



It's October! In Kobe, the weather is still over 20 degrees centigrade but the leaves are starting to turn color. There are Halloween decorations all over, too. I hope the decorations make you 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, Satoshi-nyan, sent a piece of peace: "To my father who retired this September, I'm ashamed to show you my appreciation, but convinced your working has made my peace."

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!

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/へり縫いをする

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



く)

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

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

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

Popoki in the Czech Republic



Suzana Hanibalova

This summer Popoki and I decided to take a trip to my homeland, the Czech Republic. As always Popoki wouldn't join just for a single trip, he had a special mission.

Six months have passed since the big earthquake and tsunami occurred in the Northeast of Japan but people in the Czech Republic still kept this tragic news in their minds and hearts. How are the people over there? Were they able to get back to their normal lives? Popoki replied to all of those and other questions and soon thanks to the Popoki Friendship Story our Czech friends were able to express what they had been thinking and feeling and what they had had on their minds for all those previous months.

Popoki soon made lots of friends and started with his project. Each person had a bit different ideas and different feelings to share. For example, a seven year old girl-friend of Popoki's who drew a picture of a house, a cat and flowers said that "I'm not sure what tsunami means, but sometimes we have a big water (floods) in the Czech Republic and after that many houses, beautiful flowers and my favorite places disappear. So I want to send a new house, flowers and a cat like Popoki to Japanese children". Popoki's ten year old boy-friend who drew a Christmas tree and Christmas presents mentioned that "at Christmas little Jesus (in the Czech Republic not Santa Claus, but little Jesus brings presents) delivers a favorite present to each child." When I asked him what are those presents, he responded that "anything that each child and each adult from northeast of



Japan is now wishing to have most". The adult Popoki friends also drew pictures or shared their feelings through a few messages in Czech... "Although we are 10,000 km distant, we are still together...We are always thinking about you...We love



you...We pray for the quick return to your normal life." I pray too....

Popoki...Thank you for coming! Please come to Czech Republic again*



Popoki's Earthquake Support Interview (6)

Satoshi Ariyama and Marie Tada

2011/10/20(Thu)

Satoshi Ariyama (Graduate School of Economics, Kobe University: Ari) and I (Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies, Kobe University: Tad) interviewed Kai Nishii (Faculty of Human Development, Kobe University: Nis) and Ai Matsuyama (Faculty of Economics, Kobe University: Mat). Nishii-san and Matsuyama-san participated in “Kobe University Tono Volunteer Bus,” the same as Ariyama-san and Tamura-san, whose interview article was published in Popoki News No. 72. Nishii-san went to Tono on the 1st volunteer bus and also on the 3rd one, from 30th April to 8th May this year. Matsuyama-san also went on the 3rd bus.

The “Kobe University Tono Volunteer Bus” sets its base in Tono City in Iwate Prefecture and holds volunteer activities in Otsuchi-cho and Rikuzentakada City, where there was severe damage from the Eastern Japan Earthquake. The volunteers are divided into several groups, and each group makes a “cafe” near temporary housing, sets up a volunteer center to serve as a local base for volunteer activities, collects people’s voices and provides information to people who want to do volunteer work.

In this interview, we are interested in people’s feelings such as those of the victims and the volunteer members, and connection between people.

Tad: Nishii-san, is there any difference between the 1st and the 2nd time you went?

Nis: There is. When I went to Tono on the 1st volunteer bus, the victims still lived in shelters. But many of them had already moved into temporary housing when I went there the next time. We set up tents near the temporary housing and gave “foot baths” which we also did the 1st time and also did a “café activity”. The “Café activity” is the activity to have communication not only between the victims and volunteer members but also among the victims themselves through having tea and toast. According to the stories from the victims, I found out the connection within the community in Tohoku had been very strong. At the temporary housing, people from different areas come and live together so one of the purposes is to have the place people get to know each other. As another activity of the 3rd volunteer bus, we cleaned up rubble on the railroad tracks. The difference between my 1st and 2nd time which I remember most is the scenery. The second time, the rubble was already cleaned up



Café Activity at Temporary Housing

compared with the 1st. I remember the weeds had grown all over the place.



←The rubble has been cleared and there are weeds growing everywhere

Tad: As for the difference, do you feel something with your body, like smell?

Nis: Not exactly.

Tad: Do you have any memorable episode from there?

Nis: The kids.

Tad: What about the kids?

