

# International Children's Conference 2018 Report

Created September 30, 2018

Supratarka

## Outline of International Children's Conference

### 1. Purpose

To think about “things” in the participant's country/area that would contribute to world peace (traditions, philosophies, people, things, locations), and introduce to other participants in other countries. Through the process, to deepen the understanding of their own society.

Also, to provide an opportunity for participants to think about world peace, by hearing/discussing ideas from participants in other countries and deepen the understanding of the world.

In addition, to foster junior leaders, including those who participate as volunteer staff.

### 2. Organizers

Organizers: International Children's Conference Organizing Committee,  
Supratarka

Supporter: Onna Village Board of Education

### 3. Date

July 16, 2018 (Monday)

Japan: 15:00 – 17:00

Taiwan: 14:00 – 16:00

Thailand 13:00 – 15:00

Malaysia 14:00 – 16:00

### 4. Conference Participants (Volunteer students from 4 countries)

\*Students are in age of 12 – 14 years old.

- ① Japan : Junior high school students from Onna Village and Okinawa Prefecture (10 participants)
- ② Taiwan : Students from Nan-Shin Junior High School (Tainan) (30 participants)  
<http://www.nsjh.tn.edu.tw/>
- ③ Thailand : Students from Rachawinit School (Bangkok) (6 participants)  
<http://www.rachawinit.ac.th/>

- ④ Malaysia : Students from Batu Kawan Secondary School (Penang)  
(30 participants, 25 students watched the conference)  
<http://smkbatukawan.blogspot.jp/>

## 5. Volunteer Staff

6 high school students from Okinawa

## 6. Conference Theme

“What Would You Choose From Your Country/Area to Contribute to World Peace?”

\*Look to your People, Culture, History, Places and Philosophy for Inspiration.

## 7. Venue

Japan: at Onna-son Museum 1<sup>st</sup> floor meeting room

Taiwan: at Nan-Shin Junior High School

Thailand: at Rachawinit School

Malaysia: at Batu Kawan Secondary School

## 8. Conference style

- Live conference between 4 locations using video call system (with projection on large screen)
- Video call system: “Zoom”
- Opened conference for public. Also, accepted interviews by TV stations and Newspapers (in Japan)

## Details of International Children’s Conference

### 1. Activity sequence

Program	Details
Greetings	Shared greeting words in local languages, in order of Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Thailand.
Introduction of participants’ country/area and school	First, briefly introduced participants’ school, to get to know each other. ● Introduced using photos and drawings.
Break	
Presentation of ideas (Each group presented one idea)	Presented ideas on the theme “What Would You Choose From Your Country/Area to Contribute to World Peace?”, beginning from Japan group. ● Each group presented one idea which was selected in advance.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Presented using photos and drawings.</li> </ul> <p><b>Japan:</b> Presented that <i>Heiwa-no-ishiji</i> (The Cornerstone of Peace) and the idea behind it would contribute to world peace. And that it is inscribed with the names of all those who died during the Battle of Okinawa, not limited to Japanese, but including Americans and people from other nations as well.</p> <p><b>Taiwan:</b> In our English class, we learnt to respect each other by studying the differences between the cultures of the world in detail. This kind of classwork would contribute to world peace.</p> <p><b>Malaysia:</b> There is a culture in Malaysia of respecting other ethnic groups' cultures. Presented that a culture which values the cultures, religions, and festivities of the three major ethnic groups: Malays, Indians and Chinese, would contribute to world peace.</p> <p><b>Thailand:</b> Presented that Buddha's thoughts especially Forgiveness and Acceptance, would contribute to world peace.</p>
<p>Freely asked questions regarding the theme from each group</p>	<p>After all the groups presented their ideas, participants asked questions to each other freely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Accepted questions freely, without pointing out specific group to ask questions.</li> </ul> <p>Example of Q&amp;A:</p> <p>Question to Japan: How do you express condolences to those who died in the war? (from Malaysia)</p> <p>→ We observe a minute of silence at noon of <i>Irei-no-hi</i> (Okinawa Memorial Day)</p> <p>Question to Malaysia: Don't you feel hot, if you always wear a scarf? (from Taiwan)</p> <p>→ Wearing a scarf is a natural thing for Muslims, and we are used to this, as we wear scarves from when we were young.</p> <p>Question to Taiwan: What religions are there in Taiwan? (from Thailand)</p> <p>→ Buddhism, Taoism and Christianity, and more.</p> <p>Question to Thailand: Your group presented that it is important to "forgive" and "forget". Does that mean we should forget about the wars in the past? (from Japan)</p>

