



Since the beginning of September, Japan has experienced a series of typhoons and water damage. Not only Japan, but other places, too!

Everyone, please be careful. And if possible, every day remember Popoki and smile....

Popoki's Hot News!



Popoki Peace Map Event!

Our town. The place where we live, learn and work.

How about getting your camera and sketch book and joining us to look for peace? Is there peace in our town?

What color is that 'peace'? How does it smell, taste, sound?

2011.11.12 Join us for an adventure! (Details on page 9)



Pieces of Peace

One of Popoki's friends, Aastha-san, sent a piece of peace:

" This summer I went to visit my brother to help him during his time of difficulty. Unfortunately, in spite of my best efforts I felt that he was uncomfortable accepting my help. There were days I felt that he did not want me around. I returned to Japan with an emptiness in my heart. But, when I called my mom the day after I returned to wish her 'Happy Birthday', she told me how my brother called her as soon as I left for the airport and told her how grateful he was that I visited and that I was there for him every single day. That night I had the most peaceful sleep of my life ☺. "

Please contribute a bit of peace! What sort of 'peace' did you encounter today? Please let us know by sending a message to Popoki's e-mail: popokipeace@gmail.com



New videos on Popoki Friendship Story Project's page!

Popoki Friendship Story in Otsuchi-cho, Iwate

Popoki Friendship Story in Miyagi

Popoki Friendship Story in Guam

URL: http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/monogatari_e.html

Please have a look!

http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/index_e.html

[popokipeace \(at\) gmail \(dot\) com](mailto:popokipeace(at)gmail(dot)com)

Popoki Friendship Story Project/ポーポキ友情物語プロジェクト

You can help by making a panel!

Let's connect ourselves to one another with a long cloth! Popoki is supporting the earthquake areas using everyone's strength and caring. The cloth began in Kobe, traveled to Miyagi and Iwate Prefectures, and is now in Kobe.

How about making a section?



詳しくはポーポキにメールへ。 Information: popokipeace@gmail.com

次のリンクで最近のプロジェクトを見ることができます。 Link for more information:

http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/monogatari_e.html

Length/長さ: ≤5meters(つないでい)

We will connect the sections

Width/幅 45cm

* Hem the edges/ヘリ縫いをする

Fabric: cotton broadcloth/

素材: 綿ブロード。

Color: Very light pink, or as you like

色: 薄いピンク、又はお好きな色



出来上がった布をポーポキ・ピース・プロジェクト宛(657-8501 神戸市灘区六甲台町 2-1 神戸大学大学院国際協力研究科 ロニー・アレキサンダー方)へお送り下さい

Please send finished sections to: Popoki Peace Project, c/o Ronni Alexander, GSICS, Kobe University, Rokkodai, Nada-Ku, Kobe 657-8501 JAPAN



Popoki's Earthquake Support Interview (5) Tsukasa Nishiyama

This time, Tsukasa(T) from Po-kai interviewed Marie Mizuta(M) who is studying in Graduate School of International Cooperation Study, Kobe University. Mizuta-san went to Kesennuma-oshima which is the island of Miyagi prefecture from July 16-17 as a volunteer of Amanto-group which is the group for regional activation of Nakasaki, Osaka.

Let's start the interview!!

※Amanto-group : <http://amanto.jp/japanese>

T: What was your impression of Kesennuma-oshima?

M: There was a lot of rubble around the island due to little support from the government. I felt it was dangerous because the rubble seemed to fly if a strong wind blew. We, volunteers separated and classified rubble on the seashore.

T: Could you see many people in the island?

M: No, I couldn't. The island was almost empty. At first, people fled to tourist homes or schools on high locations on the island. But now, most of people depend on their relatives in the Mainland and have fled there. There are some people like the person who runs the tourist home where we stayed and the elderly, who don't want to leave the island. However, everything was washed away by the tsunami. Actually, the damage was so terrible that the island was split into two, and some of the land sunk. So it is not a place people can live in as in the past.

T: What was the island like before the Tsunami?

M: I don't know in detail. But I heard that it was considered second only to Okinawa for its beautiful beaches, so a lot of tourists visited there. There were many tourist homes. The Island had a junior high school but didn't have any high schools, so workers and high school students commuted to the mainland every day. Unfortunately there were many people on the sea at that time of Tsunami, and almost all of them were washed away.

T: I guess there were a lot of people who were going to return to their homes.

M: I think so. But there was one person who could get back to the island safely. His ship was the only help for carrying supplies from the mainland to the island for a while, because support from outside people was so delayed. If that person was not able to come back, there may have been even more victims. I felt afraid of fate.

