

Annual report 1997

Two years is not a long time in the life of a research institute. Yet in the last two years, the Toda Institute has achieved much of which it can be proud. The first year of the Institute's operation in 1996 was mostly spent on opening its two offices in Tokyo and Honolulu. It also led to the establishment of a global network of scholars, policymakers, and community leaders in its International Advisory Council, launching of its research project on Human Security and Global Governance, and inauguration of its journal, *Peace & Policy*. The second year, 1997, led to a number of collaborative international conferences focusing on global mis/management of the different dimensions of human security. The Institute expects the first volumes of its HUGG book series to appear in 1998.

The HUGG Project, 1996-2000

In 1996, The Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research inaugurated a collaborative international research project on Human Security and Global Governance (HUGG). In keeping with the Institute's motto, "Dialogue of Civilizations for World Citizenship," the purpose of the HUGG Project is to foster an inter-civilizational dialogue on the global governance of human security problems facing the world in the 21st Century. Such problems as personal, social, economic, political, environmental, and military security loom large at this juncture and need to be addressed dialogically from the perspectives of a variety of civilizations, Eastern as well as Western.

Like other conceptual categories such as culture, ethnicity, and nationality "civilization" is admittedly a fuzzy concept, but we have found it a useful metaphor for approaching the current normative conflicts in the world. A civilization possesses a more or less coherent cosmology based on a long tradition of material and cultural creativity marked by unique ontological, epistemological, and praxiological perspectives. In addition to the traditional Judaic, Christian, Islamic, Hindu, Buddhist, Confucian, and indigenous civilizations, we may also speak of a modern, secular, humanist, scientific, and technological civilization that has both integrated and fragmented the world for the past five decades. All traditional civilizations have come under the impact of modern civilization and are facing their own crisis in reconciling their traditional values with the new technological imperatives. In this process, a new world civilization is being negotiated among competing worldviews (e.g., individualism vs. collectivism, equality vs. hierarchy). In order to preserve diversity in unity, the new world civilization needs to be based on the contributions of all past human civilizations.

From the point of view of peace studies, tensions in the process could serve creative as well as destructive purposes. Globalization from above and indigenization from below have resulted in a clash of cultures unparalleled in history. In sharp contradiction to traditional views that hold nature and human relations as sacred, hegemonic globalization considers them commodities. Resistance to hegemonic globalization is thus expressing itself in a variety of complex forms, including localist, ethno nationalist, feminist, and religious movements. Real global integration and peace cannot be achieved except through democratic processes from below in conjunction with the development of international regimes that respect indigenous rights and values. However, the contradiction between democratic and hegemonic forms of globalization are a prevailing feature of our own era. Prospects for a world civilization based on unity in diversity hinge upon the resolution of these contradictions and conflicts.

This is why the HUGG Project employs a dialogical method in addressing the points of tension. The project focuses on both the temporal (premodern, modern, postmodern) as well as the spatial (East and West, North and South) dimensions of normative conflicts within and among world civilizations. The

project aims at facilitating the development of interlocking dialogical communities at all levels focusing on the threats to and promises of peace and justice in the 21st Century. The goals and outcomes of the HUGG conferences are:

- To initiate the development of dialogical communities on issues of human security and governance reflecting the perspectives of all world civilizations;
- To produce a series of recommendations reached by consensus and presented to the public, government, and business communities;
- To disseminate the proceedings and recommendations of the conferences through a variety of publications, including a book series.

The project is based on the belief that dialogue is the most effective way of respecting diversity, resolving conflicts, and moving from cultural narcissism (ethnocentrism) to cultural altruism (empathy with others). In contrast to other forms of discourse such as adversarial debates, dialogue aims at mutual understanding through empathetic exchanges of views. The aims of dialogue therefore cannot be achieved unless certain rules are carefully observed. The following is suggestive rather than exhaustive.

- Honor others and listen to them deeply with all your heart and mind.
- Seek common grounds for consensus but avoid groupthink by acknowledging and honoring the diversity of views.
- Refrain from irrelevant or intemperate interventions.
- Acknowledge others' contributions to the discussion before making your own.
- Remember that silence also speaks; speak only when you have a contribution to make by posing a relevant question, presenting a fact, making or clarifying a point, or advancing the discussion to more specificity or greater consensus.
- Identify the critical points of difference for further deliberation.
- Never distort other views on order to advance your own: try to restate others' positions to their satisfaction before presenting your own different views.
- Formulate the agreements on any agenda item before moving to the next.
- Draw out the implications of an agreement for group policy and action.
- Thank your colleagues for their contributions.

To pursue its aims with a dialogical method, the HUGG Project has been organizing and planning the following collaborative international conferences on issues of human security and global governance, including participation by academic, government, business, and community leaders.

- Human Security and Global Governance: Problems and Prospects," Honolulu, November 2, 1996.
- "Re-envisioning Human Security and Governance in Hawaii: Sovereignty, Diversity, Economy, and Justice," in collaboration with the Matsunaga Institute for Peace, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, April 5, 1997.
- "Human Security and Global Governance: Power Shifts and Emerging Security Regimes," in collaboration with the School of Politics, La Trobe University, Honolulu, June 6-8, 1997.
- "Human Security and Global Governance: Non-Nuclear Prerequisites for Nuclear Disarmament," in collaboration with the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Taplow Court, Maidenhead, Berkshire, September 25-28, 1998.

