

No. 01
2018.12

HIMEYURI

Peace Museum

An introduction from the Director on the publication of the newsletter

On June 23, 2017, Himeyuri Peace Museum established the Himeyuri Peace Research Center. The purpose of the Center is to intensify our researches for peace and to aid in spreading the museum's philosophy to the world. The Center's research focuses on four main research topics: archival documents in the museum, passing on the war memories to the next generation, finding the best display methods and space arrangements for a peace museum, and transmitting the stories of Himeyuri students worldwide. The Center will publish a report and newsletter based on its research. This newsletter represents a first trial. It consists of articles translated to English from the *Shiryokan Dayori*, a biannual Japanese publication of the museum, in digest form for foreign readers. We sincerely hope that readers enjoy this newsletter and we look forward to receiving their feedback.

Choukei Futenma,
Director of Himeyuri Peace Research Center

Baton passed from Himeyuri survivor to generation that never experienced war

Yoshiko Shimabukuro, the seventh director and former member of the Himeyuri Student Corps, retired in March of 2018. Vice Director Choukei Futenma, stepped up to fill the position.

Since the Himeyuri Peace Museum was established, Shimabukuro has worked with other Himeyuri survivors to tell of her war experience to people both inside and outside the museum. Even after earning the director's position in 2011, she devoted herself to passing on her war experience to foster understanding in succeeding generations in many ways, including production of a picture book and animated film about Himeyuri and also holding rotating exhibits at the museum.

Futenma has also served the museum since its opening. He learned of the Himeyuri war experience through working with survivors for many years. Adding his perspectives from a



The Director Yoshiko Shimabukuro and Vice Director Choukei Futenma at retirement ceremony

younger generation that never experienced the war, he also helped organize rotating exhibits such as the "Students Corps during the Battle of Okinawa" in 1999 and the "Himeyuri Student Corps after the War" in 2003.

Now, the baton of Himeyuri Peace Museum leadership has been passed from Himeyuri survivors to a new generation of advocates with no experience of war. The museum will keep the survivors' philosophy intact while developing new activities for the future.

Himeyuri Peace Research Center established

On October 16, 2017, the opening ceremony of the new Peace Research Center was held and hosted by Masanori Nakahodo, chairperson of the board along with Yoshiko Shimabukuro, the seventh director and one of the Himeyuri survivors (former Himeyuri students), and other museum members. The Center was originally planned to open in 2008 when the foundation became a publicly incorporated association. The center aims to enrich the exhibitions, educational activities, and research at the museum and deliver Himeyuri's message to the world. Thanks to this new center, we may more deeply develop our ongoing research of Himeyuri and the battle of Okinawa.

Visitor count reaches 22 million!

On November 28, 2017, the number of museum visitors reached 22 million. The 22 millionth visitor was a high school student who was in Okinawa on a school trip. She received a certificate and gift from the museum director. "We are thankful to meet a younger generation that makes a future of peace," said the director. "I hope she and her friends understand the messages of Himeyuri and continue to pass it on to the future generations."

It was the first trip Okinawa for the high school. The student was surprised and commented, "I never expected to be the 22 millionth visitor. I will continue learning about the war."

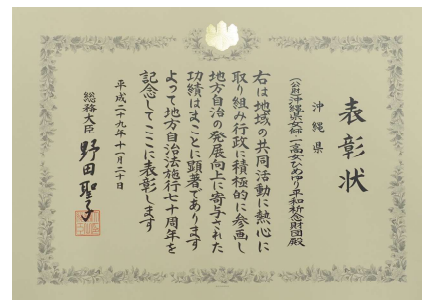


A student and the director holding the 22 millionth visitor certificate with the chairperson of the board (left) in front of the museum

Award received from the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications

The Himeyuri Peace Foundation, a parent foundation of the museum, received an award from the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Local Autonomy Act since its enactment. Vice director Futenma attended the ceremony, which was held on November 20, 2017, at the Tokyo International Forum. The award is bestowed every 10 years to private associations and civil groups supportive to prefectural and local governments' efforts to enrich the community. This time, 245 groups and 261 individuals received the award. The reason why the Foundation nominated was for its many years of devotion to peace education and governmental issues in Okinawa.

It was a great honor to receive this award and we are grateful to all who support the Foundation.