T: What do you remember with your senses? For example, color?

M: I felt a jumble of colors of rubble. However, I was impressed by red tiles which sticking out of rice fields. There must have been many houses with red tiles on the island. It looked like the ground felt pain. It was already summer when I went, the sky was so beautiful with the deep blue. I also felt the air was so good with the comfortable cool breeze of the Tohoku district, though dust was floating when we worked. There was the contrast between the

beauty of nature and jumbled debris.

T: Were there any smells?

M: I felt the smell of the sea and of bad plants. Tatami mats which were scattered on beaches gave off a terrible smell, because at high tide they were flooded again and again and were rotten. Though it is difficult to explain, there was also the smell of sludge.

T: What beside tatami mats was on the ground?

M: Whatever we use in our life. Pine trees were also on the ground. But I was impressed by bent glasses in particular. I was sad to see them because I thought the person had worn them might have been killed by the tsunami.

T: I was also sad when I saw many things which made me think of people's daily life on TV. You saw those directly in the island. Pine trees were the seawall, right?

M: Yes, they were. Kesennuma-oshima experienced a huge tsunami a century ago, too. This history has been told in the famous Japanese animation, "Nihon Mukashi-Banashi." So, there was the seawall of pine trees, but it was useless this time. I had heard the sound of waves hitting pine trees all the time I was working.

T: Were there other sounds? I heard the island was almost empty of people, but how about other creatures?

M: There was no sound except for the water and the wind. There were no cicadas' songs and I couldn't see any birds. It was so silent though I thought the sounds of the water might be louder than other sounds because we were working on the beach. I didn't see any creatures except for insects which appeared from the ground. Towns and forests experienced a fire after the earthquake. Maybe that is one of the causes.

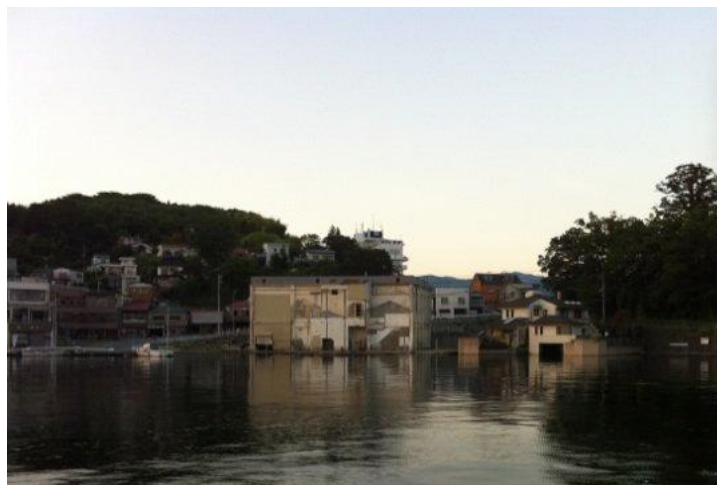
T: The ecosystem of the island was broken, too!?! Were you impressed by any other things?

M: Yes, I was impressed by things said by the owner of the tourist home where we stayed. He went to a morgue looking for parents of a girl who was 5 years old. He had to look for their bodies after looking through photos of faces. When he was turning over pages of photos of the faces of a lot of dead people, gradually he got to see his face on these photos instead of the dead, he said. He wondered why they died and why he lived. He didn't feel alive at the time. It would be a heavy task to have to look for victims in such a way. But I became scared, because I also felt like that truly there is a destiny between life and death.

T: How meaningful was this experience of going to the disaster area for you?

M: I think it was really good for me that I actually went to the Tohoku district. Volunteers were talking to each other about their feelings after the 2 days, and many said "I could finally settle down my mind." Though someone may accuse us of self-satisfaction, I could see the reality of the disaster area and could think that I wanted to go there again in private for relationships between victims and me. When we think of long-range recovery, it is so important to build relationships to people of the Tohoku district, I think. It relieved our minds to link up with persons of the Tohoku district whom we had watched on TV for such a long time.

T: Thank you for your valuable talk. I also thought that it was actually important to build relationships directly for keeping each other in mutual help for a long time.



POPOKI'S SUMMER VACATION = REVISITING OTSUCHI-CHO

"Matsu akashi"

SATOKO

Even now in Otsuchi-cho, Iwate Prefecture, a small fire called, "Matsu Akashi," is lit every day during the Bon Festival from August 13 to 16. The fire is to guide the spirits of those who have died to help them come back.

