



Happy summer to all! It is really hot and humid here in Kobe. I hope your location is cooler. Here's the latest Popoki News. Maybe it will help you feel cool.

Popoki News

EXCITING NEWS 1!

With the help of some very good friends, especially Elham Farah, Hannan Copty, Samir Abdel Hamid Nouh, Isaac Martins, OKA Mari and Mazen Mohsen al-Yousefi, Popoki has been translated into both Arabic and Hebrew! This will help Popoki to make lots of new friends on his trip to Israel and Palestine.



EXCITING NEWS 2!

Thanks to everybody's hard work, the third printing of *Popoki, What Color is Peace?* was released on 15 July!

Popoki in Kitakyushu City!

On 28 June, Popoki and Ronni went to Kitakyushu City to give a lecture at the Kyushu Forum on Asian Forum. Nahoko YAMAGUCHI, staff in the International Information Division, sent the following report. The KFAW is an interesting group. Please visit them at: <http://www.kfaw.or.jp> (Ronni)

LECTURE REPORT

What Color is Peace for Women?

Thinking about Peace, Violence and Gender with Popoki

Nahoko YAMAGUCHI

First, after exchanging greetings and getting to know those sitting close to us, we formed small groups of 2-3 people. We were given a list of things that are necessary for peace (*see below*) and were asked to choose three from among them.



Most of the groups chose 'life,' but there was also a group which did not choose it. With just this one exercise, we were really able to feel how broad a concept peace is, and how each individual has a different definition. For example, if you just ask "What is safety or security,"

*Diversity	*Creativity/ Imagination	*Education
*Security/ safety	*Housing/Food/ Shelter	*Trust
*Freedom	*Communication	*Law
*Nature	*Life	*Love
*Wealth	*Social justice	*Action
*Weapons	*Art	*? ? ?

you need to think about whether the security of individuals is the same as that of states. One could also ask "What do we need to do to be secure?" or "What about the security of living things other than humans?" This made us realize that each of the terms listed is also very broad.



Next, using a quiz and other techniques, Prof. Alexander discussed peace, gender and violence. She pointed out that the amount of money used on military budgets is more than eighty times what UN agencies spend on development, and that war and gender violence are still major problems. For example, in Rwanda rape was

used as a weapon and method of domination during the civil war and that it was sometimes intentionally used to make enemy women pregnant or to infect them with HIV. At the root of this gender violence in war is the gender inequality and the limitations on access to social resources women have during times of peace.

Violence was discussed in terms of not only direct violence but also structural violence such as poverty, discrimination and environmental destruction, and cultural violence, which gives cultural justifications for direct and/or structural violence. In order to eliminate violence, work has to be done at all levels, including international organizations such as the UN and states as well as individuals and NGOs.

Prof. Alexander is working for peace, using her cat Popoki with whom she lived for 15 years. Peace, violence and gender are difficult topics, but the use of Popoki and the participatory lecture style made it a very easy lecture to understand.



Eiko SATO, who works with Ms. Yamaguchi in the International Information Division of KFAW, sent the following comment.

I had to be going in and out of the room a lot, so unfortunately I was not able to listen to the whole lecture. In spite of the fact that the discussion of rape, especially with such concrete examples and figures, is something that is hard to listen to, Prof. Alexander's use of the cute Popoki and her humor made it a very enjoyable lecture for everyone. After the lecture, I was really surprised by Popoki's popularity. I had told her she could probably sell five or six copies of Popoki's book, but in fact she sold many more! It was good that she brought extra ones.



Popoki at Kinki University!

On 4 July, at the invitation of Prof. Aiko OHGOSHI, Popoki and I went to Kinki University and had an opportunity to meet students and faculty, give a lecture and discuss Article 9. The following is from one of the students who attended my lecture. I am grateful that she sent both Japanese and English versions. (Ronni)

What Color is Peace?

YAMANAMI Yuka

“What color is peace?” It's green. Why? Because there had better be a lot of nature. “What does peace smell like?” ...The smell of soap. It is peaceful for me to wash and take a bath every day. “What kind of texture is peace?”...soft! It is evidence of peace with futon that there is no worry and fear and one can idle around.





Ms. Ronni taught me a way of thinking of various peace through Popoki. It was not a lecture "about peace," but a workshop. We put our desks together and drew a picture with our classmates. We thought about peace. This was a time when the classroom was peaceful.

It was very pleasant. I have not had a chance to draw a picture in class since elementary school. I thought that what I could think about peace is peaceful. Ms. Ronni said, "While we count to ten, three children are dying in the world." These shocking words made me sad. The war takes all from a small child. I hope that the war disappears from all over the world completely. It was a workshop at which I was able to realize "peace makes the world happy."



Please join us!

