World-Class Lecturers Develop Work-Ready Peacebuilders

The Coursework of the Primary Course in Japan was held in Tokyo and Hiroshima for six weeks, from January 19 to February 29, 2012. Comprising 15 Japanese and 14 other Asian Program Associates strongly committed to developing careers in the field of peacebuilding, the Primary Course aims to develop human resources who can support peacebuilding efforts through international agencies and other organizations.

In this Coursework peacebuilding experts and practitioners gave specialized and practical lectures and facilitated workshops on subjects such as “conflict analysis,” “project planning,” and “management,” and networking to help Program Associates obtain knowledge, skills, and networks required to peacebuilding experts. It also included workshops and other sessions concerning conflict case analyses, role playing and such that are directly useful for peacebuilding activities in the field.

After completion of the Coursework in Japan, the Program Associates are dispatched to the Overseas Attachment, which they end up doing peacebuilding activities as UN Volunteers in international organizations working in the field of peacebuilding. Having taken their first steps as peacebuilders through the Coursework in Japan, the Program Associates of JFY2011 are expected to play active roles in peacebuilding in the near future.

Contents of the Coursework in Japan & Lecturers

Opening Ceremony on January 19th

Week 1: Conflict Analysis

- **Venue:** Tokyo Peace College
- **Participants:** Peacebuilding Practitioners
- **Lecturers:**
  - **Makoto Sato**
  - **Takahiro Tsuchiya**
  - **Yasuhiro Ohara**
  - **Kenji Akiyama**

Week 2: Planning

- **Venue:** Tokyo Peace College
- **Participants:** Peacebuilding Practitioners
- **Lecturers:**
  - **Daisuke Kato**
  - **Shinjiro Furuhashi**
  - **Yasuhiro Ohara**
  - **Kenji Akiyama**

Week 3: Coordination

- **Venue:** Tokyo Peace College
- **Participants:** Peacebuilding Practitioners
- **Lecturers:**
  - **Takao Matsui**
  - **Koji Matsumura**
  - **Masaaki Takahashi**

Week 4: Project Management

- **Venue:** Tokyo Peace College
- **Participants:** Peacebuilding Practitioners
- **Lecturers:**
  - **Takao Matsui**
  - **Koji Matsumura**
  - **Masaaki Takahashi**

Week 5: Skillup

- **Venue:** Tokyo Peace College
- **Participants:** Peacebuilding Practitioners
- **Lecturers:**
  - **Takao Matsui**
  - **Koji Matsumura**
  - **Masaaki Takahashi**

UN and Peacebuilding

- **Dr. Tatsuo Yamauchi**
- **Tatsuo Yamauchi**

International Peace Cooperation Activity by Japan Self-Defense Force

- **Makoto Akiba (Colonel)**

For the brilliant future peacebuilders

I was inspired by the lectures for the Coursework, roster management, training sessions for Program Associates and so on. We are supposed to support the UN, but, convincingly, sometimes this truly helps us to give us a boost. Then, I feel they are real future peacebuilders.
2011 Program Report Primary Course Coursework in Japan

Providing Practical Coursework as Preparation for Work on the Ground

I believe that the most important element of the Program is the selection of participants. Once again this year, Program Associates with a wide range of experiences, knowledge and problem consciousness have joined the Program. UNV is looking for people who are immediately deployable. Because the Program Associates are to effectively work in the UN System, the Overseas Attachment is naturally characterized as the assignment of people to duty stations around the world. From my standpoint, however, I view the Program as a human resources development program and thus select persons who may have shortcomings but are able to compensate for them with the potential for dramatic belittlement of their strengths. There are these criteria. The candidate must have a clear vision for peacebuilding and passion for it, as well as the commitment to continue pursuing the goal even in the face of obstacles. We had many Program Associates with such qualities in this year, too.

In this respect, this year’s Coursework was also organized to contain practical enrichment in many aspects. HPC’s goal is to provide curriculum through which each person can tackle his or her own respective tasks by combining the elements of theory and experience, knowledge and skills, thoughts and exercises, and individuals and groups.