We visited Iwate Prefecture again from August 15 to the 18th and brought Popoki's Friendship Story. Although we hesitated to go at the time of the Bon Festival, our friend in Iwate said, "After the 15th is OK," so we decided to go.

We made new friends. If we go to a house and our friend is engaged, she will not hesitate to go out and leave us there alone in the house. People came from all over at all times of day to offer prayers, even if the person who lives there was not at home. I felt that people really have a strong sense of community.

But, in temporary housing, people do not know one another and they hesitate to ask their neighbors for even small favors. Sitting near the temporary housing, we met a group of people engaged in earnest discussion about the future of their town prior to an election for a new town council.

Not only people who suffered a great deal of damage, but also the articles left behind have a story. We wanted to meet once again a person who we had met only once in a shelter, and searched for her. Many people helped us and we felt joy when we were able to connect again. It is the beginning of new relationship.

Popoki's Friendship Story cloth has helped us to connect with many new and different people. From now on, too..



Popoki at the 8th International Understanding Seminar for living Together



Satonyan

Popoki held a workshop at this year's seminar held at JICA Hyogo this year also.

Many teachers from various schools attended and kept Popoki very busy! Of course, I also helped just a little bit.

Did these teachers come because they are not at peace themselves? At first they all wore very hard expressions.

But by the time the 'Popoki Theater' finished, the feeling in the room had become very calm, and the drawings the participants made of "a town to live in with Popoki" were overflowing with living things and very beautiful.

I was most surprised when during the question time

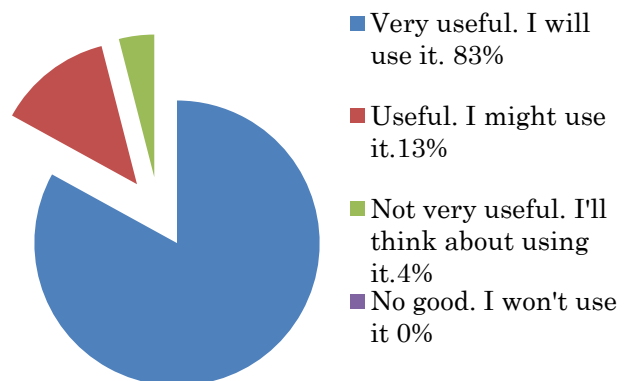
one person wanted Ronni to read from *Popoki, What Color is Peace?* in English. Ronni's eyes became even more round than usual, but read some pages with a great voice, and I listened in rapture.

I thought it might be good if everybody read out loud together.

I wonder what kind of teachers we will meet next year?



Evaluation



UPDATE ON 2 SUMMER EVENTS (SEE POPOKI NEWS NO.72 FOR MORE)



① **Special contribution from a friend of Popoki's:** After the Tosabori YMCA Summer Seminar 2011 Popoki workshop, one of Popoki's new friends, Yudai Kuzuya, a student at the YMCA International High School drew a picture of Popoki-as-human.



②Thinking about Nuclear Power on August 6th (from our joint meeting with Remembering Hiroshima Imagining Peace)

Kyoko MORI

I would like to talk and share with you about the nuclear issue from the view point of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. As you know, on March 11, a huge earthquake and tsunami hit Japan. Suddenly we have to face the radioactive pollution problem in a wide area. Until now, actually I was not very concerned about nuclear issue, especially nuclear power plant. It might be same for most Japanese. I started to think about why Japan accepted nuclear power plants, in spite of knowing the danger of radioactivity from the experience of atomic bomb. At the same time of that question arose, I also realized that I did not think about nuclear power as a “Nuclear issue”. I talked about the issue of nuclear weapons, but did not talk about nuclear power. Why? Nuclear power was recognized as an energy issue under the idea of peaceful use of nuclear technology, and not questioned. Under this idea, even though historically there were a lot of campaigns and movements opposing atomic and hydrogen bombs, we accepted nuclear power and now we have 54 nuclear power plants in Japan.

This point has not changed yet. In a TV program, they addressed the issue of “*Hibakusha*” in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the context of WWII. However, they did not touch on the connection between nuclear power and Hiroshima and Nagasaki, or mention how we came to accept nuclear power. Most media divides these issues as different problems.

