



OKINAWA  
PEACE PRIZE

沖縄平和賞



# Greeting

The Okinawa Peace Prize Committee established the Okinawa Peace Prize in 2002 in order to convey the “heart of Okinawa”. Okinawa’s spirit in pursuing peace . to the world, and to contribute towards the creation of international peace.

Previously, Okinawa Peace Prize honored “Peshawar-kai Support Group of Dr.Tetsu Nakamura”, “ Association of Medical Doctor of Asia (AMDA International)”, “The Okinawa-Laos Cleft Palate Patient Support Center”, “Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan)”, “Services for the Health in Asian and African Regions (SHARE)”, “ Shapla Neer =,Citizens’ Committee in Japan for Overseas Support “ , “International Medical Volunteers Japan Heart”, “Japan Association for Refugees (JAR)” , “Japan International Volunteer Center (JVC)”, “Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC)”, and “The Himeyuri Peace Museum run by the Okinawa Himeyuri Peace Foundation” and “Human Rights Now” and won support from a great number of people.

Possessing a belief like the one inscribed on the Bankoku-shinryo Bell- “Our oars make a bridge to the nations”- the people of Okinawa had taken active parts in becoming the bridge between countries in Asia, and thereby developed a tolerance for accepting diversity as well as a sprit of mutual support.

However, at the time of the Pacific War, a sever land battle that engulfed Okinawan civilians was fought, claiming over 200,000 precious lives and irreplaceable cultural heritages. Following the war, Okinawa endured 27 years under the rule of the US and today, after the reversion to Japanese administration, Okinawan people still live with the heavy burden of a vast concentration of American military bases that imposes hardships on the people and impedes the prefecture’s development in numerous ways.

Thorough such a historical experience, Okinawan people deeply acknowledge the preciousness of life and the importance of peace. We pledge to never again allow the recurrence of war tragedy and believe that in order to work toward the creation of eternal peace, it is our duty to correctly pass on the facts and lessons learnt from the past to our younger generations, who will be the leaders of the 21st century.

Therefore, we established the “Cornerstone of Peace” and engraved the names of all those who sacrificed in the Battle of Okinawa regardless of their nationalities and status (soldiers or civilians). Moreover, in order to pass on the historical lessons learnt from the Battle of Okinawa and to make contributions toward the creation of eternal peace, we gathered the information on war experiences from our people and established the “Peace Memorial Museum”.

Globally, the number of wars and conflicts has reached its highest point since the end of World War II. Many serious issues related to the threatening of life and basic principles of human rights remain unsolved such as poverty, refugees, and global environmental destruction. In order to solve these issues and to realize eternal peace, it is important for every global citizen to work towards attaining mutual understanding with a generous heart and to achieve greater cooperation.

This year marks 80 years since the end of World War II. we aim to convey the “heart of Okinawa” more powerful than ever before with its deep longing for peace to the world. In supporting activities that help to build and sustain peace, the prize is a step toward making “Okinawa” a hub of peaceful relations in the Asia-Pacific region.

We will forever continue this peace prize, and become involved the building of international peace with the rest of the world. We are here to strive toward attaining both national and international recognition of this prize as an “Asset of Okinawa”.

I would like to close my message by expressing my hopes for your further support and cooperation.

**Denny Tamaki**  
**Governor, Okinawa Prefecture**  
**Okinawa Peace Prize Executive Committee Chairman**

## 【 About the Okinawa Peace Prize 】

The Okinawa Peace Prize is aimed at recognizing efforts of individuals and organizations contributing to the promotion of peace in the Asia-Pacific region geographically and historically related to Okinawa.

### Idea

The Okinawa Peace Prize is based on the following three ideas so that historical, cultural and geographical characteristics of Okinawa will be reflected in the promotion of peace:

Promoting peace  
and non-violence in the  
Asia Pacific region

Helping to  
achieve human  
security

Promoting peace  
based on indigenous  
diversity

### Significance

The Okinawa Peace Prize will be awarded to reflect the following three principles:

Self-supportive peace  
promotion and establishment  
by Okinawa, a local  
autonomous body

Investment for peace  
by Okinawa on  
behalf of its people

Management of the  
award for sharing and  
developing a  
peaceful mindset

## Eligibility for the Okinawa Peace Prize

The Okinawa Peace Prize will recognize potential future achievement as well as past achievements of a candidate.

### 1. Promoting Peace and Non-violence in the Asia Pacific Region.

- Contributions made in resolving a dispute between two regions using peaceful means
- Contributions made in the easing of tensions during a dispute or confrontation through interactive means

### 2. Helping to achieve Human Security, activities engaged in promoting basic human rights, finding solutions to poverty, hunger, infectious diseases and the destruction of the environment and activities that contribute to enriching society.

- Contributions made to the international effort for the prevention of global warming
- Contributions made to the reduction of human suffering in a poverty-stricken region by supplying assistance in goods or medical treatment, which contribute to development in poor communities

### 3. Activities that cultivate cultural diversity and mutual respect, and efforts to create foundations for peace in different regions around the world.