Yui Uesugi
Program Officer, Hiroshima Peace Culture Center (HPC) / Associate Professor, Hiroshima University

Effectiveness and difficulties of coordination

Similar to last year, I had the opportunity to discuss about UN peacekeeping operations during the training week titled “Coordination.” The focus of my presentation was to provide the participants with some background on the evolution of UN peacekeeping operations, the principles in which we operate the current realities on the ground and the inter-relationships between peacekeeping and peacebuilding. During the week, the participants were also tasked to undergo a few coordination scenarios that they would potentially face in the field. In one of the humanitarian crisis scenarios, they had the occasion to experience coordinating with peacekeeping missions and other UN and non-UN actors. This exercise illustrated some of the issues that practitioners in the field often face, including how and when to coordinate with local authorities and how to assess the needs of the local population without overburdening them.

This “Coordination” week was also an opportunity for the participants not only to learn about the specific mandates and principles of various organizations who are involved in peacebuilding activities, but also to enhance their communication skills, including their negotiation skills. This Program as a whole, which encourages an intensive 6-week interaction amongst the Japanese and other Asian participants, provides a great opportunity to reflect and improve on the participants’ communication skills by living and working closely with those who come from different backgrounds and cultures.

I shared my own experience having worked in Sudan and South Sudan with many of the participants and spoke generally about career development in the UN. I continued to be encouraged by the knowledge, energy and enthusiasm that the participants brought to the sessions.

I look forward to crossing paths with many of the participants in the field and to observe their growth, as they deepen their expertise and identify their engagement in the area of peacebuilding.

Kyoko Ono
Public Affairs Officer, Policy and Best Practices Service, Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), United Nations Secretariat

HPC Networks are valuable assets!

Having to be involved in global health efforts which can contribute to global peacebuilding as part of my future career, I originally worked as an intern at WHO Headquarters in Geneva. However, I was painfully aware of my lack of field experience as well as my limited knowledge and understanding of social problems, such as conflicts and poverty which constitute the backdrop of many health problems. When I wanted to find a way to provide definitive therapy and solutions rather than temporary expedients for these problems, I happened to learn about this Program and joined it.

What I learned in this Coursework was certainly practical for solving problems in troubled countries. With actual situations where Program Associates will be dispatched in mind, we Program Associates, who had gathered from not only Japan but also other Asian countries, established various project plans. To do so, we made a multifaceted analysis of the root causes of the problems in each area, planned a project to solve each problem, drafted a budget for the project, and discussed in English what we should do to effectively carry out the project while invoking people around us. Although it is a healthcare provider, it had many things to learn. In this field first, I could broaden my scope through interactions with other Program Associates with colorful backgrounds, such as politics, economics, development, law, mass media, education, and engineering, and with work experience at the United Nations, government agencies, NGOs, and private companies. It was truly a fulfilling and rewarding experience in which all participants had a co-researching influence on each other.

In the future, based on what I learned in this Coursework, I would like to plan and implement projects by myself that can contribute to the peace and welfare of people in the target area through the field of primary healthcare. At actual peacebuilding sites we have to face numerous challenges without any absolute solutions. I have realized that one of the huge merits of participating in this Coursework is that we can find comrades from all over the world with whom we can stand up to these challenges together.

Wataru Kashino
FT0811 Program Associate
Work Experience in the field of Peacebuilding as a UN Volunteer

Japanese Program Assistants of the Primary Course are dispatched through the UNV programme to the field of peacebuilding as such field offices of the UN organizations around the world for 12 months as the Overseas Attachment of the Program. Duty stations are determined through matching process between Program Assistants and the UNV programme based on experiences, competencies and career plans of Program Assistants as well as the needs of recipient organizations.

Practical field experience is essential for being a professional peacebuilder. Through the Overseas Attachment, Program Assistants will not only receive training, but also work as UN Volunteers at field offices of international organizations. This is a valuable opportunity for them to apply the theories and skills acquired in the Coursework in Japan in actual field activities and also to gain on-the-job experiences.

In the Program over the past four years, Program Assistants have been deployed to the UN and various other international organizations such as United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and so forth. These duty stations are located in various regions, such as Africa, Central Asia, Southeast Asia, and so on.

