

# Popoki



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It is rainy season. Popoki doesn't like getting wet, but he likes the way the rain makes all the plants and flowers grow and the world glisten!

## Popoki's Hot News!



### More Popoki T-shirts!

We ran out of adult sizes in we made some more. This time, light yellow, light blue, gray SS-LL. There are children's The T-shirts cost ¥1500.



Popoki T-shirts so we have purple, and white in sizes sizes, too.

### Pieces of Peace



One of Popoki's friends, Shiro-nyan, sent the following piece of peace: "May happiness shine on all people!"

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.

### AIDS Festa is coming up soon!

7/7 11:00-16:00 at Duo Kobe (near JR Kobe Station) in Kobe. Popoki will have a booth, exhibition and a stage performance from 11:30 to 11:45!

Staff: meet at 10:30. Hope to see you there!

\*We have received a grant to help with our preparations for this event

### Thank you for your continuing help!

*Popoki's Friendship Story - Our Peace Journey Born out of the Great Northeastern Japan Earthquake* is getting a good reception, thanks to help from his friends. Please help to let more people know!

More information about the book at:

<http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/monogatari.html>

It is on sale at bookstores and at the Kobe YMCA too!



Popoki Peace Project at the Nada Challenge ~~  
Taro Taniguchi  
Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies  
On June 19th 2012 (Sun) 10:00~16:00  
Tokagawa Park

Hello everybody!! Today, I would like to make a report of our activity in Popoki Peace Project at the Nada Challenge festival, and the responses to it.

Do you know what Nada Challenge is? As far as I could tell, it was an enjoyable festival, but....



occurred at the Tokagawa River in 2008, 4 years ago. The river is the place where the Festival is held, and this year was the 18<sup>th</sup> year. It has been run jointly by some Kobe University student volunteers and local residents since 1995, when the festival started.

. In fact, Nada Challenge began in 1995, 17 years ago, after the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. Nada Challenge was begun as a festival of revival and recovery.

Nada Challenge also has a meaning of trying not to forget the accident that



There were a lot of stands and booths. We introduced and sold Popoki T-shirts, badges, picture books and so on. We asked people to write "today's words of peace" and we did theater acting on the stage.

I was especially impressed when we did theater acting on the stage. When the stage characters ran into trouble, some children raised their hands and gave some advice. I was impressed because the advice was so innocent.





Children give innocent and surprising ideas. We may have been that way too when we were children, but we cannot even imagine such having such ideas now. At times like this, I feel the potential of children. They are so pure that they can be dyed with any color. If possible, I hope the Nada challenge and our Popoki Peace Project would gently give color to the pure white of the children and I hope we can help create a bridge to a bright future.

Finally, we displayed a Popoki's Friendship Story cloth. We asked people, who were from young to old, to draw a picture on the cloth!! The cloth will travel around Tohoku



where people still suffer from the scars of the Great East Japan Earthquake, and other places all over the world, too. When we told people that, some wanted deliver their thoughts with a "heart" and "love", others wanted to deliver "a smile", and another said, "I want just draw a picture"!! Anyway, I think they have



expressed their feelings and thoughts honestly. I am surprised wonder that it is easy to express their feelings through drawing pictures.

I am not good at expressing my love directly, so I thought "it can be possible to deliver the feelings to faraway" when I saw everyone directly express and draw their thoughts on the cloth. I hope everyone's feeling will connect with others all over the world!!



# Popoki meets Taiki!

At Nada Challenge, Popoki made a new friend: Taiki-kun.  
Here is Taiki-kun's photo. →

After meeting Popoki, Taiki-kun went home and made up a story.  
Here it is, below.



① Popoki



② One day, there was a cat.

