

## **A Communiqué from the 30th Anniversary Convention of Mission Collaboration between the Anglican Church in Japan and the Anglican Church of Korea**

*They shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.* -----Micah4:3-----

By the grace and guidance of God, the Anglican Church in Japan (Nippon SeiKo Kai, NSKK) and the Anglican Church of Korea (ACK) held the 30th Anniversary Convention of Mission Collaboration, from October 20th to 23rd, 2014 on Jeju Island, Korea. Participants representing all three Korean dioceses and all eleven Japanese dioceses included both of the NSKK and ACK Primate, several bishops, priests, and laypersons. The members totaled 87, gathering 36 from Korea and 51 from Japan, including those who represented co-missions, and women's and youth groups.

Building on the Communiqué of the 20th Anniversary Convention of NSKK-ACK Mission Collaboration, both Churches have been engaged in various mission collaborations such as the NSKK-ACK Youth Seminar, a study tour of Korean social missionary projects, the Worldwide Anglican Peace Conference, and the invitation of Korean missionaries to Japanese churches.

Even though the mission collaboration between our Churches has deepened, many problems have been harming the bilateral relationship between the two countries; for example, territorial disputes and the issue of "comfort women," women forced by the Japanese to serve in military brothels in Korea. Recently, anti-Korean sentiment has become a social problem in Japan. In response to this, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has strongly recommended action be taken against malicious anti-Korean publications and incidents of hate speech towards Koreans who reside in Japan.

As this year marked the 30th anniversary of official collaboration, participants decided to look back on past mission collaborations and discussed the roles of both the NSKK and ASK in East Asia. The idea was to further advance mutual understanding and collaboration in order to enhance the theme of the convention, "Life, Justice, and Peace", with a straightforward look at current turmoil. In particular, participants deeply recognized the problems this island of peace, Jeju, has faced (such as hosting military bases and degradation of its natural environment), and the meaning of holding conventions in this place.

On the first day, The Rt. Revd. Onesimus Dongsin Park (Bishop of Busan, ACK) officiated at the opening Eucharist and the Most Revd. Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu (Primate of NSKK) delivered the sermon, speaking about a new perspective of forgiveness which forms the basis for true reconciliation and peace. Also, during the Eucharist, a special anthem sung by the children of the Jeju Church was deeply

moving for all participants.

The second day started from the keynote speech, titled "Reflection on Past History, Devotional Reconciliation, and Forgiveness," delivered by Revd. Dr. Jeremiah GuenSeok Yang (Professor at Sungkonghoe University). Panelists from the NSKK and ASK then looked back at past collaborations and proposed the agenda for the 40th anniversary. Group discussions followed. Following this, participants of the "Korea-Japan Anglican Youth Seminar 2014", held in Sendai (Miyagi Prefecture) and Shinchi (Fukushima Prefecture) Japan reported that, although they were overwhelmed by the hardship and pain of the survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake, they realized the joy of unity through the process of sharing the experience. The theme of their seminar was "Let's Go for Peaceful East Asia Over Nuclear Tragedy."

On the third day, field reports on Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, Okinawa, nuclear power plants, and hate speech were given from NSKK, whereas field reports on the GFS U-Mul-Ga project (helping women refugees from North Korea) and TOPIK (Towards Peace in Korea, the peaceful reunification of the two Koreas) were given from ACK. Through the general meeting, a joint statement was prepared.

Through Bible studies, the mutual problems arising from hosting military bases was shared between Jeju and Okinawa. This confirmed that the Lord was on the side of the belittled ones, and the importance of having sympathy for the pain felt by all of God's creation.

The last day a service in remembrance of the victims of the Jeju April 3rd Incident was held in the Peace Park and a closing ceremony officiated by the youth of Jeju Church followed. The sermon delivered by the Most Revd. Paul Keun-Sang Kim called on immediate actions for the various problems discussed during the convention. The dispatch of the Revd. Moses Nak Jun Yoo (Bishop elect of Daejeon), was the first step toward the 40th anniversary of official collaboration.

We thank our Lord for allowing us to have this event, and decided to take the following actions in the future mission collaborations.

- (1) NSKK and ASK will establish an institution for planning and advancing continuous mission collaborations at the provincial level.
- (2) Based on the statement at the general synod for the eradication of hate crimes and hate speech in 2014, both NSKK and ACK will continue efforts to protect human rights of all people, and in particular, minorities such as Korean residents in Japan.
- (3) Through the interactions of Korean and Japanese youth, both NSKK and ACK encourage youth activities for understanding the hardships and pains experienced in East Asia. To achieve this, NSKK and ACK will construct a support system that enables active youth cross-border interactions.
- (4) Both NSKK and ACK condemn the construction of new military bases in Okinawa

and Jeju, and will take specific measures to embody the spirit of the Communiqué of the 2nd Worldwide Anglican Peace Conference held in Okinawa.

(5) Both NSKK and ACK share a vision of mission of the Jeju Church, the so-called "transforming the windy island to the spiritual island" campaign and seek a joint practice to live up to a faith which pursues life, justice and peace.

(6) Both NSKK and ACK regret that women's fellowship, which was advocated in the Communiqué of the 20th Anniversary Convention of Mission Collaboration, was not sufficient. They will therefore build up an environment which enables women to learn and work together. They will also create regular networking opportunities and make efforts to raise to more than 30 percent the proportion of women in the decision-making bodies and committees.

(7) Both NSKK and ACK reaffirm that an effort in re-uniting North and South Korea is a crucial issue of mission for the peace of Eastern Asia and will work cooperatively in a proactive manner under the aegis of TOPIK (Towards Peace in Korea).

(8) Both NSKK and ACK will do their best to celebrate the Eucharist together in both languages and aim to realize a true multiracial and multicultural symbiotic society.

(9) Both NSKK and ACK will share "the Five Marks of Mission" of the Anglican Communion and work together especially for the fifth mark, "to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth" by recognizing as an issue of faith the gravity of the issues of nuclear energy and radiation.

(10) Both NSKK and ACK will deepen historical studies of not only the Japan-Korea relationship but also all of Eastern Asia and exchange their ideas of mission in order to continue collaborative studies of theology, liturgy, missiology, and pastoral care.

(11) Both NSKK and ACK will pray to solve the issues above, make efforts to exchange information and secure financial resources, and will examine the state of progress every year. After a decade, in 2024, they shall have an opportunity to evaluate their approach to the agendas above and hold discussions on the further mission collaborations.

This Communiqué is dated October 23, 2014. It is undersigned by the 30th Anniversary Convention of Mission Collaboration between the Anglican Church in Japan and the Anglican Church of Korea Joint representatives:

The Primate of NSKK, The Rt. Revd. Makoto Uematsu

The Chairperson of ACK, The Rt. Revd. Geun Sang Kim

And all participants