- Contributions made in the exchange of music from one region to another, with the aim of generating peaceful relationships
- Contributions made to the promotion of one's traditional sports in neighbouring countries through mutual exchanges, which result in the development of friendships

To clarify the above mentioned points: If any of the following items are applicable, the candidate will not be eligible.

- a. Actions that are associated with or accompany violence
- b. Public activities led by present national political bodies, national political leaders, or government officials, etc.
- c. Theories or research activities that have a low likelihood of being put into practice

## Nomination of candidates

Eligibility will be considered based on the following four aspects concerning his/her nationality and the place where the activity produced results.

|                                                         |                     | The Place Where the Activity Produced Results |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                         |                     | Asia-Pacific Region                           | Other Region                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Candidate's Nationality:<br>Organization's Base Country | Asia Pacific Region | ( 1 )<br>Eligible                             | ( 2 )<br>Eligible<br>Requirement: activities of an individual/ organization working outside of the Asia-Pacific region, but having a significant impact in the Asia-Pacific region (promotional Effect) |
|                                                         | Other Region        | ( 3 )<br>Eligible                             | ( 4 )<br>Not Eligible<br>With the exception of activities by an individual/ organization that have highly probable ripple effects in the Asia-Pacific region                                            |

- (1) Candidates and organizations from Okinawa and Asia-Pacific region who make contributions to peace in Okinawa and the Asia-Pacific region.
- (2) Candidate and organizations from Okinawa and the Asia-Pacific region who make contributions to peace outside of Okinawa and the Asia-Pacific region.
- (3) Candidates and organizations not from Okinawa and the Asia-Pacific region who make contributions to peace in Okinawa and the Asia-Pacific region.
- (4) Candidates and organizations not from Okinawa and the Asia-Pacific who make contributions to peace outside of Okinawa and the Asia-Pacific region.

### Scope of the Asia-Pacific Region

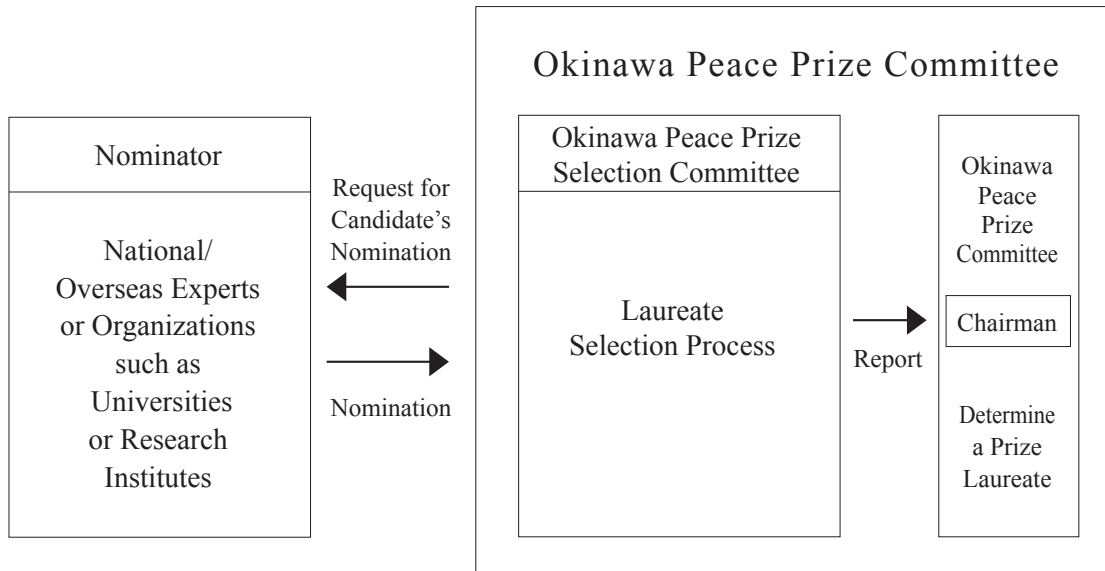
The Okinawa Peace Prize is not for a specific country but for the Asia-Pacific region. Using the geographical area of the Western Pacific and the Okinawa region as a basic criteria, the term "Asia-Pacific region" in this guideline indicates a wider area based on the following three points:

- (1) Okinawa historical exchanges
- (2) Okinawa migration exchange
- (3) The Battle of Okinawa and/or US military bases in Okinawa

From these points, candidate's regional qualification will be individually considered at the screening stage, from which a concrete decision can be made.

## Selection Process

Once a nomination from a designated person or organization in Japan or overseas is received, Okinawa Peace Prize Selection Committee will determine a prize laureate.



- \* Only those experts that are requested by the Okinawa Peace Prize Committee will be qualified to nominate a candidate.
- \* The Okinawa Peace Prize Selection committee will select a single candidate from nominated candidates through an impartial selection process.

