



特 Special Issue: Global Article 9 Conference in Makuhari!



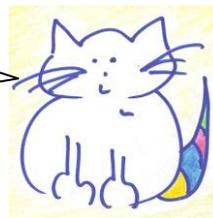
Members of the Popoki Peace Project participated in the Global Article 9 Conference from 4-6 May at Makuhari Messe, a conference center outside of Tokyo. We conducted a workshop (5/5, 10:00-12:30) on Popoki and Article 9 and had a booth (5/4, 5/5) at which we sold Popoki's book,

(<http://whynot9.jp>)

Popoki postcards and stickers. Ronni was also on a panel on the "Danger and Future of Article Nine," sponsored by the conference organizers. This issue of 'Popoki News' contains the comments of the Popoki Peace Project members who helped prepare for and/or attended the conference.

For information on the conference content, see <http://whynot9.jp>

Ronni's photos are very bad, but these are my postcards and stickers!



The comments are in the following order. First is a comment from Yunomae-san. She helped to make the postcards, but did not go to the conference itself. Photos make it easier to envision, so next will be Satoko-san, who used photos and gave an overall

view of Popoki at the Makuhari Conference. Fukushima-san and Fujie-san came only on Saturday, so their comments are next. These are followed by Mori-san, Urai-san and Sanada-san, who came for the whole conference. Fujita-san and Watanabe-san came only on Sunday, and their comments are at the end.

1. My hope for POPOKI goods!

Rika YUNOMAE

At the beginning of May, the Global Article 9 Conference was held in Makuhari Messe. It was unfortunate that I couldn't join in, but I supported the effort by helping to make postcards and stickers that were sold at the Popoki Peace Project booth in Makuhari. In advance, we discussed which Popoki cards were the cutest at a *po-kai* meeting, and 17 patterns were chosen. We worked snacking on sweets and fruit in Prof. Alexander's office. Three hours later, we left the room believing that the printer would finish the job. Later on, I was shown the finished postcards. They are all cute, so I couldn't decide my NO 1. I'm happy to hear that the sales in Makuhari were good (It is of course because of that cuteness!). I think that Popoki's Peace Book has a great influence on the celebrity of Popoki, but I hope that Popoki will be more popular being more portable, and I would like to support activities by POPOKI !

2. The Global Article 9 Conference (Satoko)

The Workshop

In the train on the way to Makuhari, I recruited a student to come to the workshop. He asked me, "What is Popoki?" It turns out that he had been curious ever since seeing Popoki's name in the program on the first day (the workshop was on day 2).



"If you come to the workshop, you'll find out."

The workshop was first thing in the morning, at a time when a lot of people planning to attend had still not arrived.

We were worried about whether there would be very many people, but a total of about 45 people came,

People who came were interested in Article 9, so it is hardly surprising that they discussed issues of peace with enthusiasm in the workshop.





When the participants began work on their creative projects, even though they were worried about not having enough time to finish, everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves, looking happy and glowing with energy. They all made wonderful *kamishibai* (story boards), mobiles and peace paths.



We tried many new things at this workshop, and the team work among our members was really successful. Not just the reading of Popoki's Peace Book, but the entire workshop was bilingual in Japanese and English.

We had some trouble with the conference organizers regarding things like the way the room was set up which left me with a bad feeling, but seeing everybody smiling made me feel much better.



The Booth



A huge Popoki!

The room was too small for the crowd of displayers and booths. From their midst, many people caught sight of the huge Popoki and exclaiming how cute he was, they would come and visit our booth.

With so many people, it was almost impossible to stop and look at the booth without being pushed from behind. Even so, some people stopped and asked questions like, "Popoki is such an interesting name. What does it mean?"



Our booth was in a far corner, so by the time they got to us, many people had to apologize because they had already spent all their money. We supplied those people with information so they could order the book later. In spite of the crowds, some people stayed by our booth until

they had read the entire book. Some of them said what a good book it was...and then didn't buy it. We gave those people order forms, too.

On the second day, Mori-san and Urai-san made friends with someone who had a booth closer to the entrance and were invited to use that location, too. They went back and forth between the two booths.

We sold postcards and stickers for the first time, and they were popular. Some children stayed for a long time, and occasionally they were rewarded with a spontaneous reading...



Although the hours were long, there were lots of people, the room was dusty and we were all hoarse, in comparison with the other booths, the Popoki Peace Project booth was warm and comforting, not only for us but for others as well..

Musings: What is Peace???

This conference was the Global Article 9 Conference. Most of the booths had books and other things related to how to protect Article 9 or how to spread Article 9 to the world.



