

# Epistle of Japan Yearly Meeting 2014

To Friends Everywhere

Japan Yearly Meeting was held at Tokyo Friends Meeting House on 15th - 16th, 11th Month, 2014 where 53 members attended. The theme of this year's yearly meeting was "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9). We welcomed Asia West Pacific Section Executive Secretary, Ronis Chapman and her partner, former AWPS Executive Secretary, Valerie Joy from Australia. We were joyful in worship and feeling "we are part of the family of Friends".

In the first discussion, three Friends shared their experiences on "Faith and Practice". A Friend shared his 35 years of volunteering as correctional officer, another Friend shared her experience in volunteering for suicide prevention hotline, yet another Friend spoke of raising a cerebrally challenged child. All shared their work was supported by Bible passages, which we were all inspired as how we live as Friends.

In the Discussion 2, the theme was "to achieve peace" where a Friend shared her encounters with people overseas has led to mutual understanding and the connection forged became a major step towards achieving peace. Another Friend shared the details of setting up a peace museum "Yokaren Peace Memorial Museum" for young soldier trainees, "Yokaren", who faced rigorous training only to be sent out to die during the Second World War. The purpose of establishing the peace museum was to accurately record and pass on the historical facts to those who don't have the first-hand experience about the war and we hope the exhibits and events would help in learning peace.

We as Friends are facing the critical issues of repeating the history by the current administration in interpretation of the Article 9 and the Secrecy Law becoming in effect. We hope each one of us will act responsibly based on love and tolerance.

Reports on activities and financial reports of 2013 as well as the budget and activity plans were presented and approved.

In the committee reports, we heard Young Friends activities and Middle Friends retreats act as networking among Friends while nurturing next generations of Friends.

Establishing a special committee for the Friends Center was suggested. After discussion, we agreed to continue further discussion.

The theme of Nitobe Memorial Lecture was "Justly Fear" given by Kazuma Momoi, a photographer. While showing us the beautiful scenes from around the globe he talked about the importance of controlling desires which cause conflicts in the world.

16th of 11th Month, 2014

*Takeshi Isaka*

*Clerk, Japan Yearly Meeting*