Nis: They are 3rd or 4th grade elementary school students. I just happened to see them the second time I went, but I met them the first time I went! They remembered me and said “Megane (means eyeglasses which Nishii-san’s nickname).” Speaking of children, I just remembered an episode from the 1st time. A kid asked the volunteer members, “where did you come from?” I answered, “Kobe,” and then the kid said, “Did the tsunami come to Kobe?” “No.” The kid, “It isn’t fair.”

Tad: Did you say anything to that?

Nis: No, I couldn’t.

Tad: Did you feel anything else about children?

Nis: Children asked the volunteer members to fill out profile cards. Kids exchange profile cards among themselves. The card has a box with the question, “Things You Want.” They wrote “house” immediately. One more thing, there was a rumor among elementary school students which was, “There will be a tsunami coming again in the middle of May.”

Tad: How did you feel about the feeling the victims had? Is there any difference between the 1st and the 2nd time you went?

Nis: I think the victim’s feelings are gradually recovering. When I participated in the 1st bus trip, some people told their stories with tears in their eyes, but the next time I went, some of the victims tried to be nice and ask some questions to the volunteer members. Also the victims are beginning to ask for things directly, such as “Please do this” to the volunteer.

Ari: Then what do the victims feel about people coming from outside of the devastated area?

Nis: Inside or somewhere in their minds, maybe they sometimes think, “You never understand us,” but I didn’t feel we were refused. One of the reasons is because we are students. That may make the victims open up conversation with us. However, it seems to me that sometimes they seem to have gotten used to having relationships built on special treatment, almost like they have become too accustomed to saying, “thank you”.

Tad: On the other hand, is there any difference in the motivation of the volunteers between the 1st and the 2nd time you went?

Nis: Yes. The second time, I think we have room not to think only about volunteer activities. In the 1st volunteer bus, we had a very dark mood, but we were relaxed and had conversation about love on the 3rd bus.

Tad: What did you do as a volunteer on the 3rd bus?

Mat: Basically we did “foot bath” and cleaning up the rubble.

Tad: Where was the foot bath held?

Mat: In Rikuzentakada City, we did it near temporary housing because many people moved there.

Tad: When you got off the bus there, what did you feel?

Mat: I saw the same pictures as I saw on the television. But when I cleaned up rubble, I felt “someone lived here.” When I saw toys under the rubble, I thought “a child lived here?” When I found a book written by Soseki Natsume, I thought, “maybe an old person lived here”.

Tad: Do you have any story to share with us?

Mat: I had several conversations with the victims. I can tell you the episode about an elderly man. When I walked around in the temporary housing area for the “cafe” activity, I met an elderly man. He was making a model dragonfly in his house. Suddenly he said to me, “Do you want to see it?” I was invited to his house, and he told me why he was making the model dragonfly. He had lost his best friend because of the earthquake, and his friend had taught him how to make model dragonflies. He said he kept making the models to remind him of his friend. His best friend has been showing up in his dreams and saying, “Please make the model,” “Thank you for making this.” I wound up talking to him for an hour.

Tad: Did the victims say what they want or what they want the volunteers to do?

Mat: Some people said they got basic goods from volunteers but they still didn’t have other many other things they liked. For example, one person said, “I got a TV but I don’t have a DVD player/recorder,” and others said they want knitting wool, or books to read. These are not everyday commodities but very important part of their life. The elderly man who makes the model dragonflies said he doesn’t have enough materials.

Tad: As to the victims’ feelings, did you feel something about the way they treat the volunteers?

Mat: They seem more Genki (cheerful) than I expected. However it doesn’t mean they are naturally Genki. They seem they make themselves Genki to re-start everything.

Ari: What do you think that “Genki” means?

Mat: It’s like because they cannot say any negative words. Maybe it means they now have room or energy to show their Genki.

Tad: I didn't hear any episodes about young people. What are 20-30 year old people doing there?

Mat: The reason I didn't meet them is that they didn't show up in "café activity" or "foot bath" much.

Tad: What are other people doing there?

Mat: In general, the area the earthquake hit basically doesn't have many jobs. So the slow



recovery process makes people a little upset. For instance, in the devastated area, many people have been working as fishermen for many years. Tsunami took away all the tools which fishermen need to work, including the boats. They spent a lot of time at sea. They don't want to have another job. They don't leave the area either.

We would like to say thank you to Nishii-san and Matsuyama-san.

Temporary Housing



POPOKI IN MALAYSIA!!

Kana Urai

I had a good time with Popoki in Malaysia



In Pahang State, Malaysia, there is a little city named Kuala Lipis, which has a population of 87,000. I am working in the Social Welfare Office of Kuala Lipis as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer from JICA, and engage in social work for disabled people.