	→ Buddhism is thoughts of minds, and there is no need to forget facts such as the wars in the past.
Presentation of personal opinions	<p>Asked for other personal opinions and ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Asked personal opinions and ideas on world peace.</li> <li>● Accepted opinions freely, without pointing out specific group.</li> </ul> <p>Example:</p> <p>Japan: How about presenting an award at the end of each year to the country with the least number of crimes and accidents in the year.</p> <p>Taiwan: It would be good to create a world rescue team and develop a system to provide immediate help worldwide.</p> <p>Malaysia: If we treated each other with love and accepted each other, this would bring peace.</p>
Closing words *Disconnected video call	Closing words from leaders of each group. *Disconnected video call
Break	
Summarized today's conference Presentation of participants' impressions and filling in worksheets	<p>Summarized today's conference by filling in worksheets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This was done in each location (country) separately, after disconnecting video call.</li> <li>● All participants expressed their opinions and impressions of this conference.</li> <li>● All volunteer staff also expressed their impressions.</li> <li>● Accepted ideas and impressions from the floor (audience).</li> <li>● Participants filled in their impression in the worksheets.</li> </ul> <p>Participants and volunteer staff had the impression that "It was good to participate in the conference".</p>

## 2. Preparation

1. Each participant wrote on a worksheet in advance, inspirations from their country/area which would contribute to world peace. Participants also wrote their own personal opinions regarding peace.
2. Conducted 2 preparatory meetings (July 14, 16).
  - All participants presented their opinions based on the worksheet.
  - Summarized one idea, and selected *Heiwa-no-ishiji* (The Cornerstone of Peace).

- Summarized the contents for the school introduction.
- Created explanation materials for the school introduction, and practiced presentation.
- Assigned roles: hosts, presenters of the school introduction, presenters of *Heiwa-no-ishiji* (The Cornerstone of Peace).

### 3. Sequence of communication

1. Since the participants of the conference do not have to speak English, the staff enabled them to exchange ideas in their native languages.

2. The sequence of communication is as follows;

Speaker (native language) → Translator (English)

→ [Internet] → Translator (native language)

→ Participants

Questioner (native language) → Translator (English)

→ [Internet] → Translator (native language)

→Speaker

### 4. PR/Announcements

1. Put out posters in all schools of Onna Village.

2. Asked Prefectural Compulsory Education Department to make announcement to junior high schools in Okinawa.

3. Sent out announcements to newspaper companies and TV stations

\* Coverage of the conference was aired in evening news programs.

(Video files were uploaded in each station's website: As of August 24, 2018)

QAB : Ryukyu Asahi Broadcasting

<http://www.qab.co.jp/news/20180717104497.html>

OTV : Okinawa Television

<https://www.otv.co.jp/newstxt/index.cgi?code=20180716182032>

RBC : Ryukyu Broadcasting

[https://www.rbc.co.jp/news\\_rbc/](https://www.rbc.co.jp/news_rbc/)

### 5. Support by Onna Village Board of Education

Received huge support from Onna Village Board of Education, such as provision of the conference room and lending of the equipment. Because of this support, we were able to conduct prior preparatory sessions and the conference without trouble.

### 6. Enhancement of Conference Facilities

As refurbishment of the 1st floor meeting room in Onna Village Museum which

was completed right before the conference, we were able to use a large screen and internet connection.

7. Consideration of holding international conference by high school students

Discussed the possibility of holding an international conference for high school students, mainly with high school student volunteer staff. We proposed they organize a conference mainly by themselves, and the responses were positive.

8. List of THINGS that would contribute to world peace from participants (Japan)

*Heiwa-no-ishiji* (The Cornerstone of Peace), *Irei-no-hi* (Okinawa Memorial Day), *Himeyuri-no-to* (Tower of the Lilies), Olympics, *Todoroki-no-go* cave, the constitution of Japan, Hiroshima *Genbaku* Dome (Peace Memorial), Ocean of Okinawa (the Ocean is connected worldwide and I believe the beautiful ocean represents peace), music (anyone would have fun to sing and dance, and we could all smile and be happy), sushi (eating sushi brings smiles to everyone because it is delicious. I think this would lead to world peace).

9. Personal ideas for world peace by participants

Japan
Manage politics taking in opinions of children who will bear the future society.
Children under 18 years old to conduct “World Training Tour” and think about peace.
Bring the world to one piece. Make countries like municipalities.
Hold a Flower Festival, because by holding festivities with lots of flowers in one place, everyone would be happy and could become friends.
Create “World Center Building”. If there is a place where you can see the world’s specialty goods and cultures, we could see the attractions of the world and that would lead to peace.
Use the same language. By using the same language, communication would be come easy and would increase interactions.
Create sweets factories all over the world for local people to work. Jobs and delicious foods would lead to world peace.
All countries to decide laws to forbid war.
Representatives of each country to gather at the end of each year. Report crimes and accidents, and give an award to the country with the least number of cases.