- "Global Governance for Cultural Security I: Migration, Identity, and Cultural Negotiation," in collaboration with the Berlin House of World Cultures, Honolulu, June 1-3, 1998.
- "Food Security and Governance in Africa," Durban, June 19-21, 1998.
- "Socio-economic Security: Globalization Employment, and Quality of Life," University of Sydney, Sydney, November 28-30, 1998.
- "Global Governance for Cultural Security II: Migration, Identity, and Cultural Negotiation," in collaboration with the Berlin House of World Cultures, Berlin, September 2-4, 1999.
- "Dialogue of Civilizations: A New Peace Agenda for a New Millennium," February 11-14, 2000.

Publications

In addition to the Institute's journal, *Peace & Policy*, a book series also is expected to emerge from the HUGG conferences bearing the following tentative titles:

1. *Human Security and Global Democracy: Problems, Perspectives, Prospects*
2. *Political Security: Globalization, Regionalization, and Peace Prospects.*
3. *Nuclear Disarmament: How to Overcome the Obstacles*
4. *Food Security: Nutrition and Governance in Africa*
5. *Cultural Security: Migration and Negotiations of Identity*
6. *Socio-economic Security: Globalization, Employment, and Quality of Life*
7. *International Security: Reforming the United Nations*
8. *Environmental Security: Governance and the Global Commons*
9. *Human Security and Dialogue of Civilizations: A New Agenda for a New Millennium*

Webpage: <http://www.toda.org>

In 1997, the Institute's webpage was also launched. In addition to an introduction to the Institute's mission and staff, the page makes the programs and papers of our international conferences available to the Internet's millions of readers. It also provides a channel through which we can receive feedback.

Looking Forward

When the Board of Directors of the Toda Institute originally met in 1996, it approved a program of research including four topics: (1) Human Security and Global Governance, (2) Human Rights and Global Ethics, (3) Social Justice and Global Economy, and (4) Cultural Identity and Global Citizenship. The HUGG Project will conclude by organizing its last international conference on the Institute's theme of "dialogue of civilizations" as the most daunting challenge facing the 21st Century. It is proposed that the conference should bring together a distinguished group of representations of the world's major civilizations, including Hindu, Buddhist, Confucian, Jewish, Christian, Islamic, Humanist, and Indigenous peoples. It is also proposed that on the basis of the HUGG research findings, the conference should draw up a new peace agenda for a new millennium. Moreover, the conference can provide a useful conceptual and policy bridge to the net research theme, Human Rights and Global Ethics. In contrast to the HUGG Project will have a high level of specificity with respect to the ethical and legal requirements for providing the social, economic, political, and cultural conditions necessary for human security, dignity, and freedom.

Acknowledgments

The Toda Institute has been fortunate in having the leadership of a dedicated Board of Directors and the hard work of a devoted staff. The Institute has enjoyed the unreserved support of its Founder, Daisaku Ikeda, and the Chairman Einosuke Akiya. Board members Masasuke Nihei, Masaichi Ueda, Kunihiro Mitsumori, Tadashige Takamura, Hidehiko Imai, Tomosaburo Hirano, and Kazou Ishiwatarti have all contributed to the Institute's success by generously giving it their time and wisdom.

Institute staff members Tomosaburo Hirano, Hiromu Yamaguchi, Satoko Takahashi, Hiroshi Morita, Aiko Nakao, and Hau'oli Christine Busby have all worked beyond the call of duty to manage the complex arrangements for our international conferences. The many letters of appreciation we receive from grateful participants is a testimony to the gracious hospitality that the Institute staff have worked hard to provide.

However, this would not have been possible without our collaborators in each instance. At HUGG Honolulu, the staff of the East-West Center provided such support. As HUGG London, the staff of Taplow Court and the SGI-UK volunteers generously gave of their time and efforts to provide gracious hospitality. Ricky Baynes, general director of SGI-UK, Kazuo Fuji, Indra Adnan, Annabelle McGoldrick, and Jason Jarrett added their efficiency and charm to the beauty of the Taplow Court Conference Center to provide an exceptionally well-organized and congenial meeting ground for the world's leading arms-control scholars. Sverre Lodgaard, director of the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, and Jozef Goldblat provided the intellectual leadership in the organization of the conference and its fourth-coming output. The distinguished keynote speakers and our conferences in 1996-97, Joseph Rotblat, Richard Falk, Kevin Clements, Kahdija and Mahub ul-Haq, and Haunani-kay Trask, each set a challenging intellectual agenda for the conferences.

In 1998, the Institute is privileged to have the collaboration of Brendt Scherer and Hans-Georg Knopp of the Berlin House of World Cultures, Joseph Camilleri of La Trobe University, Kamal Malhotra of Focus on the Global South at Chulalongkorn University, and Stuart Rees and Lynda-Ann Blanchard of the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies of Sydney University.

Thanks are due also to a group of student volunteers – Puja Borries, Audray Holm, John Kiefer, Valerie Shearer, and Kimberly Taylor – who have given generously of their time and energy to the Institute.

Last but not least, the Institute owes profound gratitude to the numerous scholars, policymakers, and community leaders who have served on its International Advisory Council or participated in its conferences. It has been a privilege to work with this distinguished group in trying to shed some light on the dark threats to global peace and the prospects for security and justice.

Respectfully submitted,

Majid Tehranian, Director