



Greetings for the Year of the Rabbit (兔年)!

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Hong Kong!

Today is the First Day of the Lunar New Year. May I wish you success in your work in this Year of the Rabbit.

I hope you have received No.1 of PP21 Channel, which was sent to you in January 1999. This is a newsletter to facilitate communication among members of the Council, Coordinating Team, National Networks, Editorial Board, Secretariat Support Groups, and Partners. It is planned that this monthly newsletter can keep everyone informed of the latest news, and encourage informal exchange of views.

I have received only a few responses from some of you to the three questions I raised in PP21 Channel No.1. Please respond if you have not yet done so.

Below is some response from some of the members. I hope this can promote more sharing among us, so that we can start revitalizing the processes we promised ourselves to engage in.

Once again, all best wishes for the Year of the Rabbit!

Kin Chi

16 February 1999

NEWS AND VIEWS OF PP21 PARTNERS AND FRIENDS



Inoue Reiko

(member of PP21 Coordinating Team) 8 January 1999

Pacific Asia Resource Center(PARC)

Address:

[Office] 3fl, Hinoki Bldg., 2-1 Kanda Ogawa-machi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
101-0052 Japan

[Home] 7-22-3-204 Arakawa, Arakawa-ku, Tokyo, Japan

Tel:[Office] 81-3-3291-5901

[Home] 81-3-3805-9496

Fax:[Office]81-3-3291-2437

[Home] 81-3-3805-9590

Email:[Office] parc@jca.ax.apc.org

[Home] reiko@jca.ax.apc.org

Since I have spent some new year days in Hokkaido with the old and sick mother of my husband, I have just opened my mail now and am writing back immediately!! Since July 1997, so many things have happened and I am not sure with what to start to write. Yes, I remember that I visited HK during the Annual Meeting of WB/IMF in September. Then I have resigned from the position of director at PARC and have become one of co-presidents together with Prof. Murai Yoshinori and Prof. Nakamura Hisashi at the General Assembly of PARC held in November 1997. Now Koshida Kiyokazu, secretary general, is taking responsibility of administration at PARC. It means that I have been released from some work.

But then I was involved in the election campaign of a candidate from the

Social Democratic Party (Party led by Doi Takako) for the Upper House (the election was in July 1998) and now some of my friends have become candidates of the local election to be held in April this year. But this is my personal commitment and not as PARC, because members of PARC vary in their opinion regarding the politics. And as you can see from our address, PARC has moved to a new office, a bit larger than the old one in May.

What we (PARC) did in 1998?

In the latter half of 1997 and 1998, all of us were more or less attacked by the Asian economic crisis. In January 1998, I visited Thailand to study the effects of the Crisis and then organized an international urgent symposium on Asian Economic Crisis and People's

Alternatives in Tokyo in March 1998. Suthi from Thailand, Walden and Prof. Briones from the Philippines, Ramli from Indonesia. The joint message adopted by us was followed up by BKK meeting organized by Focus and the People's Conference at the occasion of ASEM in London in April which I joined. You must have found some reports from our symposium in AMPO. In April, PARC together with other NGOs have organized a campaign tour on MAI (Multilateral Agreement on Investment), which has been given up in October by OECD. Toward the end of August I visited Indonesia with Prof. Murai and others to hear what scenario is possibly prepared from people's side there after Suharto. This was a part of PARC's activities to find out about alternatives in Asia. In November, I joined the People's Assembly against APEC in Malaysia where I could meet some of our common friends including Boonthan and shared brief discussion on what we can do on PP21. In October, we launched a campaign for debt cancellation as a part of international Jubilee 2000 campaign. Many Catholic groups and labor unions have joined in this campaign and we explained how debt was caused and how this issue could be solved to local church groups, etc.

For 1999, we plan to continue this Jubilee campaign that has just started. The focus of it is Koln summit in Germany in June and then Manila conference in November (not yet decided). The other is an anti-nuclear campaign in the region. These two will be the major activities for 1999, but I would like to continue our efforts to work out alternative plans for Asian peoples, which are seriously needed for the region and can be a part of PP21. Maybe some meeting with a small number of people.

Concerning the project of "grassroots democracy", I have written a rough sketch of the project paper for fund-raising and sent to Jean of PRRM by E-mail in October 1997, but am not sure whether it reached her or not.

I cannot answer on how to proceed with PP21, honestly. After losing momentum, I feel difficulty to recover it as a movement though the significance and necessity still remain. Frank exchange of views and personal touch as you have started can be the first step because solidarity and trusteeship do exist among us.