Taiwan
If there is a world rescue team and a system to provide immediate help worldwide, that would lead to world peace.
If there is a world emergency health team and a system to provide immediate help worldwide, that would lead to world peace.
Thoughts of Confucianism would lead to world peace.

Thailand
Same opinion as for the theme. (Buddhism)

Malaysia
If thoughts of Islam were practiced all over the world, that would lead to world peace. Because the thoughts of Islam forbid killing or harming innocent people, especially women and children, even in the time of war. Thoughts of Islam also forbid discrimination by social status or family.
If we treat each other with love and accept each other, this would lead to world peace.

## 10. Impressions by participants

It was very interesting to hear the things to contribute to world peace and ideas of other countries.
Participating in the conference, I realized that people in other countries also would like to live in the world with peace.
The custom of "Open House" in Malaysia, which is to invite and celebrate friends and relatives regardless of race, is fantastic.
I realized that thoughts of Buddhism is widely believed in Thailand and people respect Buddha a lot.
I thought that by knowing/respecting the differences of each other in this kind of conference, there would be less conflicts and lead to peace.
Although we couldn't communicate directly because of language barriers, it was fun to know different cultures and to be able to get our ideas through more than I expected.
As the participants in Taiwan said, it is important to know and respect the difference of each other.
I wanted to hear more about the thoughts of Buddha.
I once again realized that we need to first understand the cultures and religions of other countries for world peace.
I would like to have these conferences to be continued, as I think that hearing ideas of

people in other countries would contribute to world peace.

## 11. Outcomes

This was our first time to hold video conference for junior high school students of multiple countries. As children from 4 countries could exchange their ideas on world peace etc. without experiencing big troubles, we could say that the outcome was sufficient.
Coverage by TV news programs, in addition to coverage by newspapers, conveyed information about this conference and the name of Supratarka to many people.
In the last conference, there were network troubles during the conference, but these issues did not occur in this conference. We think this is largely due to changing video call system. (Changed from Skype to Zoom)
There were participants outside of Onna Village, although there were not many.
Children who participated as volunteer staff last year, participated again as volunteer staff. This means that they recognize the value of the conference.
We were able to consider international conference for high school students. We will consider to hold this conference.

## 12. Challenges

Challenges	Counter measures (draft)
There were not many participants (10 participants)	We noticed that the conference is not yet publicly recognized. However, it is expected that the number of participants would gradually grow, as there were covered by TV programs and newspapers, and we will continue to hold conferences.
Bewildered in the course of summarizing ideas	<p>Bewildered in the course of summarizing ideas along with the theme. In the first summary (vote), many participants voted for “sushi” because “eating delicious foods make everyone happy and therefore it would contribute to peace”. However, we asked “What do you think, for example, if people in India say that curry would contribute to peace?” As a result, participants selected <i>Heiwa-no-ishiji</i> (The Cornerstone of Peace) in the end.</p> <p>This happened, because we proceeded to vote without deeply reviewing each idea that the participants put forward.</p> <p>As in this kind of conference, selecting one idea from</p>



	many is required, all participants need to thoroughly review each idea together and find conclusions.
Exceeded conference time	We exceeded the conference time. Before the conference, we asked each side to shorten their presentation, however, as each side had a lot of things to convey, things did not turn out as we expected. In the next conference, we need to strictly manage conference time.
Ice breaking for participants	As many of the participants met for the first time, we should have included an ice breaking game in the first part of the preparation session, so that participants could release their tension.

## Summary

This was our first time to hold a multi-national video conference for junior high school students. Last year, we held the same type of conference for elementary school students.

Through these achievements, we are going to hold conferences for elementary school students and junior high school students every year. Also, we would like to consider international conference or meeting by video call for high school and university students and adults.

There is huge potential in communication using video call system. Therefore we are aiming to develop a video call communication network. We hope that many people in the world would enjoy communication over the national boundaries using our network. We hope that misunderstandings, prejudice and ignorance would gradually diminish through these exchanges.

## Supratarka

<https://www.supratarka.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/supratarka/>

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# Photos of International Children's Conference



Introduction of school lunch



Questions!



Explanation of "Heiwa-no-ishiji"



Role of staff



Facing each other



Interview!



Good bye. See you again!



Participants



Together with volunteer staff



Taking minutes is also staff job



Venue in Taiwan



Venue in Taiwan



Venue in Thailand



Venue in Malaysia



Venue in Malaysia