

TODA INSTITUTE ANNUAL REPORT 2001

The year 2001 stands out in several different respects. It was the beginning of the Third Millennium. It was declared by the United Nations as the Year of Dialogue among Civilizations. As a result of September 11, 2001, it will be remembered as the year of global terrorism. The irony of this coincidence cannot escape us. The new millennium showed its Janus face. We are on the path to a world alive with stunning promises and perils.

For the Toda Institute as for all peace-loving peoples and organizations, the challenge could not have been written in any larger writ. We have to redouble our efforts. As the Institute's Human Security and Global Governance (HUGG) project is reaching its conclusion with the publication of 11 volumes in the Toda Institute's Book Series (see Appendix I), a new global research project on Globalization, Regionalization, and Democratization (GRAD) will be unfolding. This report outlines the Institute's present and future projects.

HUGG Doha

The third meeting of the International Commission for Security and Cooperation in West Asia (SACWA) took place in Doha, Qatar, 5-7 January 2001. Hosted by the Qatar Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the meeting was co-chaired by Ambassador Nasser Al-Khalifa and Professor Majid Tehranian.

The Commission has been sponsored by a number of peace and policy research institutes, including the Toda Institute, Copenhagen Peace Research Institute, Center for Arab and Islamic Studies of Australian National University, Centre for World Dialogue of Nicosia, the Iranian Institute of Political and International Studies, and the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs. It has met in Istanbul, Turkey (1999) and Limassol, Cyprus (2000). The Commission is drawn from leading scholars and diplomats from the eight littoral states of the Persian Gulf and the five permanent member-states of the United Nations Security Council. It has focused on conflict resolution issues among the Persian Gulf states, including arms control, border disputes, and confidence building. The Doha meeting resolved to establish a regional center for dialogue among the Persian Gulf states. It also planned for a larger meeting to be held in Cyprus on March 29-31, 2002, in cooperation with the Centre for World Dialogue (see below).

HUGG Moscow

Under the co-sponsorship of the Toda Institute and the Moscow Center for Political and International Studies, over thirty scholars as well as political and business leaders met in Moscow, June 18-20, 2001, at a conference focused on "Dialogue of Civilizations: A New Peace Agenda for Eurasia." The conference participants met with Russian government officials to discuss their views on Eurasian peace and policy. Ambassador Vladimir Lufkin and Vladimir Zhirinovsky, Vice-Chairmen of the State Duma, and officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, briefed the conference participants on different aspects of Russia's foreign policy. A book will be published out of the conference papers tentatively entitled, Eurasia: A New Peace Agenda. Professors Alexander Nikitin, Michael Intriligator, and Majid Tehranian will be the co-editors.

TODA at UN

Representatives of the Toda Institute participated in an orientation program organized by the United Nations Department of Public Information for the UN newly affiliated non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The event took place at the UN headquarters in New York City on May 23-24, 2001. As an accredited UN NGO-Affiliate, the Toda Institute will have access to the UN facilities and will

collaborate with its main organs. In the future, the institute may organize conferences at the UN Headquarters in order to present its research findings and policy recommendations.

GRAD at Oxford

Globalization, Regionalization, and Democratization (GRAD) is the title of the Toda Institute's new global research project. Due to the problems of air travel resulting from the terrorist attack on the United States, the GRAD planning conference was postponed from September 15-18, 2001 to March 17-20, 2002. The conference will take place at Magdalen College, Oxford University. Under the auspices of the Toda Institute and the Globalization Research Center of the University of Hawai'i, the conference will bring together some 80 scholars from all over the world.

Focused on "Democratization in the Context of Globalization, Regionalization, and Modernization," the conference will launch a new inter-civilizational research initiative. A consortium of peace and policy institutes also will be formed at Oxford to oversee the project. For further information on the GRAD Project, see www.toda.org.

The conference will form a number of working groups focusing on specific topics. Each working group will consist of scholars from several different continents, regions, and civilizations. The central objective of the GRAD Project is to study global problems globally. Instead of imposing alien research concepts and methods on indigenous problems, the project aims at achieving its analytical frameworks dialogically through collaboration among scholars from different cultural backgrounds. Some of the working groups have already started their formation. Others will be formed at the conference itself.

Commission on Globalization

The Toda Institute and its director were invited to join the Commission on Globalization formed by Michael Gorbachev, George Soros, and other world leaders. The Commission held its inaugural conference in London on December 14-15, 2001 (see Appendix II). The Commission has formed a number of Policy Action Groups focusing on specific problems such as intellectual property, progressive enterprise, learning and education, genetic technology, poverty and inequality, and environment. The conference approved the director's proposal for a new Policy Action Group under the title of "Cultures, Dialogues, and Global Mediation" (see Appendix III). There is clearly a strong linkage between the objectives of the Commission on Globalization and the Toda Institute's GRAD project.

GRAD West Asia

The last three meetings of the International Commission for Security and Cooperation in West Asia (Istanbul 1999, Limassol 2000, Doha 2001) were focused on conflict resolution problems in the Persian Gulf. HUGG West Asia touched on a number of critical issues, including border disputes, confidence building, and cooperative security. Out of these deliberations, a volume entitled *Bridging a Gulf: Peacebuilding in West Asia* will be published in November 2002.

September 11, 2002, however, demonstrated the urgent need for a new regional security regime in West Asia based on peace as well as justice, economic progress as well as political democracy, human rights as well as responsibilities. To reach these objectives, democratization appears to be an indispensable condition for long-term regional security.

In its new phase, the West Asian project is broadening its regional concern beyond the Persian Gulf and narrowing its focus on comparative studies of democratization in the contexts of globalization, modernization, and regionalization. This research focus fits well with the new GRAD Project. The

GRAD West Asia project will have its planning conference in Limassol, Cyprus on March 29-31, 2002. In collaboration with the Centre for World Dialogue (Nicosia, Cyprus), the Toda Institute is bringing scholars from West Asia, Europe, and North America to design the conceptual and methodological framework of a three-year research project.

Conclusion

As the GRAD project unfolds, a number of working groups will be formed composed of peace and policy scholars from all over the world. They will focus on global problems that need to be studied globally. The process of this global research project should be considered as important as its outcome. Unlike most international research projects that are primarily led and implemented by a single institution and national group, from its conception to implementation, the GRAD project aims at becoming a multi-national and multi-institutional effort. As such, the project hopes to achieve an unprecedented level of multi-cultural dialogue among the researchers and policy-makers in peace research.

The Institute's founder Daisaku Ikeda, Chairman Einosuke Akiya, the Board of Directors, and the International Advisory Council, have been sources of constant encouragement to me. Thanks also are due to the Institute's dedicated staff in Tokyo and Honolulu, including Masaichi Ueda, Tomosaburo Hirano, Koichi Taniguchi, Hiroshi Morita, Satoko Takahashi, Hau`oli Busby, and Chie Sunada. Farideh Farhi, Anne Smith, Joyce Yukawa, and Celine Shinbutsu have ably helped the institute to project itself through its journal, Peace & Policy, and its WebPage. Without this dream team, none of the above achievements would have been possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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Director, Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research Honolulu, Hawai`i, January 26, 2002