## Award and the Award Ceremony

- There is a single Okinawa Peace Prize which will be awarded to a single individual/organization.
- The prize laureate will receive an honoring certificate and an extra prize of 10,000,000yen.
- This prize will be awarded once every two years.

## 【Laureates of the Okinawa Peace Prize】

### First Laureate (2002)



Dr. Tetsu Nakamura,  
The representative of Peshawar-kai

Peshawar-kai, the support group of Dr. Tetsu Nakamura

Established : September, 1983

Location : 601 VEGA Tenjin Minami, 1-16-8,  
Chuoku Haruyoshi Fukuokashi 810-0003  
Tel: +81-92-731-2372

Representative : Dr. Tetsu Nakamura

“Peshawar-Kai for its support of the work of Dr. Tetsu Nakamura” (hereinafter referred to as “Peshawar-kai”) was established in 1983 to help Dr. Nakamura conduct medical activities in Pakistan and Afghanistan. In an unspeakably difficult environment due to civil war and social anxiety, the members of Peshawar-kai have been continuing selfless service overcoming several difficulties with a belief, “Go where others would not go”, “Do what others would not do”, and do so with the principle of nonviolence”.

Their policy is to “Operate Peshawar-kai with a spirit of “mutual support” regardless of ideology and belief”. Locally, they have pursued a mission to provide equal service regardless of politics, ethnicity, religion and language. Through these activities, they have contributed in promoting the materialization of peace on the basis of indigenous diversity.

Supporters sharing beliefs with Peshawar-kai, an organization that has been conducting diligent activities, have formed a network that expanded nationwide; the organization has grown to having a membership of approximately 8,000. The Peshawar-kai is funded by membership fee and donation. It does not have a permanent staff, and has minimized operation costs so that most of the funding can be channeled into local activities.

Currently, the Peshawar-kai operates 1 hospital and 4 clinics in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and attends to approximately 300,000 patients annually.

The catastrophic drought has led to a miserable condition in Afghanistan where there have been shortages of potable water, suffering and the loss of many precious lives from rampant infectious disease and also a growing number of deserted villages. Peshawar-kai responded quickly to this situation with plans to dig wells and develop water source securement project in 2,000 areas. Peshawar-kai has saved the livelihood of many individuals and has also helped to prevent numerous people from becoming refugees.

Peshawar-kai has contributed to peace and human security through activities such as practice in medical and primary health care. Peshawar-kai has also shown devotion to rescuing human lives and securing basic human rights amidst such social anxieties such as poverty; in doing so, these corresponding activities have achieved success in raising awareness for universal peace. Simultaneously, Peshawar-kai has also effectively demonstrated the possibility of volunteer activities in Asia by the Japanese.

Towards the reconstruction of Afghanistan, it is expected that Peshawar-kai will contribute to the stability of the Asia-Pacific region through a broad range of activities such as: medical services, water-source projects, agricultural reconstruction projects, and road maintenance in the future.

## Second Laureate(2004)



Mr. Shigeru Suganami,  
Chairperson of AMDA

AMDA International (Association of Medical Doctor of Asia)

Established : August, 1984

Location : 3-31-1 Ifukuchou, kitaku, Okayama City, Okayama  
Tel: +81-86(252)7700  
Fax: +81-86(252)7717

Representative : Mr. Shigeru Suganami (Ph.D)

“AMDA International” (hereinafter AMDA) is the first United Nations medical NGO established in Japan. It is expanding its medical and humanitarian support activities that aim to improve the life conditions of those underprivileged and marginalized people who are victims of war, natural disasters and poverty in Asia, Africa and Central South America.

Founded in 1984, the AMDA took their cues from the establishment of network with the medical students from each Asian country and started up in Okayama, Japan; at present, it has 31 Chapters (branches), 28 project offices throughout the world and is operating 44 projects in 14 countries. Since AMDA's establishment, it has given about 50 countries the impression of Japan's active role in international contribution.

AMDA's operating activities are based on three principles: “respect for the culture of others”, “respect for the innate capacity of communities to help themselves” and “respect for the trust bestowed on AMDA by others”. These principles form the base of spontaneous diversity and contribute to promote the realization of peace.

Furthermore, “medical peace”, as proposed by AMDA, is a concept which aims to minimize disputes through international medical cooperation, and contributes to a peace process whereby the two disputing parties are provided with peace and human security support through humanitarian assistance activities in the form of medical treatment.

In accordance with the philosophy: “if needed, we will go anywhere to help”, and with its practical accomplishments, AMDA has established trust among foreign countries.

AMDA multi-national group of doctors, which is based on an international network, provides immediate support to ease the anxiety of those numerous victims of unexpected misfortunes that follow natural disasters. AMDA has also saved precious lives and has given the hope of reconstruction.

Furthermore, AMDA is expanding support activities such as medical insurance, education and the improvement of environmental living standards worldwide. For example, they fight against serious problems such as HIV; priority is given to people's needs, and activities are being carried out continuously until people can become independent in prospect.