UPCOMING POPOKI EVENTS

- 7.28-8-11 Popoki in Israel and Palestine
- 8.12 Workshop at the 5th Seminar for Multicultural Co-Existence through Education for International Understanding and Development Education. JICA Center, Hyogo.
- 8.16 Workshop at Youth Plaza Kobe East. (Hankyu Mikage, north side) 13 :00-14 :30. Information and reservations : 078-891-8222
- **8.19 Po-Kai Popoki in Israel/Palestine Report 19 :00- Kobe YMCA**
EVERYONE WELCOME !
- 8.23-24 Popoki on sale at the 29th Kengaikyo Conference, Kobe. Kinrokaikan.
- 9.6 Popoki at Kumamoto YMCA
- 9.11-13 Popoki in Pittsburgh at 'Remembering Hiroshima, Imagining Peace.' 9/11 Pittsburgh University, 9/13 Pittsburgh Children's Museum, Pittsburgh (USA)

- 10.6-10 The 6th International Conference of Museums for Peace, Kyoto & Hiroshima [Information: 6peace-m@st.ritsumei.ac.jp](mailto:6peace-m@st.ritsumei.ac.jp)
- 10.16-18 Popoki at “Learning Democracy by Doing: Alternative Practices in Citizenship Learning and Participatory Democracy” Conference, Toronto (Canada)
- 11.16 29th Hyogo Prefecture Buraku Liberation Institute Conference. Lasse Hall, Kobe. Ronni will give a keynote, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 60th Anniversary Posters will be on display.



Popoki in Print

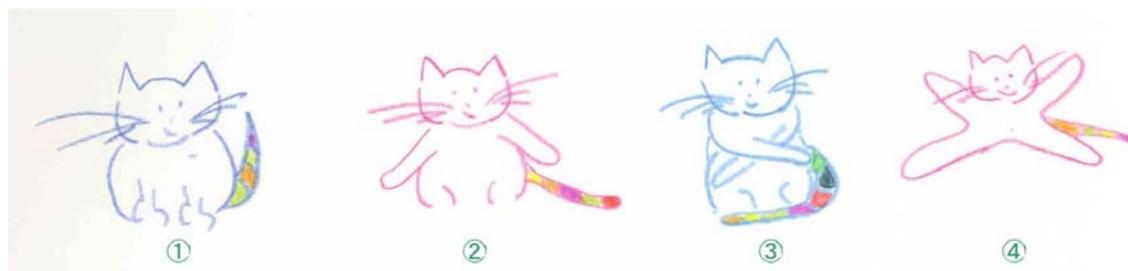
- *Hyogo Buraku Kaiho*, 2008.6 (Summer). Buraku Liberation Research Institute of Hyogo. This features some of the Human Rights Posters.
- International Peace Research Association Peace Education Committee. PEC Newsletter, May, 2008
- Kansai Time Out, March 2008

NEW!!!!

Popoki's Easy POGA

Lesson 2 OK, it is time for our next easy Poga lesson!

1. Sit up straight, making yourself look thin.
 2. Stretch your arms out to the sides. Make sure your tail is aligned too.
 3. Now bring your arms in front of you and cross them. Don't forget the tail!
 4. You did it! Very good! (The official name of this pose is the “success pose”)
- Congratulations! You have successfully completed Lesson 2.**



That was easy, wasn't it! Try practicing every day for at least 3 minutes. See you next month for lesson 3!



What Popoki Means to Me

URAI KANA

I work for an institution for disabled people. Here I will write about one of our clients. Does he have peace?

He is in his thirties. He is both mentally retarded and has a mental disorder. Until 10 years ago, he had not been recognized as a mentally retarded person, and he graduated high school and went to work. But because he was 'slightly different from others,' he was fired. He had nothing to do, nobody to enjoy with, and came to suffer from mental problems. Finally, his father took him to the nearest clinic. His doctor diagnosed him as a mentally retarded person. Then, he tried to go to an institution for mentally retarded people. But because there were too many people who had much more severe disabilities, he could not get used to it. Several years ago, he tried to commit suicide, jumping from the overpass near the clinic.

These days, he sometimes comes to see me, or calls me. He always says, "I don't have any friends." "I have always been bullied." "I cannot work, so I cannot get married." All of the support staff are making efforts for his recovery, but have not found any solution yet, and only he is getting older.



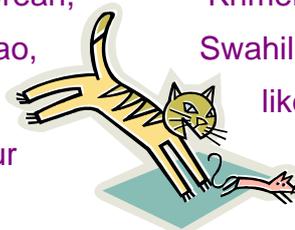
A little bit about me. I have a family and three cute cats to live with. (Please see the picture). I have a lot of friends, and they support me. I have a job and good colleagues. I maybe have peace. But I have a person who might not have peace in front of me. Not only he but also many other people in my institution are in a situation similar to his. I sometimes feel very powerless. I can't do anything to do for the people who are very closest to me but don't have peace. What I can do is just to be with them. But still, I hope that those people recover and smile again. And for that, I am trying to help them. That is the first step for me to act for 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 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, Arabic and Hebrew 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 !