

The Sixth International Conference of Museums for Peace

Peace Museums as Spaces for Creating Peace:
Building "Peace Literacy" for Global Problem-Solving

Dates

October 6th – 8th, 2008
9th, 2008
10th, 2008

Sites

Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan Univ.
Kyoto University of Arts and Design
Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

Organizing Committee

Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan University
Kyoto University of Arts and Design
Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum
Tohoku University of Arts and Design
Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

Sponsors

Association of Japanese Museums for Peace
Peace Studies Association of Japan (under negotiation)

Supported by

The Commemorative Association for the Japan World Exposition

Call for papers

The International Conference of Peace Museums accepts all submitted papers for presentation. An in-advance application and a written report are required for presentation. The paper should be in A4 format and should not exceed 5 pages. English is preferred when feasible. The deadline for the written paper is August 31, 2008. Each paper is allotted 15 minutes for presentation.

Call for posters

A special poster presentation session for introduction to exhibition of participating museums and museum projects will be held at the Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan University. Please provide the necessary information (Name of the institution, address, year of establishment, activity information - no more than 400 words -, and photos) to be displayed.

Accommodation

Special arrangements have been made for foreign participants both in Kyoto and Hiroshima.

Recruitment of planning committee members and volunteers

To make the conference more productive, we are recruiting those who wish to contribute to the conference planning and/or to cooperate as a translator. Please contact the secretariat if interested.

Secretariat of the Organizing Committee

c/o Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan University

56-1 Tojiin Kitamachi, Kita-ku, Kyoto-shi, Kyoto 603-8577 Japan

Phone: +81-75-465-8354

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Exhibitions and special-interest group sessions

Theme: Peace Museums as Spaces for Creating Peace

Special-interest group sessions will be held under the following themes:

1. Presentation of peace museum activities (by region)
2. The war in Iraq as projected in peace museums
3. The gap between peace museums and war museums
4. Achievements and prospects of virtual museums
5. Leading edge technology in exhibitions at peace museums
6. Supporting the establishment of peace museums world-wide
7. The link between utilization of peace museums and peace education
8. Integration of peace museums, peace studies and peace educators

Venue

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Mission statement

Regardless of the world's wish for the 21st century to be "The Century of Hope," unfortunately the world is still filled with violence. Numerous social obstacles that limit enhancement of human capability still exist including ammunition from nuclear weapons to guns, starvation, poverty, discrimination, oppression of human rights, social inequality, environmental destruction, poor sanitary conditions, and inadequate education. We plan to meet to engage in transborder efforts on a global scale searching for solutions to address these problems.

The world has experienced a tremendous number of wars and violence. To face the past with integrity, to learn lessons from history, and to act on these lessons are extremely important for us. Personal experiences can be easily lost with the passage of time. We need to pass these personal memories from generation to generation and to positively utilize them in peace-building. The peace museum movement is an effective means to achieve this purpose and record the misery of wars and violence, the preciousness of life, and how irreplaceable peace must be conveyed to the younger generations who will join in building a community in the future.

A peace museum should not limit itself as a place to display the horrible realities of all past and present violence. It should also serve as a space to share spirits and wisdom to create society where people believe in humanity, overcome differences and join together, to imagine and conquer all sorts of violence that inhibits self-realization, exercise their full potential, and move in a lively way towards respective goals. It is important for the museums that engage in our activities for peace to exchange experiences, share wisdom, formulate creative means, encourage each other and employ more effective activities than ever.

The international conference of peace museums has been held in the UK, Austria, Japan, Belgium, and Spain approximately every three years since 1992 and has achieved important results. The third meeting held jointly in Osaka and Kyoto in 1998 was supported and joined by a large group of people and produced a significant result. Ten years after the third conference, the 6th international conference of peace museums will be held again in Kyoto and Hiroshima in October, 2008.

How do peace museums and network can contribute to nurture and disseminate 'peace literacy' (education for peace-building)? This conference will engage in discussions and presentations to address critical issues that take an interest in humankind's life-or-death situation such as international conflicts and global environmental problems. We request your active support, cooperation, and participation to deepen our knowledge of the issue and to share our different approaches.

Together, we can make peace museums a source of new ideas, sites to collect new knowledge about peace, and new sites for the creation of peace. Please join us in this great and exciting venture!

Program (Tentative)

Sunday, October 5, 2008

- Registration

Monday, October 6, 2008

- Opening ceremony
- Special-interest group sessions
- Tour of Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan University
- Reception

Tuesday, October 7, 2008

- International Network of Museums for Peace (INMP) general assembly meeting
- Keynote speech by Kazuo Inamori (Honorary President of Kyocera Corporation) - tentative
- Special-interest group sessions

Wednesday, October 8, 2008

- Commemorative symposium
- INMP general assembly meeting
- Special-interest group sessions
- Excursion (Hieizan Enryaku-ji Temple) - tentative

Thursday, October 9, 2008

- Keynote speech by Hiroshi Senju (President, Kyoto University of Arts and Design) - tentative
- Celebrating Japanese culture (Kyo-gen, classical Japanese dance, etc. at Shunju-za)
- Special-interest group sessions
- Special exhibitions
- Reception

Friday, October 10, 2008

- Tour of A-bomb Dome and Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum
- Keynote speech by Tadatoshi Akiba (Mayor, City of Hiroshima)
- Testimonials of A-bomb victims
- Commemorative symposium
- Closing assembly
- Reception

Saturday, October 11, 2008

- Departure

Publication

Collected papers for presentation will be available in a bound printed volume at the conference. A comprehensive conference report will be published after the conference.

Conference Language

The official conference languages are English and Japanese. Simultaneous translation as well as consecutive interpretation between English and Japanese will be provided. A translation service for Chinese and Korean speakers will be facilitated as much as possible.

Pre-registration

Interested parties should send the enclosed pre-registration form to the secretariat by June 28, 2008. Those who pre-registered for the conference will receive a program and a final registration form when they become available. The deadline for the final registration is planned to be end of August 2008. Should you have any questions or requests, please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat.

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