Certificate of Award

Attendance at the Japanese Peace Museum Conference

On December 7-8, 2017, Director Shimabukuro and Vice Director Futenma attended Japanese Peace Museum Conference, which was held at the Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum. This time, through discussions of four agendas, attendees agreed that each museum, government, and tourist agency should be required to support each other in the development of "peace tourism." They also agreed to cooperate in the planning of an anti-nuclear weapons rotating exhibition from the United Nations. Each museum reported their activities involving younger generations. With an agenda of developing relationships between museums in Japan and overseas, all attendees shared a common view toward this goal.

Special exhibition opens: “Passing on the War Experience to the Future”

Since 2017, the theme of the exhibit “Passing on the War Experience to the Future” is (as the title suggests) the education of future generations from the memories of war. One part of the exhibit is a report about the ninth INMP conference and visits to four museums: The Peace Museum in the United Kingdom, The Museum of Free Derry in North Ireland, The Anne Frank House in the Netherlands, and The War and Women Museum in South Korea. The other part of the exhibit focuses on the Himeyuri Peace Museum’s longstanding goal to pass on the stories of the Himeyuri to future generations. It further describes how new generations—that never experienced war—have been working with survivors and also details their specific approaches.

Many visitors left comments about this new exhibit, such as “If we keep this activity for peace, war would never happen in the world. Simply



Director Shimabukuro, Chairperson Nakahodo, and Vice Director Futenma at the opening ceremony

talking to each other would work. No matter what, we shouldn’t allow war,” from a 10-year-old boy; “I believed it was difficult to pass on war memories to the future. However, knowing the thoughts of war survivors, I was able to realize that to keep telling their stories is very important,” from 33-year-old woman; “Anne Frank House and the Peace Museum are very informative for me. It is an inspiring and valuable idea to connect historical facts with their background information,” from a 53-year-old man.

Himeyuri Book Series 6

Treasures of the Himeyuri Peace Museum: Collected Visitors’ Comments published

On March 23, 2018, Himeyuri Book Series 6 *Treasure of Himeyuri Peace Museum: Collected Visitors’ Comments* was released. In it, Masanori Nakahodo, the author and chairperson of the board, analyzed collections one through 27 of the museum visitors’ comments, which have been accumulating since the museum’s opening. These comments are valuable to the museum, a great source of feedback, and provide important guidelines. Separating comments by year, the book introduces what visitors thought and felt at the museum in their own words.



The book illustrates visitors’ viewpoints on war and peace and how the museum’s exhibitions affected their feelings. We hope many people will take a look at this book.

The price is 1,200 yen (tax included).
For details, please contact the museum.

Phone: 098-997-2100

Email: himeyuri1@himeyuri.or.jp

*The book is written in Japanese and not translated into English yet.

Film Workshop held: “Memory Walk”

For four days, from August 8 to 11, 2018, Memory Walk was held at Himeyuri Peace Museum. Memory Walk is a film workshop, which originated at the Anne Frank House. With great support of Yan Paul Dubbelman, the lead instructor of the workshop, Memory Walk was held for the first time in Japan. Fourteen people from Okinawa, other prefectures and overseas participated. The workshop concluded with participants’ creation of short films accomplished through a process of a tour of Okinawan war monuments, landscape filming and interviews with people over this short period of time.

On the first day, a monument tour around the museum was held, beginning at the Himeyuri monument in front of the museum. Then, the group went to the Churei monument in Komesu, the Himeyuri Sange monument at Arasaki Coast, the Reimei monument, monument for all Okinawan student corps members, and finally, the Peace Keystone. At each monument, museum curators and a local peace guide offered guidance and introductions. Following Dubbelman’s suggestion before the tour, guides did not start with their explanations, but gave participants time to take in the monuments’ appearance and share their thoughts about them. This was a new approach for the participants as well, with many commenting, “it was a good idea because I was able to describe my impression of the monuments.”



Listening attentively to Mr. Kubota’s guide in front of Churei Monument



Interviewing Himeyuri survivor Masako Nakazato at the garden



The team and trainers discuss the film’s concept

On the second and third days, participants seemed a bit baffled with the filming, interviewing, and editing process because it was their first experience with it. However, they were enthusiastic about trying to make better films with their teammates. On the final day, their films “Himeyuri Sange Monument” and “Churei Monument” were shown at the museum for visitors. During the question and answer period, the participants not only explained their films but also the history they learned, the meanings surrounding the monuments and their own feelings regarding the future of peace. While they faced difficulties absorbing the war memories properly, they were encouraged to continue with their personal learning and telling of the history.