Smitu Kothari (member of Editorial Team, Alliance of Hope)

11 January 1999

I will send a report next week. I can also send a list of significant articles and statements and resource people who have been active in the aftermath of the nuclear tests in India and Pakistan. It's been a nightmare, but the responses and constructive initiatives have been nothing short of remarkable. A crucial opportunity for people from different

initiatives and movements to converge.

Smitu Kothari
Lokayan
13 Alipur Road
Delhi 1100054
smitu@unv.ernet.in



Yayori Matsui (member of Editorial team, Alliance of Hope)

6 January 1999

Asia-Japan Women's Resource Center
Address: Daizawa 3-9-5-203, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo 155-0032 Japan(Residence)
Tel:813-3412-2775
Fax:813-3412-2765
Email: yayori@jca.ax.apc.Org

I'm now representing three NGOs.

1) Director of Asia-Japan Women's Resource Center

*Publishing Women's Asia 21-Voices from Japan(English) once a year.

*Holding Women's Empowerment Seminars

*Sending women's study tours to the Philippines (1997), Thailand (1998) and Nepal (1998)

*Joining AWORC(Asian women's electric media network)

2) Chairperson of Japanese Filipino Children's Network

Opened an office, Maligaya House (House of Happiness) in Quezon City, Metro Manila in January 1998 so that JFC and their mothers abandoned in the Philippines can come and seek help.

3) Chairperson of VAWW-NET Japan (Violence against Women in war network,

Japan). This network was formed in July 1998 as a part of VAWW-NET which was formed at the International Conference on Violence Against Women in War and Armed Conflict Situation held in November, 1997 in Tokyo. VAWW-NET Japan has three main areas:

*Japan's Military Sexual Slavery during WWII(Comfort Women)

*US-Japan Defense Guideline Issue
Violence against women in conflict areas
VAWW-NET Japan proposed to hold the Women's International War Crimes Tribunal in December 2000 in Tokyo. This will be a big project which women of not only victim countries but also of the world working on wartime violence and international law will get involved. We need moral, financial and other kinds of support from PP21 partners.

My book *Women in the New Asia: From Pain to Power* will be published by ZED Books, London soon.

The most serious concern for me is the situation of Japan which is now more and more under influence of the growing right-wing, historical revisionist forces. One

example: a cartoon book *On War* which justifies or rather glorifies the Japanese war of aggression to other Asian countries and colonialization of Korea and Taiwan is a best selling book, more than a half million copies have been sold mainly among young people. This book is written by Yoshinori Kobayashi, very popular right-wing fascist cartoonist and similar books written by also rightist authors are piled in book stores. We, concerned Japanese women, are fighting back, but without much success, due to partly the media being controlled more by these people than before. I do hope PP21 members will be vigilant to such dangerous trend in Japan.

My request to PP21 is to facilitate discussion on how to confront globalization and to create alternative economic and social systems among PP21 members. There have been so many conferences and symposiums on globalization and lots of criticism against it but we haven't got convincing and promising strategies for the 21st century. We should make full use of the coming two years, 1999 and 2000, so that we move forward to the next century with hope.





Muto Ichiyo (PP21 Council member)

18 January 1999

People's Plan Study Group

Address: 3F Sunrise Shinjuku Bldg, 2-4-15 Ohkubo, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan 169

Office: Tel/Fax: 81 3 5273 8362

Email: ppsg@jca.ax.apc.org

Muto's home: 81 45 361 4725; fax: 81 45 365 5124

Email: mutoi@mrj.biglobe.ne.jp

Given an absence of activities for more than a year after the July 1997 Hong Kong PP21 Council meeting, and given changes in the people's alliance situation as well as changes in the Asian political and economic landscape, I think it is necessary for those involved for quite a long time (council members plus) in this process to come together in the first half of this year (using, hopefully, certain other opportunities) to evaluate the whole PP21 process, exchange views on what PP21 as such should undertake, and redefine our agenda. The last council conducted a really fruitful discussion and came to very solid programs, but in the absence of coordinating functions for quite a time, I think it would be difficult to revive the several programs we once agreed upon as they were. I agree with Kinchi in reviving dialogue and discussion among PP21 partners, and to ensure it we need a minimum funding for the secretariat.

