

## **Toda Institute Annual Report 2010**

### **Background: Overview of the World Situation**

In 2010, several major earthquakes and other natural disasters have rattled the world; in Haiti, Chile, China, Pakistan, Mexico, and Indonesia..., and the destructive force of nature continued unabated into 2011 in Japan, leaving tens of thousands of people either dead or in need of desperate help. Human-made turbulences and conflicts such as suicide bombing, political conflicts, riots and military action have also rocked the world. Such violence and clashes claimed countless lives, leaving fear and instability in their wake.

On the other hand, we now know that the actions of one single individual can create massive and unexpected waves of change. On December 17, Mohamed Bouazizi was maltreated and humiliated by the police and municipality officials. Frustrated and desperate, he set himself on fire and died of his burns two weeks later. This incident triggered massive protests in Tunisia, then in Egypt, and finally a movement for change spread throughout the region in the first few months of 2011.

In the context of a turbulent year, the Toda Institute has continued forging ahead based on its mission, making inroads to create “Dialogue of Civilizations for Global Citizenship.” We believe that our work in 2010, organizing conferences, facilitating publications, developing networks of friendship and understanding through academic research, has contributed some elements to a culture of peace that we all want to see flourishing.

### **New Appointments:**

#### **Research Assistant**

Our new research assistant Chloë Heiniemi joined us on March 8, 2010. In addition to her regular duties we are happy to have her serve as assistant editor of *Peace & Policy*. She holds a Master of Arts in Service, Leadership, and Management, from the School for International Training (SIT), and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History from Adelphi University.

#### **Senior Research Fellows**

Three new Senior Research Fellows were appointed in 2010.

Eileen Babbitt, Fletcher School of Law, Tufts University, US

Sverre Lodgaard, Norsk Utenrikspolitisk Institutt (NUPI), Norway

Chaiwat Satha-Anand, Thammasat University, Thailand

## **Conferences:**

*February: Tunis.*

The Toda Institute co-organized a conference on *Music for a Global Consciousness of Solidarity* in Tunis, Tunisia, on February 6 through 8, together with The Center for the Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions headed by Prof. M'hamed Hassine Fantar, a prominent historian and archeologist. Twelve scholars from Tunisia and eight from various countries discussed the ways in which music can be used to promote common ground and contribute to enhancing a sense of solidarity in various contexts. Proceedings will be published on *Peace & Policy* v. 15 and online.

*July: Sydney.*

We held a conference entitled *Humanitarian Competition and Global Visioning* in Sydney on July 12 and 13. Three groups were selected to participate and were able to make excellent progress on their research and publication projects, dealing with issues such as the *South-South Network: Culture and Arts and Non-state Armed Groups* - coordinated by Susan May Granada, of the South-South Network for Non-state Armed Group Engagement, *Envisioning Peace through Tourism* - coordinated by Linda-ann Blanchard, Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Sydney, and Freya Higgins Desbiolles, University of South Australia, and a group evaluating the past 10 years of *Justice and Conflict Resolution in East Timor* – coordinated by David Cohen, War Crimes Center, University of California Berkeley.

While in Sydney, we also held our TIAC Network meeting in conjunction with the International Peace Research Association's (IPRA) bi-yearly conference. The institute's activities were reported and a possibility of collaboration with IPRA was discussed. For additional information regarding our TIAC Network meeting please visit our website: [www.toda.org](http://www.toda.org).

## **Plans for 2011:**

### ***Global Visioning: Hopes, Challenges and Solutions***

The Toda Institute will co-organize a conference on *Global Visioning: Hopes, Challenges and Solutions* in Rabat, Morocco in February, with the Muhammadan League of Scholars of Morocco. There will also be a planning meeting in Paris, on May 20, for a future conference on *Music and Liberty* slated for February 2012.

### **Building Global Peace: Regional Efforts to Achieve Peace (REAP)**

In the context of the regional projects headed by Kevin Clements, Secretary-General and Satoko Takahashi, Research Director, we plan on holding three conferences each centered around the work of our newly appointed regional senior research fellows. These projects will build on the research expertise of each fellow and bring together key experts to map out policy and practice concerns for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The first series of conferences is planned for 2011. It will be a

series of linked regional initiatives to prevent conflict and enable more effective post conflict interventions, reassert the role of religious sanctuaries in peacebuilding and to design new European regional security architecture for the 21st century. Conferences planned for 2011 include:

- Oslo, Norway, May 13-14, 2011: *The European Security System Revisited* (Sverre Lodgaard)
- Bangkok, Thailand, May 28-29, 2011: *Protecting Sacred Spaces* (Chaiwat Satha-Anand)
- Boston, Massachusetts, September 2011: *Conflict Transformation Workshop* (Eileen Babbitt)

### **Publications:**

#### **Book Series**

The Toda Institute facilitated the publication of the following books in 2010: *Islam and Politics in Southeast Asia*; *Anti-Racism & Multiculturalism: Studies in International Communication*; and *Daisaku Ikeda's Philosophy of Peace*.

#### **Peace & Policy Vol. 15, 2010**

The fifteenth issue of our annual journal, *Peace & Policy*, entitled *Music and Solidarity: Questions of Universality, Consciousness, and Connection*, was co-edited by Felicity Laurence and Olivier Urbain.

#### **Acknowledgements:**

On behalf of the staff of the Toda Institute, I would like to express my gratitude to the founder of our institute, Daisaku Ikeda, for providing continued support and inspiration. I also would like to express our appreciation to the more than 500 members of the Toda International Advisory Council (TIAC) Network, and the numerous friends and colleagues who have worked with us throughout 2010. Finally I would like to express my gratitude to the staff of the Honolulu and Tokyo offices for their wonderful dedication, as well as to our Secretary General.

I look forward to continuing our work, promoting “Dialogue of Civilizations for Global Citizenship” through research and publication, with all of you.

Respectfully submitted,

Olivier Urbain, Director,  
Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research,  
April 11, 2011