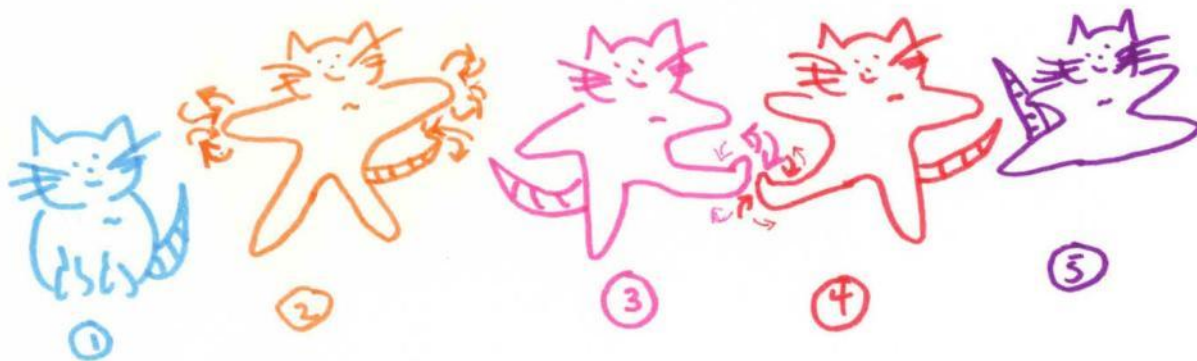
Now I am very happy to get a chance to understand the nuclear power issue from the historical point of view. It has given me a new perspective to learn from the past about what we should do now. This is not only an issue for Japan, but also for the world. It is time to re-think the real meaning of “the peaceful use of nuclear.” I would like to share and think about this issue with all of you.

Thank you.

Popoki's Easy Poga

Lesson 40

This month's theme is stretching our wrists and ankles and balance. We hope it makes you feel better!



1. As always, begin with sitting up straight and making yourself look thin.
 2. Next, stand with your arms out to the sides and twist your wrist back...and forward
 3. Next, standing on one leg, raise the other leg and twist your ankle forward...and back... Use your tail to help you keep your balance!
 4. Now try switching legs....
 5. Did it? Good for you! Time for the "I did it!" pose!
- Congratulations! You have successfully completed Lesson 40. Do you feel refreshed? Please remember to relax, breathe, laugh and practice for 3 minutes every day.

Please join us!

Next Po-kai: 2011.9.27 Kobe YMCA 306 19:00-

- 9.27 `Volunteering and International Cooperation' Symposium at Kobe University
- 10.14-15 Popoki at Asia Pacific Peace Research Association (APPR), Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto
- 10.22 Popoki Friendship Story exhibit at Peace as a Global Language, Konan University?
- 10.23 Popoki Friendship Story exhibit at Kobe YMCA Sannomiya Bazaar?
- 10.29 Popoki Friendship Story at Kobe University Homecoming Day (Kobe)
- 10.30 Popoki Friendship Story at Human Rights Institute Conference, Kinosaki
- 11.12 Peace & Health Map! 13:00-16:00 Hyogo University of Health Sciences, Kobe Port Island with Semester at Sea students from US. ¥500 Reservations necessary. Contact: HUHS, Community Relations Center: Tel: 080-6204-8793 (Weekday, 9:30-16:00)
- 11.26 Popoki Mini Film Festival Kobe YMCA (all day event)



http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/index_e.html
[popokipeace \(at\) gmail \(dot\) com](mailto:popokipeace@gmail.com)