Collaborations with people from outside of the museum was a feature of the workshop as well. Of course, Yan Paul Dubbelman, and Okinawan film director Takako Miyahira, supported the workshop as trainers. Additionally, Satoru Kubota who is a peace guide in Komesu provided an explanation of Churei Monument.

Memory Walk was a new approach to the telling of the Battle of Okinawa and was an impressive experience. The films made by the participants can be seen at the museum’s official account on YouTube.

Himeyuri Monument: https://youtu.be/Bke7xAti_FQ

Churei Monument: <https://youtu.be/M6MwcDI73Tw>

*English subtitles are available. Click the setting button!



Photo of participants and staff members after the workshop

String Quartet: A Himeyuri Requiem Concert

On March 26, “String Quartet: A Himeyuri Requiem Concert” was held at the museum in collaboration with the Amairo Quartet. First Violin Emika Noda and Pianist Hotaka Noda are grandchildren of Sadao Noda, principal of the Okinawa Normal School which was the Himeyuri’s alma mater. Once, they visited the museum as bereaved family members. Since then, they have studied the history of Himeyuri Student Corps and the battle of Okinawa. This time, they planned a concert for the repose of the departed souls.

The concert continued for about an hour. The “Farewell Song,” which was supposed to be sung at the graduation ceremony of 1945, and “Home,” the song students sang after the deactivation order were featured.

Director Shimabukuro commented, “I could feel Princepal Noda sitting here, listening to their music. I was remembering him as I listened to the songs.” Hotaka responded that “I want to do whatever I can, no matter how small, to tell of the battle of Okinawa.” Emika said, “I hope that peace will continue forever. I put my feelings into each note to heal the souls.” Attending Himeyuri survivors and Himeyuri alumnae were reminded of the time and communed with those who lost their lives during the war while listening to the beautiful melodies.



The Amairo String Quartet

Himeyuri Fieldwork for Parents and Children

On July 28 and August 17, the museum held a summer program, “Himeyuri Fieldwork for Parents and Children.” It was the first time to hold a fieldwork for children in the early elementary school grades. The participants visited Himeyuri monument and Ihara First Surgical Cave on foot, and observed caves in order to learn of what happened there during the war.

On July 27, 10 people participated in the fieldwork. Children were able to see how insects thrive in a damp cave and see how difficult it would be to live in such place. In the museum, they held an actual shell fragment from the war and were surprised at the weight.

On August 17, 10 more people participated. Due to heavy rain the previous day, the participants visited Himeyuri monument and the museum as an alternative solution. They learned about Ihara Third Surgical Cave located under Himeyuri monument from the video of Himeyuri survivor, Ruri Miyara, and viewed actual materials collected from the cave. Parents seemed to be surprised by information they had never heard of before and asked many questions. The children, too, asked questions and offered their impressions without hesitation.



Guided tour near an actual cave on July 28



A backyard tour was held due to the rain on August 17

Supporting Junior Study Tour Program

On August 1, as one part of Okinawa Prefectural Youth Program: Uchina Junior Study, Okinawan immigrants' children from Overseas, consisting of 16 students from Overseas, 16 students from Okinawa, and one student from another prefecture, visited the museum. After taking a look at the exhibits and watching the animated feature "HIMEYURI," they discussed what is needed to make a peaceful world in a workshop setting. The participants made such comments as "the words that life is more important than anything [from Yoshiko Shimabukuro] were very impressive to me. They taught me that war and violence are meaningless," and, "I was able to deepen my understanding by listening to others' ideas."



Participants discussing in groups



Reporting what was discussed in groups



A curator presents the Himeyuri monument

Seminar for teachers

On July 26, the museum offered a guided tour and showing of the animated film "HIMEYURI" for teachers in Itoman city, where the museum is located.

On August 3, the museum also held a seminar for teachers in Okinawa with 23 participants. The aim was to find how teachers can help students learn by visiting museums and listening to peace lectures. Educator Akiko Nakada provided an explanation of how elementary and middle school students react in the exhibition rooms and what kind of questions they have. Afterward, the participants discussed how teachers could use exhibitions in group work. They left some comments, such as "it was a good idea to go through exhibition rooms after Photo Language (a guessing game with photos). Unthinkingly, I was watching the panels with interest" and, "I realized the possibility that people may not forget what they've found or figured out by themselves, even though they may sometimes forget what they just heard."

