

International Health Awareness Network

Fall 2006

Empowering through Health and Education

Volume 19

Building a Just and Sustainable Peace Conference Hiroshima, Japan



Tadatoshi Akiba, Mayor of Hiroshima (in the middle) with IHAN's President Sorosh Roshan to his left and Honorable Yunsook Lee, the former South Korean Minister of Public Affairs to his right during the Conference's opening ceremony. The images on the right and left show some of the Japanese musicians providing harmony to the gala event.

The Hiroshima Peace Conference entitled "Building a Just and Sustainable Peace," sponsored by The International Health Awareness Network and Lehman College, CUNY, and held from August 31st to September 3rd, surpassed many people's expectations. It featured talks and presentations from distinguished speakers, such as Peace Laureates Shirin Ebadi and Jody Williams, UN Under-Secretary-General Anwarul K. Chowdhury, IHAN's First Vice President Vijaya Melnick, Board Member for the Jordan Association for Family Planning Dr. Suad Al-Dasuqi, and many others.

"This conference became my whole life's zenith," said IHAN's President Sorosh Roshan, who after two years of constant planning and networking for this event, delivered this inspiring conference to hundreds of attendees. Diplomats, government officials, leaders of influential institutions, women and youth organizations, and university students from across the world gathered at the Hiroshima Art Museum to hear the talks and witness the forums.

The program was laced with peace ceremonies, ancient and modern dances, songs and youth orchestras of many musical schools of Hiroshima. Nobel Laureates were generous with their participations and interactions with students from many learning institutions and other participants.

"The support and the meticulous arrangements given by the Hiroshima executive committee were outstanding and breath-taking," said Roshan.

The trip for those visiting Japan for the conference ended with a majestic and spiritual visit to Itsukushima Shrine of Miyajima Island, a UNESCO World Heritage site, with Dr. Ebadi who agreed to lead the peace delegation.

"The experience was so energizing and joyous, that we all became firmly committed to continue nurturing the seeds of world peace with our hearts and spirits," said Roshan.



All images are from the Conference's opening ceremony.

Inside this issue:

Hiroshima Peace Conference Continued	2 - 3
Calendar of Events	4
Board Members	4
Publications and Credits	4

Friday September 1, 2006



Members of the Conference Organizing Committee hold press conference and talk about final details for a successful 3-day conference.

Morning Session - Holding on to colorful ribbons and hopes for peace, dozens of Conference participants gathered to march and make their way to the Hiroshima International Convention Center for a full day of speeches and panel discussions. Presentations by two Nobel Peace Laureates, Shirin Ebadi and Jody Williams, as well as UN Under-Secretary-General Anwarul K. Chowdhury were among the highlights of the day.

Lehman College President Ricardo Fernández welcomed everyone and introduced Dr. Sorosh Roshan, head of the Conference Committee and President of the IHAN. Dr. Fernández spoke of Dr. Roshan's accomplishments as an activist, and he thanked her for her work around the globe on behalf of women and children's rights.

Dr. Roshan then introduced the first keynote speaker of the day, 2003 Nobel Peace Laureate Shirin Ebadi, who spoke of landmines in Iran.

Afternoon Session - Attendees were introduced to Tatsuo Tanaka, founder of Lehman College at CUNY Hiroshima (1989-1995). They were also inspired by 1997 Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams and by, among others, Dr. Vijaya Melnick, the First Vice President of IHAN; Dr. Suad Al-Dasuqi, board member for the Jordan Association for Family Planning; and Mikko Otani, an attorney-at-law in Japan who specializes in the area of international human rights.

The highlight of the session was the speech of Professor Williams, who was introduced as "one of the world's most treasured possessions."

Professor Williams called on American citizens to help eliminate the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the world. "Ignorance in history makes it repeat. But there is no excuse for ignorance in America," said Professor Williams. "If you care about something, do something. If not, then you are part of the problem."



Saturday September 2, 2006

The morning session of day three of the conference, was dedicated for scholars and peace activists to present and participate in a panel discussion on education. Lehman's President Ricardo Fernández and Vice President of University Relations and Communications at the University of the District of Columbia. Dr. Bobby Austin were part of this panel. Other panel participants included: Mr. Binh Le, of Penn State University in Abington, Dr. Paul Reagan, a lecturer in Asian history at Penn State University's Abington College, Dr. Arthur Molella of the Smithsonian Institute, and Maryam Elahi, an attorney-at-law and the Director of the Human Rights Program at Trinity College

For the afternoon session, more than 100 students gathered at the Hiroshima International Convention Center, along with other participants of the conference, to hear 1997 Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams's message of

peace. Japanese students asked questions in regards to education of peace and discussed the politics and processes of spreading peace across the world. They also discussed the differences of youth consciousness in Hiroshima versus other parts of Japan and the world.

A good number of Japanese students presented their ideas and questions about bringing change and sustainable peace to the world.

In a later session, Dr. Ebadi presented a brief lecture regarding Human Rights not only in Iran, but also around the world. Ebadi also talked about her latest book "Iran Awakening: Memoir of Revolution and Hope."

Attendees concluded today's session by enjoying cultural events performed by the children of Hiroshima at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park.

Sunday, September 3, 2006

Morning Session:

The final day of the conference was highlighted with a youth forum, featuring students from New York, Washington and Hiroshima, and a testimony by Hibakusha (a survivor of the atomic bomb).

