

## **News and Views**

### **Annual Report 2007**

#### **Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research**

2007 was an unforgettable year. It was the last year of my service as director of the Toda Institute. It was also a year in which important events close to the central mission of the institute took place. The year 2007 launched the second decade of the Toda Institute. During the first ten years, the Institute successfully established its place as a prominent global peace and policy research institute. It has been supported by over 600 prominent peace scholars in its International Advisory Network, and has succeeded in developing cooperative links among institutions in different parts of the world.

#### **Journal: Peace & Policy**

*Peace & Policy*, Vol. 12, (Transaction Publishers, 2008) was devoted to the U.N. Reform. It included articles by Daisaku Ikeda, Richard Fall, Ralph Pittman, Ved Nanda, Sovaida Ma'ani Ewing, Hayward Alker, Kinhide Mushakoji, and Bagher Asadi. This list includes some of the leading scholars of U.N. diplomacy. The topics ranged from immediate concerns to long-range objectives. They provided an informed and informative analysis of the problems and prospects for U.N. reform. The issue was dedicated to the search for a solution before another tragedy hits us. The issue was appropriately entitled, "The Center Holds." A book with the same title edited by Kevin P. Clements and Nadia Mizner, of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at the

University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, was published by I. B. Tauris of London.

### **International Conferences**

In 2007 Toda Institute held two international conferences. By invitation of the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament, the Toda Institute participated in a Forum on Security and Cooperation in Northeast Asia. Over 30 Chinese scholars of peace and disarmament met with the representatives of the Toda Institute and had deep discussion on themes such as role of major powers in maintaining peace and security in Northeast Asia, six-party talks on North Korean denuclearization, arms control, and Sino-Japan relations.

In September our annual conference, held in San Francisco, was devoted to the abolition of nuclear weapons. In attendance were several of the leading experts in the field. The result is a book, *The Challenge of Abolishing Nuclear Weapons* (Transaction Publishers, 2009), edited by Dr. David Krieger of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

### **Book Series**

I.B. Tauris published *Challenges to Global Security: Geopolitics and Power in an Age of Transition*, edited by Hussein Solomon as a part of the Toda Institute's GRAD (Globalization, Regionalization, and Democratization) project, and *Music for Conflict Transformation: Harmonies and Dissonances in Geopolitics*, edited by Olivier Urbain, a part of the institute's P.E.A.C.E. (Peace, Education, Art, Culture, and Environment) project. In addition, Rowman & Littlefield published *Global Obligations for the Right to Food*, edited by George Kent, as a part of the HUGG 2 (Human Development, Regional Conflict, and Global Governance) project.

## **2007 Toda Transitions**

On a sad note, in January 2008, we lost one of our beloved team members. Mr. Tomosaburo Hirano was one of the founding fathers of the Toda Institute. His presence was a blessing and he is dearly missed by all of us. Our deepest condolences go out to his family, friends and colleagues.

As I leave behind the fulfilling post of director of the Toda Institute, I welcome my successor, Dr. Olivier Urbain. A graduate of the Universite Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), and the University of Southern California (USC), Olivier Urbain holds a Ph.D. in literature. He also recently obtained a postgraduate diploma in research methods for the social sciences from the University of Bradford (UB). He was appointed director of the Toda Institute in April 2008, 50 years after Josei Toda's passing. His expertise is on the links between music and peace, and he edited the book *Music and Conflict Transformation* (I.B. Tauris, 2008) mentioned above. The founder of the Transcend: Art and Peace Network (T:AP) and of the Commission on Art and Peace (CAP) of the International Peace Research Association (IPRA), he believes in the potential for self-reformation and dialogue within each human being as the greatest force for creating a peaceful global civilization. We welcome him warmly and look forward to many wonderful years under his directorship.

2007 was also the year in which the Toda Institute relocated its Honolulu office to the spacious and beautiful Ala Moana Pacific Center located on Kapiolani Boulevard. We also bid a fond farewell to Angel Ryono as she moves out into the world to continue working for global peace, and we welcomed aboard Deva Temple as our new secretary and research assistant.

## **Conclusions**

The Toda Institute has accomplished a great deal in the last 11 years and I am proud to have been a part of such an important and successful endeavor. We have brought together many of the finest minds to face humanity's greatest challenges through the

spirit of dialogue and compassion. It is my hope that our work for global peace will continue to grow and flourish long into the future. In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to all the scholars, activists, administrators, and many others who have helped make our work so successful throughout the years.

Respectfully submitted,

Majid Tehranian

New Port Beach, CA

May 31, 2008