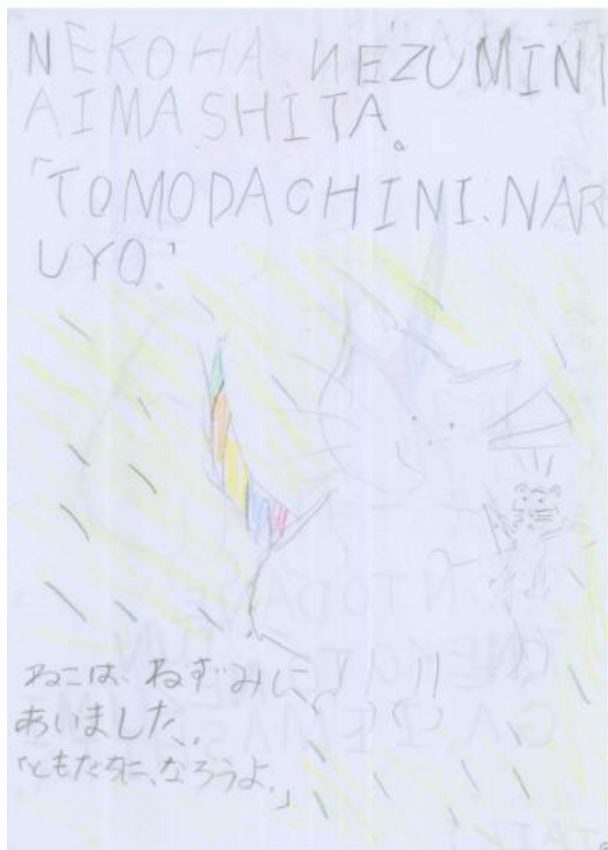


③ The cat met a mouse.

④ The cat and mouse said, "Really!" and "Yes!"

"Let's be friends!"

by Taiki



You can see Taiki-kun on Popoki's new video - Popoki on Stage at Nada Challenge 2012!

You can watch on Popoki's URL at: [http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/monogatari\\_e.html](http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/monogatari_e.html)

New Popoki Goods were on sale at Nada Challenge- but they sold out immediately!



Popoki made friends in Ōtsuchi-cho, Iwate Prefecture, through the Popoki Friendship Story project. At the beginning of this year, his friends established the AMDA Ōtsuchi Health Support Center and are working on community building. Some of their members are really good at sewing. We wanted something new to sell, and asked what they could do. They made 4 straps (photo) for starters. Now we are discussing how we can continue in a way that is good for everyone. You can look forward to something new and exciting!

Popoki at Kodomo no sato 2012

[http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/index\\_e.html](http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/index_e.html)  
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This year, we again had a chance to visit "Kodomo no Sato" (The Home for Children) at Nishinari-ku, Osaka city. We were a big group, including us Popoki members and graduate students from Kobe University. We were so happy to meet Kodomo no Sato children, staff members and Ms. Kyoko Shouho again!

By the way, have you already heard about Kodomo no Sato? Kodomo no Sato is a safe place, a home for children who need it.

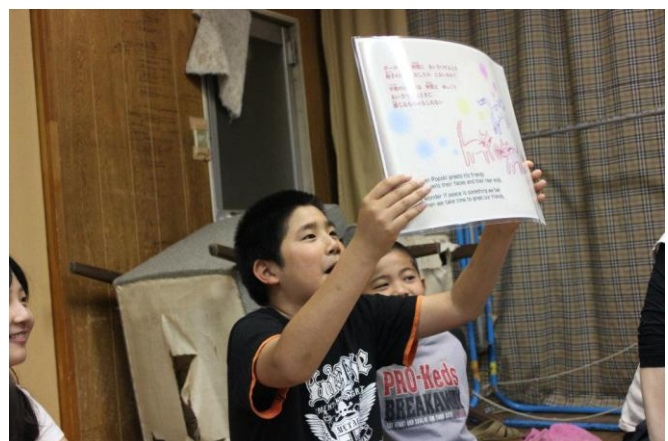


The first impression after entering Kodomo no Sato, was that the children were very cheerful and very powerful!! They were so much interested in our cat's ears; they said "Give me the ears!!" Popoki's cat's ears were very popular. They also asked curiously our international students friends, "where are you from?, what country?", they open their hearts and tried to communicate. In the beautiful

atmosphere of Kodomo no Sato, this time we could spent an hour and a half, to play and become good friends together with Popoki!

First of all, Popoki (Aripannyan) and children met and introduced themselves. And when everyone knew each other better and became friends, we moved on to Poga, this time taught by Tetsu-nyan and Taro-nyan sensei. Hope you have enjoyed the Sumo version of Poga this time.

