

NSKK NEWSLETTER

日本聖公会管区事務所だより

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Impression of the Review Meeting of NPT

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General Secretary

Requested by the Japanese Committee of WCRP to go to New York I attended the conference of Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons in May as a representative of the Committee of Demilitarization and Reconciliation of the WCRP.

The Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons is a treaty which was signed in 1968 and came into effect in 1970. In this treaty it is only the US, UK, Russia (then Soviet Union), and China that were permitted to possess nuclear weapons on condition of an effort to a reduction in armaments, while it was not permitted to other countries except the right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It is this "Review Meeting" that reexamines the treaty every five years. Though some appreciate it, saying that it had some significance in a crisis in the Cold War era, it is a controversial treaty, because it is one sided like saying, "We can possess nuclear weapons, but you cannot." after all. The controversial countries in this issue such as India, Pakistan, and Israel do not participate in it, and North Korea declares its withdrawal from it. It was a strange meeting as it opened in spite of the fact that each country had divided opinions and that they could not decide what to discuss.

We participated in it as one of the observers of NGO's. About 190 bodies have been registered as NGO's, and 40000 people attended at the antinuclear assembly held at the Central Park on the 1st of May. It is said that a thousand people of A-bomb survivors' groups and peace movement groups gathered in New York from Japan. The members of MJM (Metropolitan Japanese Mission), whose core is Japanese Anglicans living in New York, were actively involved in the work as volunteer interpreters for the Japanese participants.

During the session, the united assembly for peace of various religions was held, and there were the witnesses of hibakushas (those who have been affected by atomic bomb) from Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These were the occasions when all the participants could not help sharing their strong notion that they had to hand down the dreadful stories of a

nuclear weapon , which they had experienced themselves, from generation to generation, as the survivors from the atomic bombs in Japan, including those who felt that only they themselves had survived. Moreover, it seemed to me that it was not the diplomats representing the interests of each country, but the ‘citizens’ that listened seriously to the voices of the hibakushas.

The General Assembly Hall of the UN was quite an empty space, feverish atmosphere was felt at the seats for the public observers rather than at the seats of the permanent missions from each country (where the printed texts of every speech had been distributed). The mayors from Japan, including the ones of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, attended the Mayors’ Conference for Peace. The mayors’ meeting was filled with feverish atmosphere. It might be an exaggeration, but, in my view, a state regards the interest of the powerful party as the interest of the nation, while mayors regard the lives and small peace of their citizens as their familiar issue. This difference seemed to be reflected on the degrees of enthusiasm in the meetings.

In fact I realized that it was not the power of a politician or bargaining of a state but the power of citizens or each one of us that enabled us to care for each other not for our own interest, to wish for peace, and to achieve and maintain the peace.

On the 15th of August, this year, we Japanese observe the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The duration of 60 years is one period for human life cycle. It is nothing other than ‘the time’ to look back on the development after the war and to begin the new one.

This summer, through the Day of Consoling the Spirits of the war death at Okinawa (23rd of June), the service of the 60th anniversary of the A-bomb at Hiroshima (6th of August), the service of the 60th anniversary of the A-bomb at Nagasaki (9th of August), and the day of the 60th anniversary of the end of war (15th of August), NSKK held several events to look back on the 60 years after the war and to confirm our vow for peace.

Recollecting the facts of those who were chased by the flames of war, carrying their children in the fierce heat and fell down with exhaustion, seeking for water, and recognizing that the same thing is still being repeated in many places in the world even now, we should proceed in our effort for peace. With deep feeling I pray for the peace of the Lord.

<additional note>

Afterwards, the media reports that in the review meeting of NPT held at the UN, all of the three committees, the 1st committee discussing the reduction in armaments, the 2nd committee discussing the nonproliferation, and the 3rd committee discussing peaceful uses of nuclear energy, could not reach the complete agreement and that they had to give up making the document of agreement, and that the subsequent reappraisal meeting has broken down . It can be said that difference of position between the countries possessing nuclear powers and the ones that do not possess is large, and that it became clear that the NPT system could not fulfill its responsibility as required.

(the Editor)

Kiwoko Hospital in Uganda and Nippon Sei Ko Kai (NSKK)

NSKK has been supporting Kiwoko Hospital in Ruero, Uganda since 2004 for the purpose of treatment of HIV/AIDS and contributing to the crusade against HIV/AIDS. A Japanese doctor, Dr. Eiko Kitagawa, who operates and works as a medical doctor at the Hospital, has reported the recent situation of the Hospital, which is introduced as below.

Visiting medical practice for HIV-positive children has been continuously done and well progressed by the financial support from NSKK.

1. Free distribution of ARVs (anti-retrovirus drug) has now been available.

Use of ARVs makes it possible to prevent from progressing HIV infection and to delay the manifestation of AIDS. Eventually, HIV-positive patients are able to maintain their health for a considerable length of time. For a long time, however, these patients were unable to obtain the drug because the drug must be taken daily for life, and furthermore, it is extremely expensive.

