

南京国际和平通讯

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140 young people from around the world held a peace rally in the Nanjing Massacre Memorial Museum on August 15.

Scholars from China and other countries gathered in Nanjing for a seminar on the history of Japanese invasion of China and the Nanjing Massacre.

The Nanjing Massacre Memorial Museum recently visited all the registered massacre survivors, launching its second-generation and third-generation memory projects.

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Editor's Note:

Dear readers and friends:

Time flies. It is autumn when this issue of Nanjing International Peace Communication reaches you. Thanks for your patience for reading this. In the past two months, the Memorial Hall held various peace-themed events.

August 15th marks the 74th anniversary of Japan's announcement of unconditional surrender in World War II. 140 youth from more than 10 countries and regions including China, Japan, ROK, the United States and the Philippines held a peace rally in the Memorial Hall.

The survivors of Nanjing Massacre are in their late years. The Memorial Hall recently visited all the registered survivors of Nanjing Massacre, launching its second-generation and third-generation memory projects to make the descendants of the survivors the inheritors of historical memory.

A symposium on "the Studies of the Japanese Invasion of China and Nanjing Massacre from the Perspective of Building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind" was held in Nanjing. Scholars from China and other countries gathered in Nanjing to exchange their latest views on the topics such as the history of

the Nanjing Massacre, the history of the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, Sino-Japanese relations, peace studies, and memory of war.

Let us remember history and cherish peace!

Headlines

We together

On August 15, peace activists from more than ten countries and regions including China, Japan, ROK, the United States, and the Philippines joined in a peace rally at the Memorial Hall.

A delegation of the Kobe-Nanjing Heart-to-Heart Association of Japan arrived at the Memorial Hall for its 23rd visit. Twenty peace activists stood in silence with white chrysanthemums in one hand while holding high placards in the other hand. The inscriptions of Chinese characters on the placards, such as "Memorial" and "Past experience, if not forgotten, is a guide for the future", were particularly eye-catching in the sun. Cen Honggui, a survivor of Nanjing Massacre, told the members of the delegation his painful sufferings during the Nanjing Massacre.

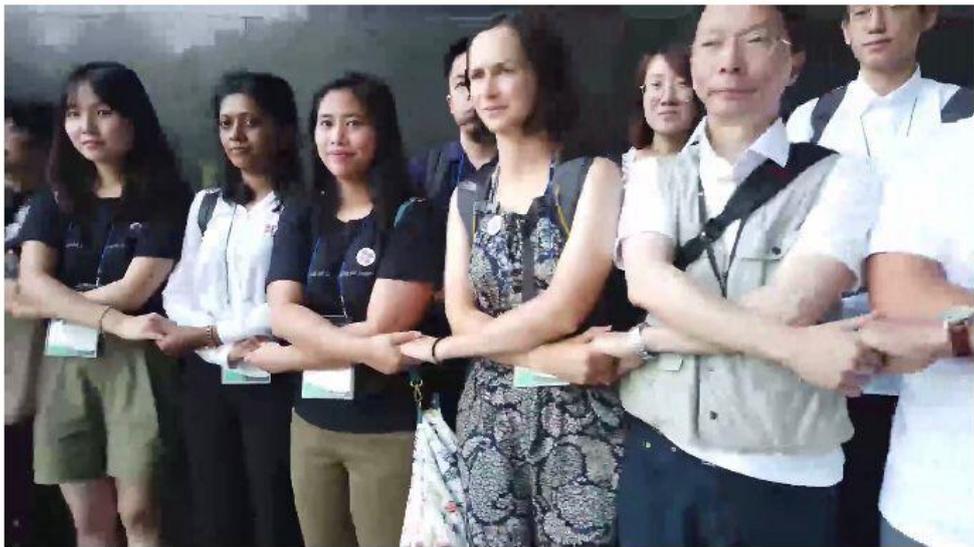
Yoko Ino, head of the delegation, said: "We are remembering the innocent people who were cruelly deprived of

their lives in the land where our forefathers committed atrocities such as massacres and pillage." The endless mourning makes us sad and speechless, she said, adding that she will work harder for the true revelation of history.