In order to carry out their volunteering operations smoothly in the 1995 Great Hanshin Earthquake, AMDA played a leading role in Japan. Also they put in plenty of effort in the area of human resource development for the next generation by organizing study tours and so on.

### Third Laureate (2006)



Mr. Ryosei Nakama, Director of  
Okinawa-Laos Cleft Palate  
Patient Support Center

Okinawa-Laos Cleft Palate Patient Support Center

Established : August, 1995

Director : Ryosei Nakama

The Okinawa-Laos Cleft Palate Patient Support Center was founded in 1995 by group on dentists in private practice. Together with the oral surgery unit of the Ryukyu University Medical Faculty School of Dentistry, the Center carries out a variety of treatment support and treatment technology transfer activities in Laos and other Southeast Asian countries.

Today, Japan is blessed with first-class health care that utilizes the latest in medical technology. All cleft lip and cleft palate patients are assured of adequate treatment. However, in some neighboring countries, many children do not have access to prompt and adequate surgical intervention, and these children often suffer unreasonable and painful discrimination.

Wanting to share the advanced dentistry now available in Okinawa with suffers elsewhere, the Support Center, in cooperation with the Japanese Cleft Palate Foundation, began work in Laos, one of the world's poorest countries, in 2001.

To date, numerous cleft lip and palate surgical procedures have been performed there free of charge. The Center has also trained local staff and donated dental equipment and has devoted much effort to developing and expanding children's dental hygiene projects.

This work has given hope to people who experienced discrimination on account of their infirmities and has helped them toward full participation in society.

Laos is a country still struggling to overcome the ravages of civil war. This assistance, coming from Okinawa, which also suffered grievously in war, is a splendid expression of the spirit of mutual aid born of Okinawa's history and culture.

The Support Center plants to continue expanding its work in Laos and expects that its Efforts will both established dentistry in Laos on firm footing and bring Okinawa and Laos closer together through the technology transfer process.

## The 4th Laureate (2008)



Ms. Fusako Yanase,  
President of AAR JAPAN

AAR JAPAN Association for Aid and Relief, Japan

Established : November 1979 “Association to Aid the  
Indochinese Refugees”  
November 1984 Renamed to “Association to Aid  
Refugees”

Location : 7F, Mizuho Building, 2-12-2 Kamiosaki,  
Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, 141-0021 Japan  
TEL: +81-3-5423-4511 FAX: +81-3-5423-4450

Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan), formerly known as Association to Aid the Indochinese Refugees, was the first refugee support organization to be set up in Japan. Established in 1979, AAR Japan launched in response to the international condemnation of Japan as “a country which gives the cold shoulder to refugees”, Yukika Sohma decided to demonstrate the Japanese goodwill to the world by creating AAR Japan.

AAR Japan operates beyond political, religious, and ideological borders and has provided support in more than 50 nations in the past 30 years. The NGO continues to be an active player in the global humanitarian field.

AAR Japan realizes that the disabled would often be the least likely to gain assistance in post-conflict chaos. Therefore, ever since its foundation has provided refugees with disabilities, the most vulnerable among displaced people with support they need to become self-reliant. In managing vocational training centers and operating wheelchair factories, AAR Japan contributes to supporting the financial, psychological, and social sustainability of the individual victims.

The organization has dispatched emergency support to more than 15 countries and areas, as well, has supported in the wake of major disasters such as the 2005 Pakistan Earthquake and the 2008 Cyclone in Myanmar.

In 1992, hundreds and thousands of Cambodian refugees finally returning to their homeland after the civil war encountered massive casualties because of the millions of hidden landmines. In response to this, AAR Japan took on the new responsibility of promoting the eradication of anti-personnel landmines and published the picture book, “Not Mines, but Flowers,” in an effort to advocate the global campaign to ban landmines.

Through the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, AAR Japan urged many governments including the Government of Japan to ratify the mine ban treaty. In 1997, the organization was invited officially to attending the Noble Peace Prize Award Ceremony.

Currently, AAR Japan focuses on supporting mine-risk education and providing aid for landmine victims and children who are threatened by the landmines.

With its steady activities and participatory grass-root campaigns, which include various enlightenment programs, AAR Japan has contributed to advancing citizens’ awareness of peace and fostering youths with international perspective. Thus, the organization has evolved to become a pioneer amongst international NGOs.

It is highly expected that in the coming future, AAR Japan will not only continue to focus on refugee assistance and the landmine problem, yet also extend efforts to combatting AIDS, malaria, and other wide-ranging issues. While it partners with other NGOs and remain a forerunner in initiating international humanitarian project, it is hoped that AAR Japan will continue to launch even more effective programs so that the Japanese society will be able to accept refugees.