Many of the booths had photos and DVDs having to do with war, and I found myself thinking about a lot of things.

In order to talk about peace, I know you can not avoid thinking about non-peace, but when all there is to look at is examples of non-peace, it makes one feel very closed and small. At times like that, seeing Popoki's book really made me feel better. In addition, being able to be there working with the other Popoki Peace Project members made me really feel happy.



Thank you all!



3. FUKUSHIMA Akiko

I came by myself from Nagoya, but I was able to meet a lot of people and experience a bit of Popoki's activities so it was a meaningful two days. I realized that this is a new kind of peace work and hope it can be expanded. Ronni, please help me do it.

Much to my surprise, there were many people I knew at the conference. I realized that this Global Article 9 Conference was a timely and necessary endeavor.

I hope I have another chance to join the Popoki Peace Project.

I pray we meet again some day. Until then, stay well and best wishes for your work.



4. FUJIE Tastuya

To the Popoki Peace Project Members who were at Makuhari Messe,
Thank you for everything and all your hard work.

I just attended the first day and probably was not of much help. This was my first experience with the Popoki Peace Project and didn't know how things were done, so I probably got in the way of everyone. In spite of that, everyone was really nice to me and taught me what to do. I really want to thank you all. I'm looking forward to meeting you all again some day, and hope you continue your good work.

5. MORI Kyoko

Last week, I participated in the Global Article 9 Conference with Popoki and my friends from the Popoki Peace Project! So many people! So many thoughts and feelings! It was the first time since the peace walk that I felt the 'people's power.'

The workshop was a great success. A lot of people came, and we had a good time. It was really a fun workshop.

All the people who participated in the workshop or bought books....I hope they have each found their own Popoki and will continue to become better and better friends with him.

When faced with the reality of big issues, of course just having fun is not enough to solve them. 'People power' seems strong, but it can be weak, too. There are many contradictions and unreasonable things, too and I feel my own powerlessness. But at times like that, I feel like Popoki calls to me and helps me to come back to myself and to find the hope inside me.

I hope that Popoki and the Popoki Peace Project can continue to expand our circle of friends!



6. URAI Kana

To the members of the Popoki Peace Project,



I went to the Global Article 9 Conference, and it was the first time for me to join the activities of the Popoki Peace Project. Although I didn't know what I should do at first, this two-day experience has really left an impression on me.

I joined the workshop and read from *Popoki, What Color is Peace*, though I had a very hoarse voice because of a cold. I really felt that the workshop was a great opportunity for over 40 (more?) participants to cooperate and talk about peace.

I appreciate Professor Alexander and members of the Popoki Peace Project who prepared for the workshop.

I am looking forward to joining the project again someday.



7. Participating in the Global Article 9 Conference

Yasuhiro SANADA

I participated in the Global Article 9 Conference with our Popoki.

When I got to Makuhari Messe International Convention Complex where the Conference was held, thousands of people gathered together to join the meeting. And many people could not enter the conference hall even though they had tickets. Some participants came there from a distance by bus. These things suggested the enthusiasm and zeal of participants. After we set up our booth, we introduced Popoki's book and postcards to people. Popoki was popular especially among children.

We made Popoki's presentation on the second day in the morning. Although we did not have much publicity, the conference room was full of people! When we consider the significance of the Article 9, we tend to be rigid. But Popoki's power broke such priggish ways of thinking and all the participants must have been enthralled by Popoki's attraction. The participants made mobiles or drew the way to peace, and every artwork was so unique that I was astonished by these wonderful works. One mobile was the most wonderful for me because it kept balance even though participants hung various strips of papers as they liked, which showed harmony by diversity.

After the presentation, we introduced Popoki at our booth in the afternoon again. Almost all the books we brought found new owners. Popoki will surely show them various ways to reach peace.

8. FUJITA Wakako

I hate to say this because I was only there for a few hours and didn't help with any of the preparations, but actually I had a very good time.

First of all, I was really moved by the fact that so many people came the first day that they ran out of tickets and had to turn people away. It was reported in the newspapers that 3000 people couldn't get in to the conference on the 4th. I understood from their actions that there really are a lot of people who are interested in peace and Japan's future and who are thinking earnestly.

Many older people were standing outside giving directions to the conference, and in the conference center, there were many older people talking enthusiastically. I don't usually have a chance to discuss things with older people, and I wanted to talk more with them. The person sitting next to me in the workshop had the experience of having gone willingly to war, and told me he came to the conference because he is really concerned about the way things are today. It made me realize that I want to know more about the thoughts and feelings of older people like this man.