140 young people from China and other countries presented flowers to the victims in Nanjing Massacre as a sign of condolence. These young people are university students who participated in the international summer training of "International Peace Education in the Context of Building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind" that was jointly organized by Nanjing University and the Northeast Asia Regional Peacbuilding Institute, ROK.

Li Zaiyong, dean of the Northeast Asia Regional Peacbuilding Institute, said that Nanjing is a city bearing the most unbearable war scars in Northeast Asia. One of the best ways to remember the history of Nanjing Massacre is to let more people come to Nanjing and see with their eyes and listen with their ears.

When the memorial service was over, they inscribed on the message wall "I love peace" in their mother tongues. Zhang Jianjun, director of the Memorial Hall, exchanged ideas with the participants.



Events Held

The Memorial Hall held themed event marking the 82nd anniversary of the beginning of the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression

On the morning of July 7th, the Memorial Hall held a themed event marking the 82nd anniversary of the beginning of the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression. Wang Sheng, a veteran soldier of the Communist-led Eighth Route Army, presented at the event. He was joined by the representatives of the primary schools from Nanjing, staff of the Memorial Hall and some visitors.

At 8 o'clock, all the participants attended the national flag-raising ceremony. Teachers and commentators of the Memorial Hall read aloud the home letters written by the heroes of the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression. Wang Sheng recalled the heroic days more than 8 decades ago and passed onto the children the relay baton of remembering history and cherishing peace. He urged the children to cherish the peaceful life and study hard.



Sino-British Summit delegation visited the Memorial Hall

A delegation of 17 people that was organized by Sino-British Summit visited the Memorial Hall on the afternoon of July 7th. 12 of them are students from University of Oxford. Zhang Jianjun, director of the Memorial Hall, briefed the guests

on the history of Nanjing Massacre.

Afterwards, the visitors visited the exhibition on the history of Nanjing Massacre, stood in silent tribute, and offered white chrysanthemums to the victims in Nanjing Massacre.

Hugh Fendley, head of the delegation, said, "We have chosen the Memorial Hall as the first leg of our visit to Nanjing and we are impressed by the layout of the exhibition that is arranged from an international perspective. It shows not only the history of China's War of Resistance, but also many international elements. As the representatives of the younger generation of the British political parties, we feel obliged to keep the painful part of the history from repeating."

The Sino-British Summit was established in 2016 as a non-profit organization that promotes cultural and business exchanges between the UK and China.



Japanese scholar Ono Kenji visited the Memorial Hall

Ono Kenji, an independent Japanese researcher on the history of Nanjing Massacre, visited the Memorial Hall on the afternoon of July 6th. Zhang Jianjun, director of the Memorial Hall, met with Ono.

Ono used to work in a chemical plant in Fukushima Prefecture, Japan, for more than 40 years. Since retirement, he has conducted numerous surveys on the history of Nanjing Massacre for nearly 30 years. By interviewing about 300 Japanese soldiers who participated in Nanjing Massacre or their descendants, he has sorted out more than 200 testimonies of the Japanese war veterans, and collected a large number of Japanese military diaries and other documents during the Japanese invasion of China in World War II.



In the right picture, the second from left is director Zhang Jianjun and the third from left is Ono Kenji.

For 28 years in a row, he led Japanese youth to China to pursue the historical truth.

A Japanese peace tour delegation headed by Ishikawa Katsumi, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Japanese Young Students Peace and Friendship Promotion Association,

and director of the Chinese Peace Journey and the Polish Peace Journey, visited the Memorial Hall and visited the exhibition on the history of Nanjing Massacre.

Ishikawa, who was 73, was visiting Nanjing for the 28th time as head of a group to explore the truth on the history of Nanjing Massacre since 1992. He has so far led nearly 3000 Japanese youth to visit China for the sake of finding out the truth about the Japanese invasion of China in World War II.



Macao youth delegation visited the Memorial Hall

A 124-strong delegation of youth from the Macau Special Administrative Region visited the Memorial Hall on July 15th. The Macao youth delegation is the largest and highest-level of its kind since the return of Macao to China.



Delegation from Taiwan, China visited the Memorial Hall

A 41-strong delegation from Taiwan, China, visited the Memorial Hall on August 2nd. The delegation took part in the 22nd session of the Purple Grass International Peace School, visited the exhibition on the history of Nanjing Massacre, and listened to the recounts of Ai Yiying, a survivor of Nanjing Massacre, on her sufferings during Nanjing Massacre. Wang Li, a staff member of the Memorial Hall, shared his thoughts on “What memory of the history on Nanjing Massacre means to the later generations”.