After this good exercise, we decided to play a game called "hai~iha~don"! That was really fun...thank you Shiro-nyan for your leading! And then, we jumped into the Popoki's favorite...Popoki's Peace Books time! This time, we chose 3 pages and enjoyed discussing them...☺ For me the most impressive thing was when we read about friendship: "Can we be friends, even if we don't speak the same language?" Some children said "Definitely no!" in the



beginning. But then we tried to talk in 'cat language' and also the children tried to use English words with the international students and realized, "If we learn English, we will be able to talk with them". In the end they agreed, "Yes, we can be friends!!"☺



After the reading time, we jumped into the main and final program of the day- Popoki magic box!! "Do you like to receive presents, do you like giving them?" We asked all participants to draw a picture, a present that would make someone very happy. We used special Popoki cards for that. After the work was done, we collected all pieces to put them in 'Popoki's Magic Box'...mixed them well...and then let everyone to choose her/his own present.

We got so many beautiful pictures- flowers and cats, cars and hearts. Hope everybody was satisfied in the end^^



We really wanted to stay longer... but it was time to leave. In the end, we were so happy to see all the children's smiles. Thank you Kodomo no Sato, we had a wonderful time together. See you again next year\*Bye~~(^o^)/

I also would like to say thank you to Shiro-nyan &

Suzanka for organizing this program.

This time, we've visited Kodomo no Sato and had the chance to enjoy the great atmosphere there. But unfortunately, right now due the new changes in policies of Osaka-shi, Kodomo no Sato is in danger... Of course, we want to protect our friends place together with Popoki!!

\*Please add your signature to the campaign to save Kodomo no Sato and other similar programs in Osaka and return it to Kodomo no sato by 30 June:  
<http://www.k5.dion.ne.jp/~sato/iejigyou.html>



## Popoki Peace Project in Tohoku



By Saki Tanaka, M2  
& Tetsuri Maeda, M1  
GSICS, Kobe University

On 2012.5.18-19, we visited Sendai and Ishinomaki in Miyagi. The purpose of this trip was to do Popoki activities and talk about further plans. The first day, we visited Arahama-district in Sendai. We were taken to the area by a woman who had lost her home in the tsunami but had lived there before 3.11.

Especially, we were impressed by the yellow handkerchiefs which were hung in some places in the disaster area. At first, I thought it meant just that they hope to come back to live in the same place in Arahama again. In fact, it has another meaning. It is in opposition to government because the government is trying to ban people from coming back to live again in places where the tsunami came. After Arahama, we had dinner with some student and faculty volunteers from Tohoku University, and discussed plans for future cooperation.



The second day, we visited Ishinomaki City and saw some temporary housing. Dr.Ogura, a doctor who moved to Ishinomaki to help to allay the shortage of doctors after 3.11, guided us around Kadowaki. The area left a strong impression on us.

Next we participated in some activities held by 'Nijiuro Kureyon' (Rainbow Crayon), a group which supports children who experienced the 3.11 disaster. First, Prof. Alexander read from Popoki's book to the children. The wild children listened to the story eagerly. After that, they drew pictures and messages on the cloth freely. Some of them traced their hands and feet. Some drew imaginary animals. They looked so happy. In the afternoon, we went to a temporary housing complex and spent some time with a woman who told us about her experiences after the tsunami, and talked about living in a shelter and life in temporary housing. She compared her experience with that of being a child during the Tokyo air raids in WWII. Her story made us think a lot. Then, we did Poga all together. We made a circle with our hands and arms, and moved together. After Poga, Endo-san said 'my hands have become warm,' with a smile. When we heard that, we felt warm and peaceful. Not only words, but also warmth of human kindness makes people feel peaceful and calm.

This is our first time to visit Tohoku after the earthquake. Two days are too short for us but we are happy and feel very grateful to all the people we met. We hope to keep our good relationship with them.



# Popoki's Easy Poga

## Lesson 49

This month's poga is about relaxation and exercising our faces. It can help you feel better in many different ways!



1. As always, begin with sitting up straight and making yourself look thin.
2. First, sit straight with your legs crossed and hands together, and empty your mind.
3. Now, turn your head to the right, making your mouth into a big 'ooo!' Switch sides with your tail, too.
4. Next, switch your tail to the other side, and turn your head to the left and make a big smile!
5. Did it? Time for the 'success pose'.