At the booth, at first I was embarrassed to do business (?), but when I talked with people and then they bought the book, I was really happy and moved. I enjoyed this taste of happiness. It was a good experience and I learned how important communication is for selling things. I thought I was bad at sales and didn't like doing it, but now I think maybe even I can become a good sales person. Next time....

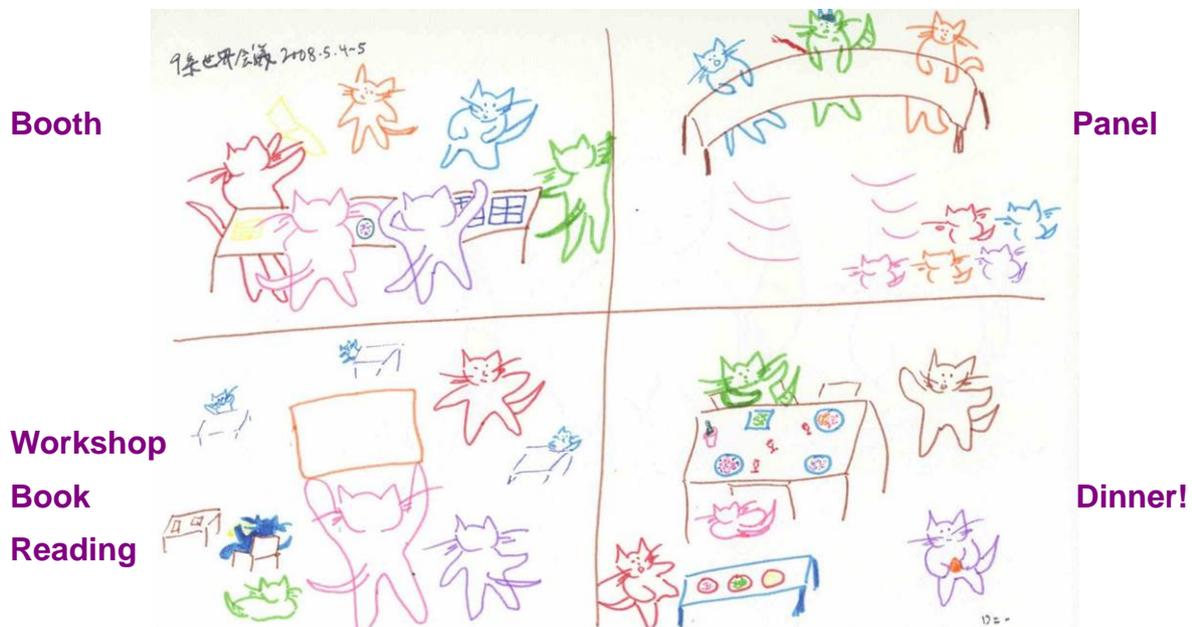
I enjoyed the workshop when the participants worked together and created something that I couldn't have imagined. Everyone influenced each other and we were able to make something great together, even though we had only just met and had only a short time. Popoki must be able to go beyond time and space.



9. WATANABE Katsuyuki

When I arrived, the room was already packed. Ronni had turned into a big cat and was speaking in English and Japanese, and the workshop was in full swing. I wondered how Popoki and Article 9 would be connected.... I shouldn't have worried. There is nothing that Popoki can't do. Most of the sessions were in the form of lectures, but this workshop people of all ages were discussing peace together. It was a great success! Thank you to the Popoki Peace Project staff who came to Tokyo for this conference. I almost forgot: when I first arrived, the atmosphere was so relaxed that I thought that most of the participants must have been old friends.

10. POPOKI'S GLOBAL ARTICLE 9 CONFERENCE (Ronni)



Popoki in the Media

- News Signal, 2 May 17:12 Sun TV interview, Kobe
- Kansai Time Out, March 2008
- 'Gakuen no Mado' *Ryoso* 376, Kobe University Alumni Magazine, pp.17-18
- 'Volunteer he no Sasoi' Kobe University STYLE 2008 SPRING Vol.9 pp.9-10