Reportedly there are 4 million HIV-infected patients worldwide, of whom 2.5 million patients are in Sub-Sahara area. In order to help these patients, there is a worldwide aid-project through which free-ARVs or inexpensive ARVs made in India have now been distributed to the patients.

Since April 2004, some of the HIV-positive patients who live in Kampala, Capital of Uganda, have been given ARVs through the good-will contribution from other countries. However, no ARVs were delivered to patients in such a small village like Kiwoko. In 2005, the Government has decided to deliver free-ARVs to Kiwoko Hospital for the use of 40 adult patients and 15 pediatric patients. Daily dosage of ARVs for children is determined by bodyweight of the children. ARVs is normally administered in a form of syrup, which is extremely difficult to obtain, and we are just waiting for the arrival of the syrup from the Government.

ARVs for adult patients have already been available, and medical practice for adult HIV-positive patients has started since February this year. After giving medical practices several times, ARVs are given to the patients.

Time of starting ARVs administration is decided when the number of certain lymphocytes (so called CD4) has apparently decreased to a certain degree, which is caused by HIV infection. However, CD4 test costs about ¥2000 in Japanese Yen, which is quite expensive. Because of this, it is not possible to conduct free CD4 test within the Hospital budget. Therefore, the cost of CD4 test for children is covered by the fund of Visiting Medical Practice to HIV-positive children,

2. How to find HIV-positive adults/children

There is an inter-religious organization, called Inter Religious Council of Uganda or IRCU, which consists of protestant, catholic, Greek orthodox as well as Muslims. Due to the fund for Visiting Medical Practice to HIV-positive children raised by IRCU, it is now possible for HIV-positive children, who are newly found in places where no medical budget is available, to give free medical practices at medical clinic, transportation expense to Kiwoko Hospital as well as to distribute food to poor families. However, the Visiting Medical Practice to HIV-positive children Fund was used only to find new HIV-positive patients among the inhabitants who live out of the

region, and no more services can be provided with the budget. Accordingly, other services are provided by part of the fund raised by NSKK.

3. Current situation of HIV-positive children

It has been possible to a certain degree to prolong the life of these children by giving free visiting medical practice, food supply and free medical treatment at the clinic and in the Hospital. However, there have still been some children for whom ARVs cannot be used, thus their life expectancy is not optimistic. Most of the HIV-positive children lost their parents, and they are brought up by their grand-parents or relatives. However, some of them are not necessarily well taken care of. These children can hardly go to school or some of them stay home all day long, or in some cases they are forced to help their guardians with the domestic chores including driving cows.

In order to improve the quality of life of the HIV-positive children whose life-expectancy is not long, we have decided to offer school fee to 12 HIV-positive children who are subjected to visiting medical practice. This has been achieved by the fund raised by NSKK, as mentioned above. Annual fee per child for this scheme is US\$90, which covers school fee, text books, school uniform and shoes etc.

There is a boy named Kato, who is one of our visiting patients. His parents died of AIDS, and he is now living with his grand-mother and his twin-brother Wasuwa. (In Uganda, when twins are born, the first boy is named Wasuwa and the second one Kato; whereas the first girl is named Babirye and the second one Nakato). Kato is now 10 years old, but HIV-infection has retarded his growth, looking like only 7-year old or so. His brother Wasuwa is HIV-negative, and is a tall and vigorous boy.

Kato has received our visiting medical practice since 2002. Because of early treatment and well-nutritive food, he has been relatively progressing favorably. In January this year, however, he got pneumonia and was given treatment in the Hospital. He has recovered and was discharged from the Hospital. When we visited him in February, he was found to have recurrence of pneumonia. His elderly grand-mother did not give him medicine regularly or pay no attention to the sanitary condition. Furthermore, Kato's immune state has dropped considerably; these factors caused to recur pneumonia. Kato is now in the hospital to receive medical treatment on pneumonia, lung tuberculosis and meningitis. His condition is well improving, but the lung murmur has still been heard. When he would be able to receive ARVs, his immune state will be improved and he will get well alright.

One of the male doctors who works at pediatric department is greatly concerned about Kato, saying "I feel that Kato is my own brother". I was so impressed by his words. Some medical doctors in developing countries often have special awareness that they are belonging to the privileged class, and used to be less sympathetic towards the patients. However, as visiting medical practice has started and the doctor has regularly visited Kato, his mind has changed to become affectionate towards Kato. We are hoping that if such occasions as directly contacting patients are increased, it will be possible to give warm and heartfelt care and services towards patients by doctors from their own country, so that there will be no need to dispatch medical doctors from developed countries such as Japan.

What I learned from the International Anglican Women's Network.

