



# Conflict Prevention and the Role of Citizens

## —New Challenge of Article 9 of Japanese Constitution—

In response to the UN Secretary-General's Recommendation 27 on the Role of Civil Society in the Prevention of Armed Conflict, a non-governmental initiated large-scale international conference will be held at the United Nations headquarters in July 2005. Preparatory processes at the regional level are under way all over the world. In the Northeast Asian region, Tokyo-based international NGO *Peace Boat* has been co-initiating this project with Seoul-based NGO *Women Making Peace* and Hong Kong-based network *Asian Peace Alliance*.

The need to work for the prevention of armed conflict in Japan and the Northeast Asian region is a very real and urgent one. The insecure condition of the Korean Peninsula; Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution being under threat; the remilitarization of Japan; numerous territorial disputes; and the lack of historical understanding and reconciliation are all factors that contribute to regional instability and insecurity.

As members of Japanese civil society, we believe that the build-up of military force is not an effective or durable form of conflict prevention. We need to renew our commitment to non-violent, non-military forms of preventing conflicts, and genuinely pursue the spirit of Article 9 of the Constitution of Japan. There is much concrete work to be done. We need to listen carefully to the voices of war survivors such as *Hibakusha* and former comfort women. We need to promote the recognition of a common history. We need to implement peace education into our schools. We need to achieve regional disarmament under international law.

The Japan-level process of GPPAC will be formally launched to discuss key peace and security issues relevant to Northeast Asia. To commemorate this launch, an international symposium will also be held. We are looking forward to your participation.

### Guest Speakers

- **Judge C.G. Weeramantry**

Former Vice-President, International Court of Justice; Founder of the Weeramantry International Centre for Peace Education and Research (WICPER)  
*Conflict Prevention and International Law*

- **Dr. Kathleen Sullivan**

Educators for Social Responsibility Metro Area, New York City  
*Conflict Prevention and Education*

- **Professor Dr. Kinhide Mushakoji**

International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism,  
Former Vice Rector, United Nations University, Tokyo  
*Conflict Prevention in Northeast Asia and roles for civil society in Japan*

- **Mr Tatsuya Yoshioka**

Co-founder and Director, Peace Boat  
*About the GPPAC process*

**Venue** *Nihon Kyoiku Kaikan* (Japan Education Hall)  
2-6-2 Hitotsubashi, Chiyoda-ku, 101-0003 Tokyo  
Tel: +81-3-3230-2831

**Time:** Wed. August 11, 2004  
18:00 doors open 18:30 start 21:00 ends  
**Fee** 800 yen

**Sponsor:** GPPAC Northeast Asian Regional Steering Group (Peace Boat)

For further information, please contact:  
Peace Boat

Rika Watanabe, Johanna Stratton, Akira Kawasaki  
3-14-3-2F Takadanobaba, Shinjuku-ku,  
Tokyo, 169-0075, JAPAN  
+81-3-3363-8047  
[www.peaceboat.org/english](http://www.peaceboat.org/english)