** The March 11 Great Tohoku Earthquake has not only caused enormous physical damage and casualties but has also caused the most devastating nuclear accident ever in the history of Japan. WFM Japan called for a nationwide discussion on the possibility to make a national shift towards the use of renewable energy to maintain social sustainability.
- **Determination to engage in three major areas of global governance:** Recognizing that almost all global issues ranging from the global environmental/financial crisis to poverty can only be met through a global governance body that seeks to provide immediate, fair and just solution, WFM Japan declared to engage in issues such as establishment of a standing UN service for large-scale natural disaster relief operations such as UNEPS, establishment of a UN Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA), abolition of inhumane forms of weapons such as depleted uranium (DU) shells, and abolition of nuclear weapons.

2. September 6, 2011

A 7-point policy recommendation submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

of



On September 6, the fourth policy proposal was submitted to the Ministry Foreign Affairs. Together with leaders from the **Japanese Parliamentary Committee on World Federation (JPCWF)** including President Rep. **KANSEI NAKANO** (former Chairman of National Public Safety Commission), top representatives from **WFM Japan** including President

Mr. **TOSHIKI KAIFU** (former Prime Minister) and Council Chairman Mme. **KIYOKO KUSAKABE** (former Vice Minister of Education, Science, and Culture) was greeted by H.E. Foreign Minister **KATSUYA OKADA** as they submitted the recommendation. In his response, H.E. Minister **OKADA** pointed out that while items 1 and 2 can be discussed in the parliament, item 3 is underway with the Office of the Prime Minister taking a leading role, and items 4-7 are already under consideration in the current cabinet. For more information please visit: <http://www.wfmjapan.org/> (Japanese only)

Summary of the 7-point recommendation

The policy recommendation sought the government to:

1. Clarify the intention of the government to act on the parliamentary resolution adopted in 2005 calling for the establishment of a world federation;
2. Promote the establishment of a UN parliamentary assembly as the first step to establishing a world parliament;
3. Promote the establishment of East Asian Community;
4. Engage further in the development of an established international criminal justice system through active involvement on the programs of the International Criminal Court;
5. Take a leading role in the global effort to abolish nuclear weapons and to set the path towards a nuclear-free world;
6. Actively engage in the issue of global climate change; and
7. Promote and introduce the international solidarity tax as a national initiative.

3. October 22, 2011

The 29th WFM Japan National Congress held in Sapporo, Hokkaido



On October 22, **WFM Japan** held its 29th National Congress at the city of Sapporo in Hokkaido, hosted by the **Japan Association for World Federation (JAWF)** and sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Centering on the theme of Japan's role in the materialization of a world federation, the Congress discussed on the various initiatives that Japan may engage to further this purpose. A keynote presentation was delivered by Prof. YUZO OHTA at the McGill University in Canada, followed by a panel discussion on the role of Japan in realizing a world federation.

4. December 15, 2011

WFM Japan help host an international symposium on global solidarity tax

On December 17, the now 63-member **International Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development** (“the Leading Group”; [website](#)) convened its 8th Plenary Session in Tokyo, hosted by the Government of Japan which held the Presidency of the Leading Group. A day prior to this memorable event, on December 15, the **Joint NGO Campaign for International Solidarity Levies** (“the NGO Campaign”) headed by the **Association of Citizens for International Solidarity Levies (ACIST)** with **WFM Japan** as its Secretariat, also held its citizens event, entitled “*For Solidarity and Hope: An International Symposium on the Establishment of an International Solidarity Levy.*” The event enjoyed over 100 participants and high media coverage due to

collaboration with the government-hosted event. One of the new active WFM Japan branches, **the 21st Century Forum of WFMJ (Forum21)**, played a central role in organizing and facilitating this event.

WFM Japan considers the introduction of the global tax into the world's financial system as an important basis for the establishment of global governance. A global tax is a tax collected from the activities of a state on the basis of an objective that is beyond the scope of a single state; a global finance provided for a global cause. Several types of global tax has been proposed, including international aviation tax (IAT), currency transaction tax (CTT), and environmental (carbon) tax. Since global aviation tax has already been adopted by more than 20 major countries around the world, WFM Japan believes that the introduction of the IAT and CTT can go in tandem, only in distinct phases.

One of the primary reasons that WFM Japan supports the currency transaction tax is the expected amount of revenue that could cover the cost for achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The world is in deep need for an innovative financing mechanism that will allow for the achievement of MDGs. CTT is expected to produce more revenues than other forms of taxes. Another reason is that CTT would prompt for an effective and transparent global governance body that would manage the use of the tax revenues.

A World Federation or an effective World Government can only be based on an administrative body that governs the collection of taxes. Therefore, the introduction of CTT would be an ideal prelude for that purpose. In addition, the independent taskforce of the **Leading Group** published a report in 2010 [recommending introducing a global financial transaction tax \(FTT\)](#) similar to CTT. We believe the time is ripe to seek international consensus on the adoption of a global tax.

In the Leading Group's Plenary Session, one of the core members of the NGO Campaign, Prof. TAKEHIKO UEMURA of Chiba City University, made his technical presentation on [*"Progress in Japan towards a Realization of International Solidarity Levies: Centering around the Final Report of the Terashima Commission"*](#) (*PDF linked*) to report on the developments in Japan (for details on the report of the Terashima Commission, refer to WFM Japan's "2011 Member Organization Activity Report").

Profile of the Government Presenter: Born in the city of Osaka in 1965, prior to his current position, Prof. Uemura has held positions at the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). He has worked at the Nara University as a full-time Lecturer, at the CSR Institute as a Senior Researcher, and at the Chiba University as Associate Professor. While also serving as Director of Centre for Global Programmes at his university, he is a member of the Taskforce on International Financial Transaction for Development in the multinational Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development, representing the Japanese Commission for the Promotion of International Solidarity Levies which was set up by the Japanese Parliamentarians for International Solidarity Levies (JPISL) in 2009. His recent publications include *"(Potential of Global Tax)"*, Minerva-Shobo, 2009; *"(How to Solve Global Poverty)"*, Gendai Tosho, 2007 (both in Japanese).



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