What Popoki Means to Me

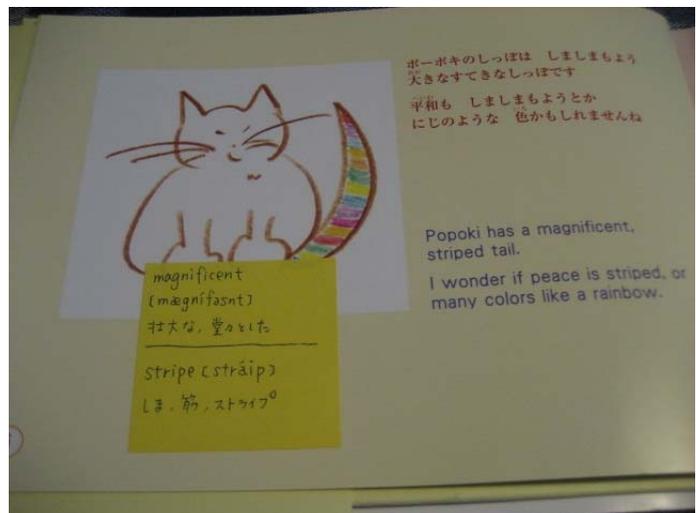
Dear Popoki

I'm so glad to know about your worldwide activities from reading 'Popoki News.' Ronni sends it to me and I am impressed a lot by Popoki Power to promote peace everywhere.

It might interest you to know that your book has been very active in my English lessons, too. My students practice reading English sentences aloud, using good pronunciation and intonation. At the same time, they are asked to read the Japanese sentences, also with perfection.

It is very important for Japanese students to know the meaning of the English sentences they are studying. *Popoki, What Color is Peace?* is an ideal textbook because it is written both in English and Japanese. I truly enjoy reading it with my students, imagining Popoki's voice and gestures from Ronni's pictures and text.

Take a look at this picture. One of my students looked up the meaning of unfamiliar words in the dictionary and wrote them down on post-its. She wants to keep her book clean, so she doesn't write the meaning directly on the page. Take a close look at it. You see also the phonetic signs. She practices reading the sentences with good pronunciation. In doing so, she feels you, Popoki, are just beside her.



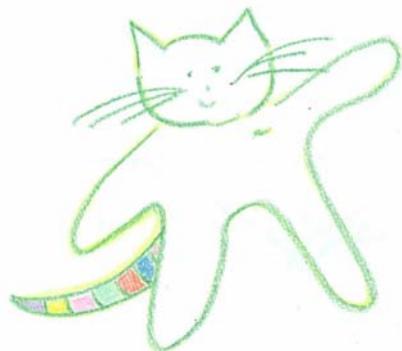
I know you will keep visiting more places, not only in Japan but also all over the world to meet more people. So wonderful!!!! I hope you enjoy every single new encounter.

Take care.

Sincerely,

Kanoko

Please join us!



- 5.23 Reading with children at *Kodomo no Sato* [Nishinari-ku, Osaka] 17:00-18:30
- 5.31 Workshop on Reading Aloud with Rev. Masada (using Popoki!) 13:00- Location: Youth Plaza KOBE EAST (North of Hankyu Mikage station)
- 6.28 Popoki in Kitakyushu!
- 7.4 Popoki at Kinki University!
- 7.28-8.4 Popoki at International Institute for Peace, Haifa
- 8.12 Popoki at JICA Center !?!
- September 13 Popoki at the Children's Museum in Pittsburgh
- October 16-18 Popoki at 'Learning Democracy,' Toronto



PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THE POPOKI PEACE PROJECT!

The Popoki Peace Project is a voluntary project which uses Popoki's peace book and DVD to promote peace through various activities such as peace camps, peace workshops, seminars and other activities including work on *Popoki's Peace Book 2. Popoki, What Color is Peace?* has been translated into Thai, Chinese, Korean, Khmer, Indonesian, Tetun and Bengali. Farsi, Lao, Swahili, Hebrew and Arabic translations are underway. If you would like to translate Popoki, or have a way to have the book sold at your local bookstore, please let us know.



How to purchase *Popoki, What Color is Peace? Popoki's Peace Book 1* from outside of Japan

1. Go to your local Japanese bookstore: Kinokuniya, Maruzen, etc. (or their website)
2. In North America, thanks to a very satisfied customer, *Popoki, What Color is Peace? Popoki's Peace Book 1* can be ordered from Kinokuniya Bookstore in Los Angeles. The bookstore is at www.los_angeles@kinokuniya.com and the telephone number is 213.687.4480. The price is US\$20.00 plus tax.

How to purchase *Popoki, What Color is Peace? Popoki's Peace Book 1* from inside Japan



There are various ways.

From the publisher, Epic: TEL: 078-241-7561 · FAX: 078-241-1918

From Amazon.co.jp or your local bookseller

From the Popoki Peace Project (popokipeace.yahoo.co.jp)



Contributions are always welcome!

Popoki Peace Project popokipeace@yahoo.co.jp



<http://popoki.cruisejapan.com>

From within Japan, please use Popoki's Postal account.

Account Name ポーポキ・ピース・プロジェクト神戸

Account number: 00920-4-280350



THANK YOU FROM

POPOKI !