Congratulations! You have successfully completed Lesson 49. Do you feel refreshed? Please remember to relax, breathe, laugh and practice for 3 minutes every day.

## Please join us!

**Next Po-kai: 6.28 Kobe YMCA Rm. 306 19:00-20:50**

7.7 HIV/AIDS event. All day. Duo Kobe near JR Kobe Station

7.20 Popoki Workshop Kobe-Seattle YMCA Youth Exchange, Kobe YMCA

8.6 Hiroshima Day 08:00-:09:00 Kobe, Higashiyuenchi

8.6-7 "International Understanding and Development Education Seminar for Living Together".

120 people. Students, teachers interested in education for international understanding and/or development education. Venue: JICA Kansai (Kobe). Sponsors: JICA Kansai, etc. (Japanese)

9.15 Popoki collaboration with Nijiyo Crayon in Ishinomaki (date to be confirmed)

10.19~ Popoki at Pittsburgh Children's Museum (dates to be confirmed)

11.10 'Peace and Health Event' HUHS



# Popoki in Print

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- "Voice for Peace made into a book" Masashi Saito. (in Japanese) *Kobe Shimbun*, 2012.1.19
- 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
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- 省窓: Column in *Kobe YMCA News*, No.606, 2011.1, p.1 (*In Japanese*)
- "What is Behind 'Popoki, What Color is Peace?'" 1<sup>st</sup> in a series in "Tosabori Life" No.19 2010.10:4 (*In Japanese*)
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- "If we all participate, something will change! Reflecting on Palestine" *THE YMCA* No.607 June 2010, p.1 (*YMCA Japan Monthly Newspaper*)
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- 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](mailto: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 In human 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](http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/archives_e.html)





## What Popoki Means to Me

**Bashir Uddin**

I came to know about Popoki when the Popoki Peace Project was launched in 2006. Since then I have been privileged to have the opportunity to join Popoki events sometimes. What I learned from Popoki is priceless. Popoki gives me the ideas to think about some important issues regarding society, people and relationships, which raise some fundamental questions in my mind such as: why do some people live in peace and happiness while some others not? How can we listen to the voice of the voiceless? What are the ingredients of peace and happiness? Popoki helps us to understand these why, how and what questions through questioning the existence of peace and happiness. So for me Popoki is a messenger of peace who delivers the message of thinking about peace and happiness and finding solutions through innovative questions and answers.

Last year I visited some places in India for my research work where I had a chance to meet with some sex workers and their children. They shared their valuable time with me



discussing about the problem of their living conditions. They live in dirty, filthy and very tiny rooms where they hardly can manage to do their job. During the time when mothers are working, children are forced to go outside the room. For this reason they cannot concentrate on their studies. Many of these children go to schools run by NGOs, but they do not have a proper place to study at home. When playing outside, they sometimes become victims of bullying by the people in neighborhood. Sex workers in India have very little earnings to send their children to better schools. On top of that sometimes the existing social setting

does not accept the children of sex workers to be enrolled in public schools. This is a real problem that is overlooked by the society and the state.

When I talked with some children who are in 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade I found that many of them are ambitious in life. Some of them want to be doctors or nurses while some others want to be teachers or musicians in order to help and educate people so that others may not go through the situation that they are experiencing now. I was enlightened to see their lively and cheerful motivation in life. I felt immediately that they have the voice and power to send the society the message of peace and happiness. Popoki does exactly the same thing. Popoki teaches people through exploring the ideas of questioning about the situation of neglected people in the society. Although extremely difficult, Popoki takes the initial steps that I believe would help the society, the state and the people to seriously think about the voiceless

I am thankful to Popoki and I wish his success in delivering more and more messages about peace and happiness, especially for the voiceless worldwide.





## 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. Since the March 2011 earthquake, we have also worked in the disaster area and have recently published a new book about that work: *Popoki's Friendship Story - Our Peace Journey Born Out of the Great Northeastern Japan Earthquake*. *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](http://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)

***Contributions are always welcome!***

Popoki Peace Project [popokipeace-at-gmail.com](mailto:popokipeace-at-gmail.com)

<http://popoki.cruisejapan.com>



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

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