

Asian Women Peacebuilding Conference in Okinawa December 7-11, 2014

The Asia-Pacific region experienced many conflicts and wars in the past. Yet recent development of political and military tensions has raised alarming concerns and urge for seeking peacebuilding efforts more than ever. Although war and conflicts affect everyone's life, women who often become a protector of children and family suffer greatly even long after the conflicts are over. Yet, women should be recognized not just as victims but also as agents of peace building as they take important rolls in advocacy and decision making process in order to bring sustainable peace in the communities and the world.

The goals of Asian Women's Peacebuilding Conference is to empower Asian women leaders of grass roots groups and organizations by 1) learning from each other's expertise and experiences, 2) building up networks among them, and 3) discovering and nurturing next generation leaders for the work of peacebuilding in the Asia-Pacific.

This year's conference calls Asian Christian women who are leaders of grass-roots organizations that are working on the issues of Women, War, and Violence in the Asia-Pacific region. This conference also offers a learning opportunity to women who are either working or learning on the issues related to women and peace to be a potential leader of the next generation.

The keynote speakers as well as workshop leaders of the conference will be Ms. Suzuyo Takazato (Okinawa Women Act Against Military Violence) and Ms. Christin Ahn (Korea Policy Institute), who both are well known advocates for the issue of Militarism and Women in the Asia-Pacific.

In addition to the leadership of Ms. Takazato and Ms. Ahn, all selected leaders with expertise will lead workshops. Every participant of the conference is expected to contribute her knowledge, experiences, and stories in discussions in order to enrich the learning experience for all. Issues in discussion included, but not limited, are

- War and Militarism
- Environment and Armed
- Economy and Development
- Human Rights

The place where we meet for this year's conference is Okinawa, which has a long history of hardship and violence as well as a rich cultural heritage. The participants will have opportunities to learn more about its history and culture of Okinawa through presentations as well as field trips.

When: Sunday December 7th-Thursday December 11th, 2014

Where: Okinawa, Japan

Who can apply:

There are two categories to apply.

Category 1: Workshop Leaders

Total of 3 Asian Christian women leaders who have

- Expertise on the issues
- Hand-on advocacy experience
- Working knowledge of English language

Travel expense, accommodation, meals will be provided.

Category 2 : Conference participants

Total of 15 Asian Christian women (20-35 years old) who have

- Learned knowledge of the issues
- Will to work on the advocacy of peacebuilding
- Communication skills of English

Travel expense to/from Okinawa is participant's responsibility.

Accommodation and meals will be provided.

Application Deadline: September 30th, 2014

For questions and information, please contact, program@wesley.or.jp or 03-6427-469

Wesley Foundation: wesleyfoundation.or.jp

Partner Organizations:

United Methodist Women (UMW)

Scranton Women's Leadership Center in Korea

Wesley Foundation in Japan