Popoki in Print

- S. McLaren. "The Art of Healing"(Popoki Friendship Story Project) *Kansai Scene*. Issue 133, June 2011, p.10. kansaiscene.com
- R. Alexander. (2010) "The Popoki Peace Project: Creating New Spaces for Peace in Demenchonok, E., ed. *Philosophy after Hiroshima*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, pp.399-418
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- "What is Behind 'Popoki, What Color is Peace?'" 1st in a series in "Tosabori Life" No.19 2010.10:4 (*In Japanese*)
- HORIKOSHI Takeshi. "Kokusai no mado" (article about Palestine) *Kobe YMCA News* No.604 2010.9-10, p.3
- "If we all participate, something will change! Reflecting on Palestine" THE YMCA No.607 June 2010, p.1 (YMCA Japan Monthly Newspaper)
- Hiroshima and the World: What Color is Hiroshima? Chugoku Shimbun Peace Media Center, http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/mediacenter/article.php?story=20100312140608602_en 2010.3.15
- FM COCOLO 76.5 'Heart Lines' 2010.1.9 Japanese Interview: Ronni on Popoki in Palestine
- "Human Rights, Popoki and Bare Life." *In Factis Pax Journal of Peace Education and Social Justice* Vol.3, No.1, 2009, pp.46-63 (<http://www.infactispax.org/journal/>)
- Nishide, Ikuyo. "Popoki, What Color is Peace? Lecture by Ronni Alexander." "PPSEAWA" (Pan-Pacific and south-East Asia Women's Association of Japan), No.63, 2009.12, p.5
- 'Friendship' No.2 2009.11 Itami City International/Peace Exchange Commission, Annual Events, p.1-2.
- 'Not for But With...' No.79, 2010.1 Notice of the Popoki Peace Challenge event. P.12
- 'Nada' notice of the Popoki Peace Challenge event, 2009.12, p.2
- 'Yujotte...Kangaeru Ehon.' Asahi Shimbun 2009.7.2 AKUZAWA Etsuko
- 'Yujo wo kangaete - Ningen to, Neko to, soshite Jibun to,' RST/ALN, No.259 2009.6.28, p.11
- 'New Books: *Popoki, What Color is Friendship? Popoki's Peace Book 2* ' (Rebecca Jennison) "Cutting-Edge," Vol.35 2009.6, p.3
- 'Thinking about Peace with a Cat: Second Peace Book Published.' (SAITO Masashi) *Kobe Shimbun*, 2009.4.21
- 'Popoki, What Color is Peace?' Kobe YMCA News, 2009.3.1. No.593. p.2
- 'Popoki, What Color is Trash?' Kobe YMCA News, 2009.1.1. No.592. p.2
- 'Tomodachi ni Natte Kuremasenkai,' RST/ALN, 2009.2.22
- Popoki on the radio. <http://www.kizzna.fm/> Click on 6CH to hear the program and reading of Popoki in Japanese
- *Yasashii kara hito nann desu* Exhibition Organizing Committee 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights.' Hyogo Buraku Liberation and Human Rights Institute. 2008.10. ¥500. For information contact: blrhyg@osk3.3web.jp
- "KFAW College Seminar: What Color is Peace for Women? Thinking about Peace, Violence and Gender with Popoki." Asian Breeze No.54 October 2008, p.8 (Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women)
- *Kobe Shimbun* "Human Rights Declaration Exhibition Panels: 6 Local Hyogo Artists Illustrate all 30 Articles" 2008.10.8. p.10
- "An Interview with Dr. Ronni Alexander." *The Newpeople*, Pittsburgh's Peace and Justice Newspaper, Vol.38 No.9, October 2008, p.5
- "Nuclear Security is Inhuman Security - Dr. Ronni Alexander speaks about Hiroshima and Nagasaki." *The Newpeople*, Pittsburgh's Peace and Justice Newspaper, Vol.38 No.9, Oct. 2008, p.4
- Popoki in Pittsburgh. Check out the Remembering Hiroshima/Imagining Peace URL: <http://www.rememberinghiroshima.org/>
- Global Campaign for Peace Education News #57 August 2008 (The Global Campaign for Peace Education (GCPE) e-newsletter. Sign-up to receive the newsletter and review back issues online at www.tc.edu/PeaceEd/newsletter.)



* Back issues of Popoki News: http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/archives_e.html



What Popoki Means to Me

Noriko Aonagi



It's September. Autumn has come. That is my favorite season.
I am really grateful for living in this beautiful time this year again.

Meanwhile, I have been scared of war since I was a child, wishing to live in a peaceful country.

Fortunately, Japan has not had a war since World War II.

However, I feel sorry that war, conflict and terror are still occurring throughout the globe.

I met Popoki early this year.

He loves peace as well as me, but seems to be a more earnest thinker than I am.

Therefore, I have learned a lot of issues from Popoki.

For instance, no war is not always peace.

We often find many non-peaceful things in our life.

Whereas there must be plenty of peaceful moments.

I would like to carry on reducing non-peaceful things, and fill the world with peace with Popoki, wishing everyone in the world can enjoy beautiful and hopeful season.



(Popoki's friends and I love flowers)

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. *Popoki, What Color is Peace?* has been translated into Thai, Chinese, Korean, Khmer, Indonesian, Tetun and Bengali, Vietnamese, Arabic and Hebrew. Spanish, Farsi, Lao, Swahili, 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 the US, 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. It is also available at Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Pittsburgh, PA.

***Popoki, What Color is Friendship? Popoki's Peace Book 2* is not yet available at these bookstores.**

Some ways to purchase *Popoki, What Color is Peace? Popoki's Peace Book 1* and *Popoki, What Color is Friendship? Popoki's Peace Book 2* from inside Japan

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\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com](mailto:popokipeace(at)gmail(dot)com))

Contributions are always welcome!

Popoki Peace Project popokipeace-at-gmail.com

<http://popoki.cruisejapan.com>



From within Japan, please use our Postal account or Postal bank account:

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