Malaysia is a multiethnic country. Sixty percent of the population is Malay, thirty percent is Chinese, ten percent is Indian, and there are many kinds of

indigenous people too. Kuala Lipis also has these various ethnic groups. This local city only has one supermarket, some little shops and restaurants. The rest of the land of Kuala Lipis is covered with coconut forests.

Like Japanese social welfare departments, our social welfare office gives aid to disabled people, elderly people, children, poor people and others. Now because of the rainy season, the floods happen here and there. Therefore, we are giving aid to the flood victims too. I am working in the section for disabled people. My function is to visit the centre for disabled people in order to create activities for them, and also to be a job coach for them too.

The other day, I made a workshop to read Popoki's peace book at the centre for disabled children in Kuala Lipis. I read some pages from the beginning of *Popoki's Peace Book 1*. We used a big paper Popoki, and enjoyed Popoki's colorful tail and his noise. These children really liked his cry, like "Meoonggg"! At the end, each of us chose pastels and enjoyed coloring the big paper Popoki. The children, who are sometimes naughty, paid attention and listened to Popoki's story. It was so impressive and we could have a great time there.

In Malay language, we use "selamat" for the beginning of greetings. This word means "safe and calm". I think people use this word in order to hope for a calm and peaceful time. If I can get any more chances, I really want to try Popoki program again here in Malaysia.



(Omake)

I tried "batik" and made a picture of Popoki with wax. In this painting, Popoki is running in a local village in Malaysia.



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

Popoki's Easy Poga

Lesson 41

This month's theme is hips and legs. We hope it makes you feel better!



1. As always, begin with sitting up straight and making yourself look thin.
 2. Next, lie down, bending your right knee and lifting your left leg and tail. Twist your leg and tail in one direction, and then the other.
 3. Now reverse legs.
 4. OK, try it with both legs, and of course your tail!
 5. Did it? Good for you! Time for the "I did it!" pose!
- Congratulations! You have successfully completed Lesson 41. Do you feel refreshed? Please remember to relax, breathe, laugh and practice for 3 minutes every day.



Please join us!

Next Po-kai: 2011.11.3 HUHS P-2 floor Chiikirenkeishitu 16:00-

10.23 Popoki Friendship Story activity at Kobe YMCA Sannomiya Bazaar; 10:00-14:00

10.29 Popoki Friendship Story at Kobe University Homecoming Day (Kobe)

10.30 Popoki Friendship Story at Human Rights Institute Conference, Kinokuniya

11.3 Popoki Peace and Health Map dry run. 12:50 at Port Terminal Station.

Port Liner ← New meeting location!

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 (10:00-14:00; check for details)



Popoki in Print

- K. Wada. "Conversations with Ronni Alexander: The Popoki Peace Project; Popoki, What Color is Peace? Popoki, What Color is Friendship?" *International Feminist Journal of Politics* Vol.13, No.2, 2011, 257-263
- 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
- 省窓:Column in *Kobe YMCA News*, No.606, 2011.1, p.1 (*In Japanese*)
- "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/>
- * Back issues of Popoki News: http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/archives_e.html





What Popoki Means to Me



Azumi Sadahiro



The first time I met Popoki was this April at the strawberry picking.

Since I did not know enough about Popoki, I just enjoyed the time to eat strawberries. And I was just a greedy girl and ate a lot!

The next time I met Popoki was at Kodomo no sato in Kamagasaki. In the process of preparing the program, I began to know and understand about Popoki. That was actually my first meeting with him.

When I heard the question "What color is peace?" for first time, I thought that there was no clear answer and it made me uncomfortable. On the other hand I felt that it was such a cute question. The question makes me think of children or cats, trying to sharpen their claws on something big and important, like peace.

What color is peace actually? I cannot find the answer right away, but for me the answer depends on whether his/her mind is peaceful and does not depend on the surroundings. That is my answer at this moment. However, I cannot say what is that color.

As a turning point, after the Great East Japan earthquake, we are beginning to look for the transformation of values to enrich the society with real meaning.

Even though we are in a society of abundance, we are also a society dependent on the horrible nuclear power plant and a mass consumer society using limited energy. Even though networks have grown through the internet, a society that has lost connection between individuals is not acceptable. Most people might think that now is the time we need to think about what is true peace.

The time has come to think and find answers together to that cute question, "What color is peace?".



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>



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THANK YOU FROM
POPOKI!



Thank you!

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