## The 5th Laureate (2010)



Mr. Tōru Honda  
Representative of SHARE

Services for the Health in Asian and African Regions (SHARE)

Established : August 1983

Location : Marukō Bldg. 5F , 1-20-6 Higashi Ueno Taitō-ku,  
Tokyo 110-0015  
TEL: +81-3-5807-7581  
FAX: +81-3-3837-2151

Services for the Health in Asian and African Regions (hereafter “SHARE” ) was established in 1983 in order to share a healthy and peaceful world with all people, and is comprised mainly of active doctors, nurses, and students at the grassroots level.

Up to the present, SHARE has dispatched doctors and nurses to such locations as Thailand, Cambodia, Timor-Leste, and South Africa, seeking and building cooperative relationships which focus on interpersonal connection and learning.

SHARE’ s activities aim to promote health through developing human resources and voluntary mutual aid while working together with local people. These activities contribute to the realization of a society in which one can live comfortably and one which respects human life and basic human rights, while also promoting human security.

SHARE supports activities for people living with HIV and carries out educational activities on HIV prevention in Thailand and South Africa, supports the construction of health centers and the development of human resources in the field of health in Cambodia, and also carries out activities to promote health and education in Timor-Leste. In addition, the organization makes selfless efforts in helping foreigners to live comfortably in Japan through domestic efforts such as providing health consultation visits and telephone medical consultation for foreigners who struggle with access to medical care, offering AIDS telephone consultation in Thai, and developing human resources to smoothly advance medical care for foreigners. Furthermore, SHARE has also carried out emergency support operations at the time of large-scale disasters such as the Great Hanshin and Awaji Earthquake, the Niigata Chuetsu-Oki Earthquake, and the earthquake that occurred in the ocean off Sumatra.

What can be particularly recognized are SHARE’ s healthcare activities which value a primary healthcare approach, strive to realize a society in which all people can live in good physical and mental health, and which are based on a long-term perspective. Moreover, local resident participatory activities which involve thinking together with local residents, facilitating their independence, and providing sideline support for their independent initiatives are structured in a way that allows local residents themselves to continue their initiatives long-term, which is expected to lead to the fruition and further development of these community activities.

SHARE’ s over 27 years of experience and achievements are expected to save those people and regions which, even now, are deprived of living healthy lives, as well as to be a force of creating peace in the Asia Pacific region.

## The 6th Laureate (2012)



Representative:  
Mr. Toyokazu Nakata

Shapla Neer Citizens' Committee in Japan for Overseas Support

Established : September, 1972

Location : c/o Waseda Hoshien, 2-3-1 Nishi Waseda, Shinjuku-ku,  
Tokyo 169-8611  
Tel: +81-3-3202-7863  
Fax: +81-3-3202-4593

Specified Nonprofit Corporation Shapla Neer Citizens' Committee in Japan for Overseas Support (hereafter, Shapla Neer), unaffiliated with any specific religion, government, company, or group, is an international cooperative NGO made from the feelings of ordinary citizens and running on contributions and membership fees. Based on citizens' voluntarily participation and responsibility, Shapla Neer now targets modern problems that symbolize the divide between developed and underdeveloped countries with necessary overseas participation to help. It was established in 1972 with the goal of realizing a society in which the abundant possibility in every person comes to full bloom.

Based in one of the world's poorest countries, Bangladesh, Shapla Neer works with too large a segment of the population to offer transient support. Instead, they give the necessary support for a society in which main players have learned to independently participate over 40 long years.

Until now, through agricultural training, income betterment programs through financial coaching, and more, they have focused on comprehensive rural development. Shapla Neer turns its eyes to street children, working children, women and the elderly, the handicapped, natives, and others who have been "left behind" societally and economically. They discover local issues that often go unnoticed, conducting meticulous activities like offering supplementary education to children, classes teaching women about their rights, and complex activities selling local, handmade products as fair trade.

In order to solve problems symbolizing the North-South divide, they face these problems head on as their own, rather than as far-away issues. They extend the range of their support: emergency relief and reconstruction support for cyclones, floods, and other natural disasters, as well as drawing up regional disaster prevention plans aiming for disaster risk reduction.

Continuing over many years, Shapla Neer has built a bond with local communities that will continue into the future. Their activities in Bangladesh, Nepal, India (West Bengal) and other places will develop even further, underpinned by the trust of the people with their experiences and achievements. We have high hopes for their development of a foundation for peace in the Asia-Pacific Region.

## The 7th Laureate (2014)



International Medical Volunteers  
Japan Heart  
Board Chairman Dr. Hideto Yoshioka

International Medical Volunteers Japan Heart

Established : May 2004

Location : 3<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1-5-10 Kotobuki, Taito-ku,  
Tokyo, Japan

TEL: +81-3-6240-1564

International Medical Volunteers Japan Heart (henceforth, Japan Heart) is a volunteer-based international health care organization founded in 2004 by its representative Dr. Hideto Yoshioka and others who endorse his efforts. It aims to further increase the quality of health care services based on Dr. Yoshioka's long years of overseas medical experience.

