

Toda Institute Annual Report 2012

2012 marked the 16th year since the founding of the Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research in 1996. We have had the pleasure of working on various areas of global focus though the years. This past year we continued our work on our regional projects; conflict prevention, nuclear-free weapons zones, protecting sacred spaces; and our other projects of researching ways in which music and the arts can contribute to peace. This of course set against the background of various discoveries, international events and political turmoil, disasters and wonders.

This past year has given us some opportunity to reflect on the work of the institute amidst the changing realities of our world. Democracy and human rights fell backwards in some countries but made advances in others. The Former President of Liberia Charles Taylor was convicted for war crimes and crimes against humanity and condemned to fifty years in prison by the Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague. President Obama won a second term in the United States, Kim Jong Un of North Korea consolidated his power by becoming First Secretary of the Worker's Party as well as the Marshal of the Korean People's Army, Palestine was granted non-member observer state status by the UN General Assembly, and in Qatar the Kyoto Protocol was extended until 2020 at the UN Climate Change Conference.

In 2012, we continued forging ahead along the path of our mission to promote the "Dialogue of Civilizations for Global Citizenship," based on a conviction in the interdependence of all people, of people and nature, in the imperative of nonviolence when dealing with political, strategic and economic upheavals, and in the inherent preciousness of each living being. Of course, there are many more events worth mentioning, global environmental and economic disasters, continuances of war and misery, and advances in science, however, we would like to highlight some of the ways that the Toda Institute has been working to create new frameworks and roadmaps within the realities of our ever changing world.

In Memoriam and with Deep Gratitude

Dr. Majid Tehranian became the first director of the Toda Institute upon its founding in 1996. Dr. Tehranian, who dedicated his life to nurturing international understanding was a man of interdisciplinary vision, integration, and thought. Together with late Deputy Director Tomosaburo Hirano, he built the institute into a world known peace research institute, with publication of over 30 books, and of the annual journal *Peace & Policy*, and helped create the network of peace scholars and institutions all over the world. Dr. Tehranian was born in Iran in 1937 and he passed away on December 23, 2012, survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Katharine, his daughters Maryam and Yalda, his sons John and Terrence, and six grandchildren. A memorial service was held on December 29, 2012 at Pacific View Memorial Park, in Corona Del Mar, CA. The family has requested that memorial donations in Majid's name be made to Amnesty International. For his obituary please visit the following site: <http://obits.dignitymemorial.com/dignity-memorial/obituary.aspx?n=Majid-Tehranian&lc=4799&pid=161976173&mid=5354094&locale=en-US>. The Toda Institute will pass along any messages of condolence to the family. Dr. Tehranian and his contributions to peace are immortal, the Institute and all of us who have had the pleasure of getting to know him,

working with him, or sharing a laugh and having a conversation, are forever grateful for his presence and insight. He is greatly missed.

Conferences

Music, Power and Liberty in Paris, France, February 3-4

One of the Toda Institute's main research areas is in the power of the "Arts for Peace." In 2012, we held the conference *Music, Power and Liberty* the third conference organized by the Toda Institute on the topic of music; the first two produced the collective volumes *Music and Conflict Transformation* (2008) and *Music and Solidarity* (2011). The main research question for the 2012 conference was: "in the struggle between liberty and oppression, in what ways can the power of music be mobilized?" Bringing together participants from Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco, participants discussed and reported on the upheavals rocking North Africa and the Middle-East and how music had affected, and was affected, by these events. Others from Europe, Oceania, the US, and Japan illustrated the difficulties in deliberately using music for positive social change, but concluded that they are not insurmountable. The results of this conference on *Music, Power and Liberty* are expected to be published in 2013. For more information please visit the Toda website: www.toda.org.