Skills training for Okinawa interpreter-guides

On September 15, the museum gave a lecture on how to lead tours of the Himeyuri monument and museum as a part of the Okinawa interpreter-guides' training course. This time, English and Korean interpreters participated. First, they watched a documentary video of Himeyuri survivors and took part in a guide-tour by the museum curators. The lecture concluded with a question and answer session. As experienced interpreters, they asked many questions that they had received from foreigners. In addition, the museum staff received advice about what kinds of things might be of interested to foreign visitors.

Insights from participants covered many areas including that estimated numbers of fatalities and Himeyuri students is very complicated, the air conditioner sometimes does not keep the exhibits at a comfortable temperature, many people would prefer that the animated feature "HIMEYURI" be shown regularly in the museum and that testimonial videos be subtitled, vending machines should be available for thirsty visitors, and so on. These types of suggestions are very valuable and helpful to the museum. We are planning to organize the same training for Chinese interpreters in January, 2019.



Participants were very enthusiastic



Many questions and comments arose

Hosting the 17th Conference of Japanese Citizens' Network of Museums for Peace

On September 8-9, Himeyuri Peace Museum hosted the 17th Conference of Japanese Citizens' Network of Museums for Peace. Membership in the Network includes Japanese peace museums and peace studies researchers. Once in a year, the members gather together and share information. This was the first time to hold the conference in Okinawa.

The first day of the conference was held at Himeyuri Peace Hall in Naha, the second day, at Himeyuri Peace Museum in Itoman—with a total attendance of 54. Transmission the war memory to the next generation, new ways of museums for peace, introducing new exhibitions, and other themed reports were delivered.

On the second day, Hiromi Onabe, an educator at Himeyuri Peace Museum, gave a lecture about

Himeyuri, usually offered to Japanese students. Since peace lecturing was one part of transmission project for peace museums, the discussions following the lecture were quite lively.

In the afternoon of the second day, a field trip “Tracking the Paths of Himeyuri Students” was held by the Himeyuri Peace Museum staff. The participants visited the Ihara Third Surgical Cave which is located under the Himeyuri monument, Yamashiro Headquarters Cave, and Arasaki Coast.

The conference in Okinawa seemed to be successful in deepening participants' understanding of the history of the Himeyuri Student Corps and the battle of Okinawa.

Our two days of shared information and dialogue made for a fulfilling conference.



Report session at Himeyuri Peace Hall



Arasaki Coast, one of the last stands for the Himeyuri Student Corps

A look back at April 2017-March 2018 from a statistical viewpoint

The number of visitors

- The total visitor number was 555,546 (24,314 fewer than the last year's). The monthly average was 46,296 and 1,530 daily (excluding June 23, Commemoration Day, and a temporary closure day due to a typhoon). Foreign visitors numbered 5,893.
- The total number of visitors since its opening was 22,194,160 people.

Number of monthly visitors

- The greatest numbers were reached from October to December, when many school trips visited Okinawa. The total number for those three months was 220,468, or about 40 percent of this year's visitors.
- The lowest numbers were from July to September, with 84,488 visitors over those three months, or about 15 percent of this year's visitors.

Breakdown of visitors demographics**Overall number**

- 44 percent were adults, 41 percent were high-school students, and 15 percent were elementary and middle school students.

Group visitors

- 68 percent were high school students, 19 percent were elementary and middle school students, and 13 percent were adult as group visitors.

Number of schools

- The number of schools represented was 2,026 (with 286,711 students). Compared to the last year, 14 more schools [248 students] visited the museum. The breakdown was 105 elementary schools (5%), 591 middle schools (30%), and 1,330 high schools (65%).

[Breakdown by prefecture]

- Elementary schools: 37 from Okinawa, 31 from Kagoshima, and 8 from Tokyo
- Middle schools: 81 from Hyogo, 70 from Osaka, 67 from Okayama, and 52 from Tokushima.
- High schools: 192 from Tokyo, 126 from Kanagawa, 100 from Saitama, and 90 from Aichi.
- Okinawan schools represented 2 percent of middle schools and 0.6 percent of high schools.