Japan Heart's fundamental principle is "providing health care to areas where it is currently out of reach, wherever that may be." It provides assistance so that medical care may reach impoverished regions overseas who struggle with a shortage of doctors, remote rural areas and isolated islands within Japan, and the hearts of children who are battling with sickness.

Beginning in Myanmar, which suffers from poverty and a lack of medical staff, Japan Heart has dispatched many medical professionals and volunteers such as doctors and nurses from Japan to Cambodia, Laos, and elsewhere. Aside from providing high quality medical services without salary or compensation, it is also engaged in the training of local medical staff, all in an effort to convey the peaceful heart of Japan.

In Myanmar especially, each year Japan Heart carries out roughly 12,000 medical examinations and 2,000 operations with the cooperation of volunteer doctors and nurses. Their work is also being promoted in Cambodia and Laos, where the governments of those countries have entered into agreements regarding medical collaboration.

Furthermore, Japan Heart dispatches doctors and nurses to medical clinics in isolated islands and remote rural areas throughout Japan that are hindered by a shortage of medical personnel. While providing medical services that are uniquely tailored to each region, it is also involved in training up qualified professionals in order to create "self-reliant nurses."

## The 8th Laureate (2016)



Ms. Eri Ishikawa  
Chairperson of JAR

### Japan Association for Refugees (JAR)

Established : July 1999

Location : TAS Building 4F 2-5-2 Nishikanda,  
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

URL : <https://www.refugee.or.jp/>

TEL : +81-3-5379-6001 or [info@refugee.or.jp](mailto:info@refugee.or.jp)

Representative : Ms. Eri Ishikawa

The nonprofit Japan Association for Refugees (henceforth, JAR) was born in response to the relatively low number of government recognized refugees despite the increasing number of refugees and asylum-seekers actually in Japan. It was established in 1999 primarily by members of the international human rights NGO Amnesty Japan who saw the need to provide holistic support for these refugees.

As a contract partner of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), JAR strives for “the realization of improved support for refugees” and “working with refugees to create a better society” and is engaged in various activities to achieve these goals.

Their work in Japan involves legal aid such as helping refugees with application procedures for official recognition and daily life support by providing personal consultations and medical aid to individual refugees. They also provide practical support for living in Japan such as Japanese language study assistance for refugee children and Japanese language study follow-ups for refugees who have found employment. In addition to providing direct support for immigrants, they also carry out PR outreach efforts. One of these is a periodic “Refugee assistant training course” for the general public including students, company employees, housewives, and more to deepen understanding of and interest in refugees.

As one of the founding members of the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network, JAR actively works overseas in the Asia Pacific Region in conjunction with local governments and refugee rights NGOs in an effort to increase international communication and cooperation. Additionally, they push for improvement in refugee rights and acceptance via policy proposals to both the Japanese government and UN agencies.

Due to JAR’s steady and comprehensive projects over the past fifteen plus years and their PR and outreach efforts to ensure the continuation of their projects, they have greatly contributed to the absorption of a peaceful mentality in the people of Japan and we hope their efforts will help form the bedrock for the establishment of peace across the Asia Pacific region.

## The 9th Laureate (2018)



Mr. Takaki Imai  
Representing Director

Japan International Volunteer Center (JVC)

Established : February 1980

Location : 4F Tourei Bldg., 5-22-1 Ueno, Taito-ku, Tokyo

URL : <https://www.ngo-jvc.net/>

TEL : +81-3-3834-2388 E-mail : [info@ngo-jvc.net](mailto:info@ngo-jvc.net)

Representative : Takaki Imai, Representing Director

The non-profit organization The Japan International Volunteer Center (hereafter referred to as “JVC” ) was established in 1980 with the large influx of Indochina refugees in Thailand, with the focus on volunteers who “want to contribute to relief efforts, not only as Asians, but as people.

The JVC has the vision (long-term goal) to “create a society where everyone can live peacefully, coexisting with nature and each other.” As an international NPO, JVC has offered humanitarian support in livelihood betterment, regional development, and medicine in 11 countries including Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Afghanistan, and South Sudan, assisting local people in efforts to build peace, as well as disaster recovery in Japan.

Additionally, utilizing the examples set by the Official Development Assistance (ODA) and its aid policies, we are also putting emphasis on policy advocacy with international organizations and the Japanese government so that a peaceful society can be established through dialogue.

The JVC has left an outstanding track record in the Asia-Pacific region throughout the scope of their long history and multilateral activities promoting peace, anti-violence, and guarantee for people’s safety.

Moreover, the medium-term goal (2016 – 2020) is to actively participate in peace-building activities, and the projects held up until now are expected to continue into the future and greatly contribute to the promotion of peace-building.