Examples of Duty Stations

- UN Volunteers
  - Agency
  - Title
  - Major Duties
  - Description

- UNICEF
  - Agency
  - Title
  - Major Duties
  - Description

- IOM
  - Agency
  - Title
  - Major Duties
  - Description

- UNHCR
  - Agency
  - Title
  - Major Duties
  - Description

- UNDP
  - Agency
  - Title
  - Major Duties
  - Description

- UNICEF
  - Agency
  - Title
  - Major Duties
  - Description
2011 Program Report

Seminar on Basic Peacebuilding

Promoting Basic Understanding of Peacebuilding through Various Styles of Learning

The Seminar on Basic Peacebuilding was held at United Nations University in Tokyo for five days, from December 12 to 16, 2011. With no limitations on applicants in terms of work experience or age, and lasting for the relatively short period of five days, the Seminar is the most accessible of all the courses offered under the Program. This year, marking the third year since its commencement, the Seminar accepted 30 participants with widening affinities and areas of specialization, such as university/graduate schools, private companies, NGOs, development consulting firms, government agencies, legal and medical circles. During the Seminar, peacebuilding experts and practitioners delivered lectures on five themes, ranging from “What is peacebuilding?” to “What are the activities for peacebuilding in conflict areas?”

The Seminar on Basic Peacebuilding was designed to help participants not only to attain basic knowledge concerning peacebuilding, but also to familiarize themselves with practical knowledge and experience that may be required in actual peacebuilding activities. The five-day seminar also provided each participant with opportunities to build strong networks with his or her fellow participants and with lecturers from diverse fields.

No One Single Approach to Peacebuilding (International Cooperation)

As I did last year, I gave a lecture this year again from the viewpoint of humanitarian assistance, under the title of “What are the activities for peacebuilding in conflict areas?” Practical activities involved in peacebuilding report from the scenes of emergency humanitarian assistance.” The backgrounds of Program participants vary every year. Many of this year’s participants were adults already working in diverse areas. This, I believe, is a reflection of an overall increase in the number of people wishing to engage in international cooperation while continuing their careers. I was pleased with the participants’ enthusiastic and attentive attitude throughout my lecture. During the Q&A session as well as after the lecture, they asked me many eager, insightful questions, suggesting their strong awareness of the issues discussed.

As I mentioned in my lecture, what I would like to communicate to you most is that there is not only one approach to cooperation. Working in the field may be a contribution that attracts a great deal of public attention, but that is not the one and only way of engaging in international cooperation. I would like to see each of you continue relevant activities in the areas in which you are currently working. Just paying taxes to national governments in itself is one powerful means of engaging in international cooperation. Engaging in the front-line activities of UN agencies and other international organizations is another possible approach to international cooperation. And even if you cannot find employment in the areas in which you wish to develop your careers, I would like each of you to maintain a strong sense of commitment to international cooperation.

What I define as peacebuilding is “doing what one can to help make everyone happy.” It is hard to understand, but all of us are supposed to be born into this world so easily, why we end up living in extremely different environments depending on which part of the world we are born in. It is my conviction that peacebuilding is a process of closing the disparities that have resulted from where each of us was born and brought up.

Yurie Osa
Professor, Graduate School of Social Design Studies, Tokio University / President, Association for Aid and Relief (AAR); Japan (AAR JAPAN)

From Participant 2011

Being impressed with lecturers and being confident of my goal!

My dream is to become what I call an “international cooperation expert.” My hope is to create a world without conflicts, which was developed when I witnessed the September 11th terrorist attacks in New York on television in 2001. Since then, I have been engaged in an active role in the peacebuilding field. However, I had no idea what peacebuilding and international cooperation actually meant at that time. In the environment of such a developed country as materially affluent Japan, occupations and activities in this field seem to be undervalued initially. I thought that an ambition to “change the world” more than the average person, but I felt pressured and frustrated with myself because I felt I had no useful skills whatsoever in troubled areas. When wandering what I should to do to take the first step, I heard about this Seminar on Basic Peacebuilding.

By actually participating in the Seminar on Basic Peacebuilding, I had a truly rewarding and fulfilling time, listening to lecturers who had an unflinching will to help to conflict-ridden areas as professional peacebuilders, and had been a part of the steering function for the government and NGOs, or lecturers who had made an effort to move deeply understand the conflicts and history of the region as researchers. It was the first time for me to learn and think about peacebuilding so deeply and from a wide-ranging and professional perspective. The lecturers threw their candid impressions of the actual situations they had seen and experienced without reservation, anything rather than just theories and superficial statements on the problem. Above all, I was shaken and vastly impressed by the fact that other Japanese people had been in the global arena struggling to change the world.