Nuclear Experts Working Group Meeting in Tokyo, Japan, March 10-12

A small group of nuclear experts met in Tokyo to discuss the fragile state of the global nuclear orders. The group concluded that the world is at a critical crossroads on all three dimensions of nuclear policy: the use of civil nuclear energy for electrical power, nuclear nonproliferation, and nuclear disarmament. It also focused attention on the dangers of proliferation and noted that unless the international community is able to address the drivers of nuclear proliferation and the countries of concern, more countries would cross the nuclear threshold. In particular the group directed attention to ways in which the nuclear powers could keep their side of the original NPT bargain and make more rapid and demonstrable progress towards the abolition of all nuclear weapons.

Stable Zero: Feasible, Realistic? in Vienna, Austria, November 19

On November 19, 2012, the Toda Institute and the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs organized a small conference on "Stable Zero: Feasible, Realistic?" in Vienna, Austria, followed by a public meeting on the same issue on November 20. We were hosted by the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. The topic for discussion was a challenge posed by Prof. Thomas Schelling in the Fall 2009 issue of *Daedalus* (from the US Academy of Sciences) devoted to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The symposium will be followed by a Toda-NUPI publication on the requirements of stable zero and how the vision can be a guide to action.

Journal Publications

The European Security System Revisited: Studia Diplomatica No 1, Volume LXV-1 2012, edited by Sverre Lodgaard, offers a fresh outlook on the topic. In the introduction, Margriet Drent summarizes one of the main challenges discussed in this issue: “[H]ow can the EU go about extending the trans-Atlantic security community to include Russia? A pragmatic approach that involves addressing shared concerns, such as drug trafficking, cyber-crime, climate change and cross-border organized crime, could help to circumvent Russian resistance to a normative EU agenda” (13).

Peace & Policy Vol. 17, 2012, with Chaiwat Satha-Anand as guest editor, is entitled *Protecting the Sacred, Creating Peace in Asia-Pacific*, and was also published in book form. As I wrote in the preface, I believe this topic is “crucial and innovative” because “[s]acred spaces are at the core of human and environmental security. When we start disrespecting other people’s places of worship and spirituality, we are just a step away from disrespecting their lives, and the path to killing and destruction is close at hand. Focusing on sacred spaces and their protection is an excellent addition to the tools and methods that we have at our disposal to enhance reverence for life on our planet.”

Plans for 2013

2013 holds much promise already. We are looking forward to the challenging and meaningful book publications, meetings and conferences that will be held in the year to come. We plan to begin the year off with Regional Efforts to Achieve Peace (REAP).

The first will be a conference in Chiang Mai Thailand (in conjunction with Payap University, Chiang Mai and Peace Information Center, Bangkok) on January 19-20, entitled: *Between Nonviolent Conflicts and Reconciliation: An International Workshop Addressing Deadly Conflicts in Asia-Pacific*. The international Workshop constitutes an invitation for peace researchers and practitioners to explore the relationship between concepts and practices in nonviolence and reconciliation focusing on attempts to elucidate the question that in dealing with these conflicts, if they were engaged by nonviolent actions, would reconciliation that followed be easier and more effective? On the other hand, if these conflicts were engaged primarily with violence, does it make reconciliation process much harder to achieve?

The second REAP project meeting *Psychology and Intractability: Theory Informing Practice*, will be held in Medford, MA, at the Fletcher School for Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, on February 4. The meeting participants will be looking at three case examples of intractability, and of efforts to use conflict resolution strategies to address their causes. Discussions will focus on research findings and knowledge of psychological processes in relation to the case studies.

Among others, we also plan participation in a seminar in Belfast, Northern Ireland, on April 10, on the 15th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement; there will also be several meetings in Japan and China, and we are going to be working on the publication of a volume of *Peace & Policy* on “Global Visioning.”

Acknowledgements

It is with deep gratitude that the staff of the Toda Institute joins me in acknowledging the wonderful support of our partners and associates who have collaborated with us throughout 2012 to enable us to continue working for the enhancement of “dialogue of civilizations for global citizenship.”

Respectfully submitted,

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