## The 10th Laureate (2020)



Japan NGO Center for International  
Cooperation  
Executive Director: Keisuke Motoki

Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation

Founded in October 1987

Location : 2-3-18 Nishiwaseda Shinjuku-ku Tokyo 169-0051 JAPAN  
5th Floor, Avaco Building

TEL : +81-3-5292-2911 FAX : +81-3-5292-2912

Executive Director: Keisuke Motoki

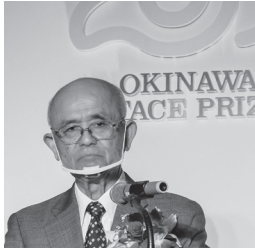
The Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC) (hereinafter referred to as "JANIC") was established in 1987 as the "NGO Activity Promotion Center", a network organization for NGOs, to share information among NGOs and enhance their ability to disseminate information to society, at a time when Japanese NGOs in international cooperation were developing.

JANIC has grown to become one of Japan's leading network NGOs and it has 101 regular member organizations, and provides logistical support to NGOs working to resolve social issues such as conflict, poverty, and environmental destruction in the Asia-Pacific region, including the Philippines, Cambodia, and Nepal. JANIC also plays a very important role in the maturation of civil society by connecting a wide range of domestic and international organizations and citizens.

In particular, JANIC has broadened the scope of its activities as a leader and a facilitator for the entire international cooperation NGO sector in Japan, strengthening the capacity of NGOs, making policies, recommendations, and negotiating with the government. Through the coordination and mediation of the entire international cooperation NGO sector, JANIC's contribution in shaping the infrastructure for NGOs and civil society to achieve more real value has been significant.

In addition, the mid to long-term plan, "JANIC Vision 2022," sets the goal of "making NGO an indispensable part of Japanese society as one of the sectors that make up society, and building a firm position for them". Furthermore, the efforts to enliven the entire international cooperation NGO sector by addressing the issues faced by NGOs and continuing to provide steady support, and to build the "ideal" international cooperation NGO sector in the future with an eye to the future, are expected to lead to the further development of international cooperation NGOs in the Asia-Pacific region.

## The 11th Laureate (2022)



The Okinawa Himeyuri Peace Foundation  
Chief Director Mr. Masanori Nakahodo

The Himeyuri Peace Museum run by the  
Okinawa Himeyuri Peace Foundation

Established : 1960

Address : 671-1 Ihara Itoman-city, Okinawa

Phone : +81-98-997-2100

Chief Director : Masanori Nakahodo

The Himeyuri Alumnae Incorporated Foundation (2011: renamed The Okinawa Himeyuri Peace Foundation) was established in 1960. It was established when it started to regain stability after the war as an incorporated foundation that was based on the alumni association of Okinawa Women's Normal School and the First Prefectural Girls High School, which reunited soon after the war. Their schools were destroyed during the battle of Okinawa and closed.

It has been 77 years since the war ended and most of the current generation has no idea what war really is. The Okinawa Himeyuri Peace Foundation has worked with the aim of continuing the calls for eternal world peace and never allowing a war happen ever again. They work toward this by passing down the experiences of the Himeyuri Student Corps and relaying the reality of the war. They are playing a very important role in correctly bequeathing the memories of the horrible war to the next generation.

The foundation established the Himeyuri Peace Museum in 1989, since then 23 million people have visited the museum. The museum exhibits valuable materials like the belongings of the Himeyuri students that were left in the cave they had sheltered in during the war. The museum is utilized as a learning place for peace where the survivors of the Himeyuri Student Corps tell their own stories of the war as "witnesses". For many years, they have made a significant contribution to peace education for the younger generations of Okinawan residents as well as for school trip students from outside Okinawa.

As time passes, we see the decline in the numbers of people who had experienced the war first-hand, and so the museum is developing successors for the narrators. On the other hand, with the improvements in English services, the museum has carried out activities to share the memories of the battle of Okinawa to the world and has held exhibitions in several Asian languages. We expect their contributions to the promotion of international peace, not only in local society but beyond borders and for their further development as well.

## The 12th Laureate (2024)



Human Rights Now

Established : July 2006

Address : Level 4, AM Biru, 1-14-4 Shinjuku, Shinjuku City, Tokyo

Phone : +81-3-6809-4411

President : Osamu Niikura

Certified Non-Profit Organization.  
Human Rights Now  
President: Mr. Osamu Niikura

The certified non-profit organization, Human Rights Now, was founded in 2006 by a group of professionals in the field of human rights, including lawyers, researchers, and journalists, with the aim of eliminating serious human rights violations around the world. In 2008, the organization became a non-profit organization, obtaining special consultative status with the United Nations in 2012, and in 2014, it was recognized as a certified non-profit organization. It is an international human rights non-governmental organization (NGO) based in Japan that works across borders.

Currently, with increasing international attention on human rights situations around the world, the organization strives for a fair world free from conflict and human rights violations, based on internationally established human rights standards. The organization operates under three pillars: fact-finding, policy recommendations, and empowerment support, playing an important role in the protection and promotion of human rights, which are universal values for humanity.