But I think PP21 cannot be reduced to exchange of ideas. We need actual people-linking exercise which can be done appropriately only by PP21. But what should be undertaken and how we

define our roles should be discussed collectively. I welcome efforts to start such discussion in sub-networks (South Asia, for instance). Without partners' meeting and discussing wherever possible and if we are waiting for someone to say something, nothing in fact would happen. It is besides against the nature of the PP21 network. But I still think that these cannot replace a process based on the continuation of the "legal" processes from Kathmandu. That I think is the Council. I therefore sincerely propose that the secretariat give this a serious thought (including the funding aspects) and trigger a small process. My sincere hope is that one or two other HK-based and BK-based groups having alliance building on their respective agenda and having shared responsibilities in the past PP21 events (ARENA and ACFOD for instance) will help Kinchi and CSD in this process.

The People's Plan Study Group was launched officially in June 1998 by those who are for people's alternatives, including both activists and academics. It is not specifically PP21 group but shares common concern with PP21 and

states that it will play a role in the PP21 process. It is a Japanese network including about 150 members. It has at the moment two programs, one on the evaluation of the Japanese people's movements since the 1960s with a view to identifying change agent in the current and future situations, and the other on alternative systems, which has just been started. It publishes an occasional journal, People's Plan Forum, which will be made a bimonthly (once in two months) periodical from May this year.

Generally, the Japanese situation is extremely unhealthy, Japan volunteering, and forced to, join the new U.S. 21st century-shaping strategy (defense guidelines) in the absence of any viable principled opposition. But on the other hand, popular moves (movements) for

democracy from below are gaining ground, exercising virtual veto power against decisions imposed on them (dams, garbage sites, nuclear plants). Okinawa was at the forefront of confrontation with the new U.S. Asia strategy, with effective people's movements, women's in particular, which even conceptually renewed the notion of "security." But the U.S.-Japanese government has gained upper hand after the defeat in the gubernatorial election of anti-base governor Ohta. We need visions, policies, and networks to cope with this situation, and more than anything else, serious thinking and discussion on the part of activists and concerned intellectuals. This is where PP21 is meaningful to the Japanese situation although PP21 network in Japan as such has disintegrated.



Robert Reid (PP21 Council member, representative of the Workers Sector)

6 January 1999

At Asia Pacific Workers Solidarity Links (APWSL), we had our 3 yearly Council Meeting last November. I, Robert Reid, retired as Coordinator after 6 years (2 terms). The new coordinator is Rubina Jamil from Pakistan. I remain as one of the two (honorary) conveners of APWSL. The APWSL regional office is being established in Pakistan now.

Asia Pacific Workers Solidarity Links (APWSL)

1) Name: Rubina Jamil

Position: Coordinator

Address: C/o Working Women Organization
E 36, St.2, Iqbal Park, Walton Road, Lahore
PAKISTAN

Tel/Fax: 92-42-5715 252

E mail: wwow@brain.net.pk

2) Name: Robert Reid

Position: Convener

Address: P.O Box 11-123 Wellington, NEW
ZEALAND

Tel / Fax: 64-4-389 5399

E-mail: rreid@actrix.gen.nz



Boonthan T. Verawongse (member of Editorial Team, Alliance of Hope)

16 January 1999

Email: boonthan@mozart.inet.co.th

There are things happening in the course of 1998 such as ASEM, APEC, East Timor Conference, Nuclearization, Jakarta Uprisings, and so on.

These are 6 attach files I enclose with this message. [Note: those interested in the six files may contact either Boonthan or Kin Chi.]

1. APCET3 - East Timor Conference in March 98, Bangkok
2. Preamble - Position of NGO Forum in March 98, Bangkok before ASEM in London.
3. Nuke-s-asia - Something about Pakistan-India Nuclear issue.
4. Appa98 - NGO's Unity Statement, 14 November, Kuala Lumpur.
5. APEC98 - APEC Ministerial Statement,

22 November, Kuala Lumpur

6 TNC-PSPD - PSPD's Conference on TNC (only some background information, I am still looking for the outcome report of that meeting).

I have two other pieces for Alliance of Hope if they are needed: the first one is about our Young Journalist and Alternative Media Forum (August 98, Bangkok), and the other is Asia Pacific Human Rights Meeting (September 98, Jakarta).

Francis Yi (PSPD) is now taking a break and furthering his studies in Paris for a few years. Myself, Reiko and Robert had some chat in KL during the APPA. We discussed how to move PP21 forward.

CSD (China Social Services and Development Research Centre)

Tel./Fax: (852) 2430 9211

Address: Flat E3, 10/F, Brilliant Garden, 250 Castle Peak Road, Tuen Mun, Hong Kong.

E-mail: LAUKC@LN.EDU.HK

Contact Persons: Lau Kin Chi, Sit Tsui.