

Focus on: Representative to the NCCJ

The NCCJ's Goal and Action

by Noriko Sugimoto

The Women's Committee of the National Christian Council in Japan (NCCJ) is composed of representatives from twelve denominations and groups. Its goals include 1. to deepen mutual understanding through association, 2. to work together for human rights of women with prayer and action, and 3. to unite with women from different parts of the world in actions for reconciliation and peace. It publishes newsletters biannually and posts information on Christian Women's Network. It puts forth efforts on themes such as;

1. World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer is observed on the first Friday of March in Lent by churches not only in Japan but also those in more than 170 countries in the world. The Committee helps this ecumenical movement by coordinating the global movement with the local churches through translation, edition and shipment of the liturgy as well as distribution of donation.



The themes and featuring countries for the liturgy is decided by women from all over the world at a conference held once every four to five years (WDP).

I attended the one in New York in June 2012. I am thankful for the good, interesting experience. (photo: bottom left)

2. WCC's "Decade to Overcome Violence"

The Committee tackled this theme from a female perspective and held a series of fora. In 2012 and 2013, it provided the seminars to make exodus from chain of violence by reading the Bible from a female perspective. The themes were "What God do We Believe in and Propagate? --- Toward a World to Stop Violence and Nurture Life" and "Mary and Martha--- Toward a World to Overcome Violence against Women's History and to Nurture Life."

3. Issues of "Comfort Women" by the Imperial Japanese Troops

The Steering Committee for the 9th Asia Joint Forum on the "Comfort Women" by Force of Imperial Japanese Troops has changed its name to the "Liaison Council on Wartime Sexual Violence" and continues its mission. The Women's Committee sits in the council and takes part in assemblies and lobbying. It also organizes lectures and fund-raising on its own initiative.

4. Japanese, Japanese- Korean and Korean Women's Solidarity

The Committee works together with women in Korea and Korean residents in Japan. We plan to hold a meeting in Japan in June 2013 under the theme of "God of Life, Give us Justice and Peace." This will be a program to bring peace in Northeast Asia through solidarity and friendship among churchwomen in this region.