Its activities include investigating and publicizing various human rights issues, such as human rights in conflict zones, violence against women, child labor, harsh work conditions, protection of human rights activists, and business and human rights, mainly in Asia and other countries and regions. The organization has also been a voice for victims of human rights violations. Recently, the organization raised alarms about the dangers of emerging technologies and weapons. In addition to advocacy targeting government, corporations, and the United Nations to resolve human rights issues, it promotes the dissemination and establishment of human rights norms through human rights education and training for corporate leaders, making significant contributions to peacebuilding in the Asia-Pacific region.

Human rights issues are a concern for the entire international community, and respect for human rights is widely recognized as the foundation of peace. In Okinawa, human rights issues related to the presence of military bases are frequently discussed. The organization has sharply addressed international human rights issues often overlooked in Japan, and actively advocated for diverse issues, particularly human rights and peace related, drawing attention to these concerns.

## 【Okinawa Peace Prize Selection Committee】

### The Okinawa Peace Prize Selection Committee Name List

(From May 1st, 2022 to Mar 31st, 2025)

| Representing                     | Post                                                                                         | Name                                |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Prefectural People's Viewpoint   | Ryukyu University, President                                                                 | Mutsumi Nishida                     |
| Prefectural People's Viewpoint   | Meio University, Specially Appointed Professor                                               | Katsunori Yamazato                  |
| Japanese People's Viewpoint      | Tokyo University, Honorary Professor                                                         | Chairperson<br>Junichi Hamada       |
| Japanese People's Viewpoint      | Former NHK Newscaster                                                                        | Yoshiaki Kawabata                   |
| Viewpoint of International Peace | Former United Nations Staff Member                                                           | Mayumi Watabe                       |
| Viewpoint of International Peace | Reach Alternatives, Administrative Director                                                  | Rumiko Seya                         |
| Viewpoint of Peace Studies       | Seikei University, Faculty of Law Professor                                                  | Seiji Endo                          |
| Viewpoint of Peace Studies       | Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University, Vice Director, Professor | Tatsujiro Suzuki                    |
| Viewpoint of the Peace Prize     | Meio University, Honorary Professor                                                          | Vice Chairperson<br>Kiyoshi Nakachi |

(Titles omitted from names)

### Okinawa Peace Prize Committee Candidate Nomination Method

**(A) Prefectural People's Viewpoint**

A person selected who can represent the viewpoint of the Prefecture's people based on the history and culture of Okinawa.

**(B) Japanese People's Viewpoint**

A person selected who can represent the viewpoint of the Nation's people based on the history and culture of Japan.

**(C) Viewpoint of International Peace**

A person selected who can represent the global viewpoint on international peace based on world situations and having experience in an important post of an international peace-related organization.

**(D) Viewpoint of Peace Studies**

A person selected who can represent the viewpoint of peace studies.

**(D) Viewpoint of the Peace Prize**

A person selected who represent the viewpoint of the purposes and ideology involved in the creation of the Okinawa Peace Prize.

## **【The Okinawa Peace Prize Committee】**

Name: Okinawa Peace Prize Committee

Date of establishment: 28 December 2001

Purpose: To meet the outline of the "Fundamental Concepts of the Okinawa Peace Prize" and establish the "Okinawa Peace Prize" based on these concepts. It is also the committee's aim to manage and implement the "Okinawa Peace Prize" once it has been established.

Projects: In order to achieve the above purpose, the committee conducts the following projects,

- (1) Selecting the candidates for the "Okinawa Peace Prize"
- (2) Holding the "Okinawa Peace Prize" ceremony; planning and implementing related projects.
- (3) Running publicity and developmental projects related to the "Okinawa Peace Prize".
- (4) Conducting any other projects that are essential for achieving the purpose of this committee.

Organizations: This committee is composed of various economic, educational, administrative, media communication organizations and companies within Okinawa Prefecture.



### **【Concept】**

This logo symbolizes “an eye that looks at the world” with “ripples of peace” That spread forever and “flapping wings” that will enable the Okinawa Peace Prize to fly into a peaceful and hopeful future. It expresses Okinawa’s history, tradition and culture and transmits the spirit of Okinawa that longs for peace to the whole world. The joining of the letters KI of Okinawa, EA of PEACE and RI of PRIZE together expresses the hope that people of the world will join hands and wish for permanent peace.





# Okinawa Peace Prize Committee

1-2-2 Izumizaki, Naha, Okinawa JAPAN 900-8570

The Okinawa Peace Prize Selection Committee,  
Peace and Subnational Diplomacy Promotion Division,  
Executive Office of the Governor, Okinawa Prefectural Government

## Okinawa Peace Prize Committee Secretariat

Tel. 098-894-2226 Fax. 098-869-7018

E-mail. [aa071706@pref.okinawa.lg.jp](mailto:aa071706@pref.okinawa.lg.jp)

<https://www.pref.okinawa.jp/heiwakichi/jinken/1008269/1008311/index.html>