Sayoko Ohoka (An officer of Women's Association of Anglican Church in Japan and a committee member of the gender project in NSKK)

Revd Shigeko Yamano (Tokyo Diocese) and Ms. Sayoko Ohoka (a layperson from Kyoto Diocese) participated in the UN Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW). They also joined the International Anglican Women's Network (IAWN) which was held during the same period from Feb. 23 to Mar. 10 at the United Nations in New York. They responded to an invitation from the UN Anglican Office. Ms. Sayoko Ohoka wrote her impressions concerning the progress of the conferences in addition to several matters that were discussed at the conferences.

The Theme "Beijing + 10" was sponsored by the UN Commission on the Status of Women and had over 1800 official delegates from 165 countries and approximate 3000 participants from world wide Non Government organizations. We participated as NGO members sent from the Anglican Consultative Council.

The status of women in the UN has been greatly promoted through the past 4 conferences of the World Conference on Women. Especially, the Beijing Congress in 1995 was done on an epoch making scale. "The Beijing Action Platform" adopted in Beijing specified clearly 12 categories for improvement such as poverty, education, health, violence, armed conflict, economy, power and decision making, the structure in the social system, human rights, mass media, environment, young girls and children.

All these have been held up as the goals to improve the status of women in each country. In 2000 the UN General Meeting of the Millenium made a decision which was focused on "Millenium Development Goal", applied from the Beijing Action Platform. The goal was for the urgent problems to be solved in the 21st century in the developing countries.

These are as follows:

1. The eradication of extreme poverty and hunger.
2. Universalization of primary education.
3. Stepping up of gender equality and empowerment to women.
4. Reduction of the death rate of children.
5. The improvement of women's health.
6. Fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.
7. Sustainable durability of environment.
8. Establishment of global partnership for development.

In this conference, each government delegate gave a presentation concerning the consequences of dealing with these urgent tasks. It also showed how they evaluated themselves in reference to the contents shown in the Beijing Action Platform. We observed these conferences while participating in side events held outside of the assembly hall sponsored by NGO from different countries. We participated in many subjects concerning women and shared our thoughts in common.

In parallel with CSW, Conference of the International Anglican Women's Network was held. 41 women representative from 27 Anglican Provinces participated. They discussed about 12 themes of the Beijing Action Platform within groups divided into themes or

regions. As the result of these discussions, we summarized the urgent problems which now women confront: “poverty”, “education”, “violence” and “the lack of policy for good quality and moderately-priced health care”. To overcome these problems, we confirmed the solidarity of all Anglican women spread over the world.

Finally we adopted the Closing Statement by ACC Representatives to the “49th CSW 2005” (Mar. 8, 2005). The statement contains that at least 30% of membership should be women in every Anglican organization where decision-making is done.

Through these conferences, I have obtained a lot of documents concerning the status of women in CSW or Anglican Women’s programs. I think these documents about the status of women might not yet be a concern in NSKK (Nippon Sei Ko Kai). I, myself, realized that only reading the documents was not enough in order to understand everything. It made me more understanding and deepened mutual fellowship when I participated in the conferences. Therefore, I wouldn’t keep these precious experiences only for myself. I will try to keep telling my experiences in order to bring people more understanding.

Overcoming all problems concerning women are not only for women, but also for all people in order to live better. So we have to go through the procedure of our required subjects. I do hope NSKK will have concrete programs for these themes and build up a system which contribute to a better and more peaceful world.

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The above is a summary of Ms. Sayoko Ohoka’s report, a participant in the International Anglican Women’s Network (The 49th UNCSW in New York). In a rapidly changing social situation today, with various values, the role of church women and how they can support the church is being determined. There will be a diversity of wide-ranging opinions regarding the activities of women in the church.

Many of members of NSKK will listen and learn from the valuable report of Ms. Ohoka’s experiences during the conferences. It touched on global circumstances and movements. ggested the role of women.

We will take a step forward in solidarity with all Anglican women and others, continuously, now and hereafter. (the editor in chief)

CCEA Meeting in Tokyo

Shinya Samuel Yawata
Secretary, PIM, NSKK

CCEA Bishops’ and Executive Committee Meeting was co-hosted by NSKK and the Diocese of Tokyo, and it was held in Tokyo from October 12 through 18. Bishops, their spouses and Executive Committee members of about 40 people from Province of South East Asia, Hong Kong, Philippines, Myanmar, Korea, Australia, Japan, and diocese of Taiwan enjoyed fellowship, talk by a guest speaker, excursion tour to Asian Rural Institute and others, ladies’ program, etc. All bishops of NSKK joined the closing Holy Eucharist and the farewell dinner. On Sunday, October 16, 13 local churches and one chapel were visited by bishops and spouses and they enjoyed fellowship with each parishioners. On Sunday Bishop David Lai went to visit diocese of Osaka to strengthen their diocesan companionship.

Members of the English Version of NSKK Newsletter, Summer 2005 are: as follows:
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