Free admission

- The museum offered free admission to a total of 33,404 people this year.
- Groups: 147 groups totaling 6,577 people (including schools in Okinawa, special schools, and general groups)
- Teachers accompanying students: 18,586 people
- Teachers visiting before school trips: 1,600 representing 588 schools
- Individuals (with physical disability certificates): 4,590 people
- Visitors on the Commemoration Day (June 23): 2,051 people

Museum Calendar April 2017-March 2018**[2017]**

April 7: Four museum members attended the 9th International Conference

May 28: Two museum members attended in a symposium to celebrate the publication of "Okinawan Prefectural History: The Battle of Okinawa"

June 23: The 71st Himeyuri Commemoration Ceremony

June 28-29: Two museum curators visited Mie University and Toyochi Elementary School of Matstuzaka City in Mie Prefecture and gave a lecture about Himeyuri.

July-August: Extended summer closing times

August 6, 9, 12: Special Summer Event "War Experiences of Former Himeyuri Students" was held

August 13-14: Special Summer Event "Peace Lecture" was held

August 16: Training Seminar for Teachers was held

September 7: Study Tour Collaboration of Organizations for Peace "What should we learn at the Yamashiro Headquarters Cave (Sakiabu)?" was held

October 16: Opening Ceremony of Himeyuri Peace Research Center

November 19: The last day of the special exhibition for the 70th anniversary after the war "Himeyuri Teachers as Guardians of the students"

November 20: Award received from the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications

November 28: The number of visitors reached 22 million

December 1: Opening day of the new exhibition: "Passing on the War Experience to the Future"

[2018]

March 10: Guiding Seminar for Okinawan Guides was held

March 23: Publishing Himeyuri Book Series 6 *Treasures of Himeyuri Peace Museum: Collected Visitors' Comments*

March 26: "String Quartet: A Himeyuri Requiem Concert" was held

March 30: The 7th Director, Yoshiko Shimabukuro, retired

June 23, 2019

The Museum celebrates its 30th anniversary!

The Himeyuri Peace Museum was founded by the Himeyuri Alumnae Association in 1989. Since then, the survivors has worked at the museum as storytellers telling of the truth of the war and the preciousness of life. They have committed to not only plan exhibitions and educational events, but also transmit their war memories to the future generations in preparation for the time when they are no longer able to tell their story.

The museum, built through the survivors' efforts, will mark the 30th anniversary in 2019.

In 2018, the number of visitors reached 22 million. This was only possible through the generosity of the many people. Our sincere appreciation goes out to all of our supporters. We have many events planned to celebrate the anniversary year.

In our 30th year, the museum will move to the next stage in keeping the memory of Himeyuri alive into the future.

Museum information

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URL: <http://www.himeyuri.or.jp/>

Email: himeyuri1@himeyuri.or.jp

Hours

Open everyday

from **9 am** to **5:25 pm** (last admission at **5 pm**)

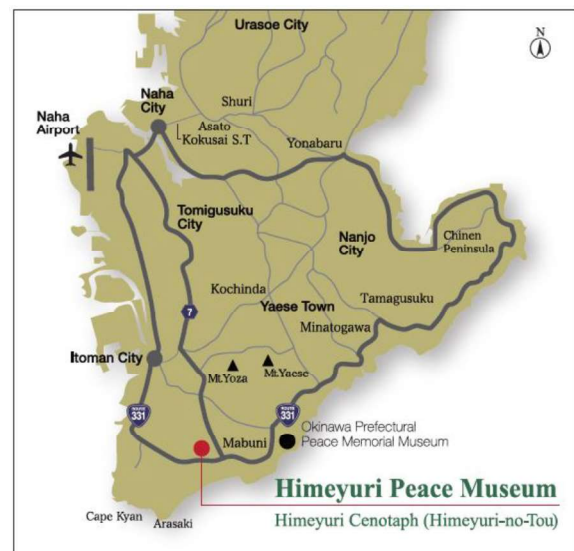
Admission Fees

Adults | ¥310

High School Students | ¥210

Elementary and Junior High School Students | ¥110

<10% Discount is available for groups of 20 or more>



Directions

[By bus]

Take #89 or #34 bound for Itoman from the Naha City Bus Terminal (approximately 30 minutes). Transfer at the Itoman City Bus Terminal to #82, #107, or #108 and get off at the "Himeyuri-no-Tou mae" bus stop (approximately 15 minutes).

[From Naha Airport]

An approximately 40-minute drive.

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