The problems from which our world suffers are so complex that we cannot solve them through superficial statements or emotionally charged arguments. Also, playing an active role in the peacebuilding field is not a thing that can be easily achieved through compassion and pity alone. However, this seminar made stronger and more my conviction toward troubled regions as soon as possible in order to contribute to changing the world. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to staff members of the Hiroshima Peacebuilders Center (HFC), who provided me with this wonderful opportunity, and I will devote myself to paving the way toward my dream, holding the experience of this five-day Seminar as a foundation in my mind.

Serena Okawa
Participant in the JPF 2011 Program
Implementation of the Program for peacebuilding throughout the year

2011 Program Report 5  Schedule of the JFY 2011 Program

- 1st - 2nd: HFC set up a booth as part of the Program’s PR activities for “Global Peace Japan 2011” in Hibiya Park, Tokyo.

**2011**

**JUNE**

- 2nd: HFC began accepting applications from prospective Japanese participants for the Primary Course.

**JULY**

- 1st: HFC began accepting applications from prospective Japanese participants for the Primary Course.
- 2nd: HFC began accepting applications from prospective Asian participants for the Primary Course.

**AUGUST**

- 1st: HFC staff member participated in the seminar titled "International Career Development in the Field of Peacebuilding" in Japan, organized by the National Peace Foundation.
- 2nd: HFC staff member participated in the seminar titled "International Career Development in the Field of Peacebuilding" in Japan, organized by the National Peace Foundation.

**SEPTEMBER**

- 1st: HFC staff member participated in the seminar titled "International Career Development in the Field of Peacebuilding" in Japan, organized by the National Peace Foundation.
- 2nd: HFC staff member participated in the seminar titled "International Career Development in the Field of Peacebuilding" in Japan, organized by the National Peace Foundation.
- 3rd: HFC staff member participated in the seminar titled "International Career Development in the Field of Peacebuilding" in Japan, organized by the National Peace Foundation.
- 4th: HFC staff member participated in the seminar titled "International Career Development in the Field of Peacebuilding" in Japan, organized by the National Peace Foundation.

**OCTOBER**

- 1st: HFC staff member participated in the seminar titled "International Career Development in the Field of Peacebuilding" in Japan, organized by the National Peace Foundation.
- 2nd: HFC staff member participated in the seminar titled "International Career Development in the Field of Peacebuilding" in Japan, organized by the National Peace Foundation.

**NOVEMBER**

- 1st and 2nd: HFC staff members participated in the seminar titled "International Career Development in the Field of Peacebuilding" in Japan, organized by the National Peace Foundation.
- 11th: HFC staff member participated in the seminar titled "International Career Development in the Field of Peacebuilding" in Japan, organized by the National Peace Foundation.

**DECEMBER**

- 1st: HFC staff member participated in the seminar titled "International Career Development in the Field of Peacebuilding" in Japan, organized by the National Peace Foundation.
- 2nd: HFC staff member participated in the seminar titled "International Career Development in the Field of Peacebuilding" in Japan, organized by the National Peace Foundation.

**2012**

**JANUARY**

- 10th: HFC staff member participated in the seminar titled "International Career Development in the Field of Peacebuilding" in Japan, organized by the National Peace Foundation.

**FEBRUARY**

- 10th: HFC staff member participated in the seminar titled "International Career Development in the Field of Peacebuilding" in Japan, organized by the National Peace Foundation.

**MARCH**

- 10th: HFC staff member participated in the seminar titled "International Career Development in the Field of Peacebuilding" in Japan, organized by the National Peace Foundation.

**April**

- 10th: HFC staff member participated in the seminar titled "International Career Development in the Field of Peacebuilding" in Japan, organized by the National Peace Foundation.

**May**

- 10th: HFC staff member participated in the seminar titled "International Career Development in the Field of Peacebuilding" in Japan, organized by the National Peace Foundation.