Italian students struck the peace bell at the Memorial Hall

12 Italian students from Nanjing University visited the Memorial Hall on August 29th to attend the 24th session of the Purple Grass International Peace School. At 8:30, they struck the peace bell at the memorial square. The Italian students were deeply impressed by the ceremony of striking the peace bell and the exhibition on the history of Nanjing Massacre. It was a time to contemplate and mourn. This is a very broad space that allows people to feel the weight of public memory and remember the moment forever.



Wan Xiuying, a survivor of Nanjing Massacre passed away

Wan Xiuying, a survivor of Nanjing Massacre, passed away on 22:15, July 25, reducing the number of existing registered survivors of Nanjing Massacre to 82. She was 91. On July 31, as the light went out, the photo of Wan Xiuying started to dim on the memorial wall of the survivors in Nanjing Massacre. The Japanese soldiers killed her brother, who was 19, with a sword by chopping off his head.



A former wartime comfort woman passed away

Jan Ruff-O'Herne, a former Japanese military sex slave and a peace activist, passed away at her home in Adelaide, Australia, on the morning of August 19th. She was 96.

Jan Ruff-O'Herne was born in Bandung, West Java of the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia) in 1923. During the World

War II, the Japanese occupied the Dutch East Indies. Ruff-O'Herne was captured with her Dutch parents on the island of Java in present-day Indonesia. She was systematically raped and beaten by the Japanese soldiers and later coerced into sexual slavery at a comfort women station in Semarang with many other girls.

She kept her abuse secret for 50 years, even from her family, until speaking out in December 1992 at a hearing in Tokyo, Japan, in support of South Korean "comfort women" who were seeking an apology from Japan.

In 1994, her autobiography *Fifty Years of Silence* was published in six languages, recording her experiences of being a comfort woman.



Symposiums and seminars

The Chinese and Foreign Scholars Participate in the seminar on “the Studies of the Japanese Invasion of China and Nanjing Massacre from the Perspective of Building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind”.

A seminar themed on “the Studies of the Japanese Invasion of China and Nanjing Massacre from the Perspective of Building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind” was held in Nanjing. Nearly 80 Chinese and foreign scholars from nearly 30 universities and scientific research institutions, 5 archives centers, and museums (memorial halls) gathered in Nanjing, making presentations of 45 articles on various topics such as the history of Nanjing Massacre, the history of Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, Sino-Japanese relations, peace studies, and memory of war.



Held Cross-disciplinary Seminar to Promote the Research on the History of Nanjing Massacre

The Nanjing Massacre and the International Peace Research Institute held its annual seminar on July 3rd in Nanjing. The seminar also marked the first anniversary of the launch of the Journal of the Research on the History of Japanese Invasion

of China and Nanjing Massacre.

Professor Zhang Xianwen, president of the Nanjing Massacre and the International Peace Research Institute, said that the study on the history of Nanjing Massacre needs to be further strengthened from empirical, micro and interdisciplinary perspectives alongside with peace studies and cross-disciplinary studies. Zhang Sheng, dean of the School of History at Nanjing University, believes that the study on the history of Nanjing Massacre has experienced half a century's cumulative research and explorations should be made to open up new research potential with new horizons and new methods.



Events that soothe the hearts

Amid the sweltering heat wave in late July, 120 security guards and auxiliaries, 55 cleaners, 12 commentators, more than 20 maintenance workers, 34 volunteers and dozens of staff

members worked every day to keep the smooth and orderly operation of the Memorial Hall.

Wang Wenting, one of the commentators, was soaked in sweat after receiving endless visitors. Lin Xiang, a security guard, suffered from the blazing heat when standing in the booth under the sizzling heat wave. Yuan Wanyuan, a customer service staff, had her cosmetic make-up spoiled by attending to the donation and flower offering site. In the memorial square, under the scorching sun, the temperature on the stone was as high as 52°C. Xiao Hao and Wang Shenhui, guardians of monument and the peace bell, felt hot on the sole. They said that working in the Memorial Hall is of extraordinary significance and is worth the efforts.