The students entitled their forum "Building a Peaceful Tomorrow." In the forum, presentations from various Japanese groups displayed images of the devastation left by the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and all students participating discussed some of the challenges they will be facing in the process of educating next generations into a culture of peace.

Following the student's presentations and discussion, Hibakusha, a woman who survived the atomic blast shared her memories of the devastation left from the bombings.

Hibakusha said there was so much devastation, that many survivors became insensitive to pain. "We no longer felt emotional pain. The bomb also knocked off our senses," she said.

Afternoon Session:

The afternoon and concluding session of the conference featured speeches from Honorable Yunsook Lee, the former South Korean Minister of Public Affairs, Mitsuko Horiuchi, former regional director of the Asian Pacific International Labor Organization, Charity MacDonald, daughter of the latest Navajo leader in the United States, and 2003 Nobel Peace Laureate Shirin Ebadi.

The Honorable Yunsook Lee's keynote address focused on rooting peace in the minds of people. She said that establishing stability and asserted, education is the key to sustaining peace. She detailed her experiences growing up in Korea and her address focused on building a society to enhance tolerance and peace.

Mitsuko Horiuchi outlined the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals Towards Peace by the year 2015 in her keynote speech "Human Rights at Work and Peace." Horiuchi outlined several challenges of globalization which include integration between countries and human development. "These are goals necessary to

create a fair globalization social justice and human rights, she said."

Charity MacDonald spoke of the documentary that she is currently working on about the life of her father and President of the Navajo Native American Nation, Peter MacDonald. She stressed the importance of the language and the decline in Navajo population. She concluded her address by noting that we as humans live in the same world and that people should not compromise who they are but instead they should add to the global community.

To finalize this session, Dr. Ebadi was asked to comment on the redefinition and meaning of peace. She mentioned that the 19th Century definition of peace meant the absences of war. Today, according to Dr. Ebadi, peace means that all conditions essential for human necessity and human securities are protected. She stated that in non democratic societies, this absence of human protection damages peace. She said that if we want to live in peace we have to build it all over the world.



IHAN Board of Directors

Sorosh Roshan, M.D., MPH, President
Vijaya Melnick, PhD., Co-President
Suzanne Stutman, Ph.D., First Vice President
Keiko Chevray, Adviser to the President
Barbara Seaman, Vice President
Purification Qisumbing, Esq., Vice President
International Outreach
Sylvia Shapiro, Esq., Secretary
Fedra Florence Fateh, Esq., Treasurer
Mahnaz Sarachi, PhD., Executive Director
Padmini Murthy, M.D., MPH, Program Coordinator
Simone Zerah, M.D., Health and Education and
Women Development
Besy Lambert, Esq., Parliamentarian
Beverly Bartner, Chair Fundraising Committee
Maria Castro, M.S., Chair Committee on
Publicity and Networking

IHAN Member Organizations

The Ribbon International
The National Council on Women's Health

IHAN Advisory Council

Fatemeh Aleem, M.D., USA
Onyango Akena, M.D., Kenya
A. Asghar-Rana, M.D., Pakistan
Michelle Chen, China
Vivian P.J. Clarke, PhD., USA
Anusleya Dass, M.D., USA
Suad Al Dasuqi, Jordan
Laura DiClementi, MS, USA
Faramarz S. Fatemi, PhD., USA
Jaco Hoffman, South Africa
Elizabeth Ward Kalb, USA
Satty Gill Keswani, M.D., USA
Nasrin Khazaei, PhD., Iran
Janet Lazarian, Iran
Homa Mahmoudi, Ph.D. USA
Florence W. Manguyu, M.D., Kenya
Ruth B. Merkatz, PhD., RN, FAAN, USA
Maggie Miqueo, Esq., USA
Beverly Nelson, Australia
Sucheta Panicker, M.D., India
Lily Prystowsky, M.D., USA
Nargis Rafia Rahman, Bangladesh
Fatemeh Roshan, M.D., Iran
Rosalinda Rubenstein, M.D., USA
Bijan Safai, M.D., USA
Homayra Sellier, Switzerland
Ellen Silverstein, M.D., USA
Janiz Minshew Shurr, M.D., USA
Zohreh Tabatabai, Iran
Manijeh Wishart, M.D., UK
Xing Zhaoxu, M.D., China

IHAN Staff

Ardi Abar, USA
Naureen Chowdhury Fink, USA

IHAN

The International Health Awareness Network (IHAN) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the health and welfare of women and children, particularly in developing countries. Each year we adopt a needy cause related to our mandate empowering through health and education and in cooperating with other NGOs, governmental bodies and concerned citizens we make a small but important difference.

Upcoming Events

November 19, 2006

*United Nations, New York and
Penn State Abington College*

December 10, 2006

*United Nations, New York—Human Rights Day
Commemoration*

IHAN Publications

1. the Impact of Health Care Policy and Practices on Women.
2. The Impact of Nutrition on Women's and Children's Health
3. Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children.
4. New Millennium Strategies for Women's Health and Human Rights in the Work Place.
5. Improving Women's Health Throughout the Life Span: The Right to Information.
6. The Role of Women in World Peace and The Role of Men and Boys in Gender Equity.

Please contact IHAN to order a copy

Newsletter Produced by IHAN

Writer, Layout designer and Editor:

Maria A. Castro

IHAN

3 Lincoln Center

Tel/Fax: (212) 579-8821

E-Mail: info@ihan.org

www.ihan.org