**June**

- 10th: HFC staff member participated in the seminar titled "International Career Development in the Field of Peacebuilding" in Japan, organized by the National Peace Foundation.

**July**

- 10th: HFC staff member participated in the seminar titled "International Career Development in the Field of Peacebuilding" in Japan, organized by the National Peace Foundation.

**August**

- 10th: HFC staff member participated in the seminar titled "International Career Development in the Field of Peacebuilding" in Japan, organized by the National Peace Foundation.

**September**

- 10th: HFC staff member participated in the seminar titled "International Career Development in the Field of Peacebuilding" in Japan, organized by the National Peace Foundation.

**October**

- 10th: HFC staff member participated in the seminar titled "International Career Development in the Field of Peacebuilding" in Japan, organized by the National Peace Foundation.

**November**

- 10th: HFC staff member participated in the seminar titled "International Career Development in the Field of Peacebuilding" in Japan, organized by the National Peace Foundation.

**December**

- 10th: HFC staff member participated in the seminar titled "International Career Development in the Field of Peacebuilding" in Japan, organized by the National Peace Foundation.
2011 Program Report: Symposium for the Fifth Anniversary of the Program

Career Development in the field of Peacebuilding - the 5th Anniversary of "The Program for Human Resource Development in Asia for Peacebuilding" commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

On February 27, 2012, HPCI held an open symposium at the JICA Global Plaza in Tokyo. This Program (including the two-year Pilot Program) has reached a turnpike at its fifth anniversary. In line with this, the participants reconsidered career development in the field of peacebuilding, which is a major purpose of this Program, and reviewed the actual courses of career development, for which this Program provided the foothold, by tracing the career paths of Program graduates of the Primary course.

After the keynote speech on the United Nations peacebuilding efforts by Ms. Judy Cheng-Hopkins, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support Head of Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), Japanese UN officials working at the UN Headquarters and field offices, Program Associates and graduates, and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and officials of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme discussed possibilities of career development in the field of peacebuilding. Provided from the discussion were significant guidelines in career planning for those who would aim to play active roles in the field of peacebuilding.

Furthermore, a video presentation and a special exhibition were held to introduce the achievements of this Program during the past five years. There was also a session at booths for communication between Program Associate/graduates and the audience.

The cordial relationship and collaboration between PBSO and HPC provide a unique opportunity.

First of all, I would like to congratulate the fifth anniversary of the Program for Human Resource Development in Asia for Peacebuilding. Since 2007, when the training program started as a pilot, United Nations Peacekeeping Support Office (PBSO) has contributed to the Program by dispatching a PBSO official each year to serve as a Facilitator for the Primary Course of the Program.

To mark the Program’s anniversary this year, I was invited to the symposium titled ‘Career Development in the field of Peacebuilding - the 5th Anniversary of “The Program for Human Resource Development in Asia for Peacebuilding” commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan’ to deliver a keynote address at the symposium. The title of the keynote address was “The UN Peacebuilding Architecture: An Overview.” In the keynote address, I introduced how the UN Peacebuilding Architecture (PBA) systematically works with the rest of the UN system on peacebuilding activities. More specifically, the PBA consists of three pillars which are Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO). The PBC is an intergovernmental advisory body that supports peace efforts in countries emerging from conflict, and it has three unique roles: advocacy and advice, mobilization, and bringing coherence among actors. Regarding the PBF, its role is to provide financial support for early peacebuilding activities, which directly contribute to prevent conflict exacerbation and address peace in a post-conflict situation, and strengthen the capacity of governments and non-governmental institutions to consolidate peace. Finally, the PBSO assists and supports the PBC, manages the PBF, and supports the Secretary-General’s efforts to consolidate the UN System in its peacebuilding efforts. In this regard, the PBSO has an important role to support the PBA by facilitating knowledge management, research and coherence of efforts.

Through my keynote address, I explained how PBA is now globally acknowledged as a useful instrument for peacebuilding and has laid up to the original vision of its founding fathers and mothers. One challenge of managing the peacebuilding activities is found in PBA’s ability to quickly mobilize and deploy experienced and skilled people. The cordial relationship and collaboration that the PBSO has with the Hiroshima Peacebuilding Center provides a unique opportunity to improve the situation of peacebuilding activities by working together on skills and capacity development in peacebuilding.