Guest Educators and Projects

102th Peace Boat Global Voyage

What is a Mizuan?
(Guest Educator, literally translated as ‘Navigator’)
Artists, journalists, musicians, writers, NGO activists, scholars and a variety of people from different backgrounds are invited on board to act as ‘navigators’ to Peace Boat participants. These guest educators help bring us closer to the people and places we are visiting, and shed light on a broad range of issues in these areas.

What is a Mizupa?
(Guest Educator supporters)
We encourage participants to become Mizupa to engage more closely with Guest Educators so that our onboard peace education program becomes more interactive, creative, and interesting. It is a great opportunity for participants to work with experts from different fields from around the world, and gives Guest Educators a chance to co-create their onboard activities in an active and dynamic way not usually found in other academic environments.
FUKATSU Takako
CEO of Wai Wai Tours, Hawaii Specialist at the Hawaii Tourism Authority

WADA Tak
CEO of Wai Wa Tours, Hawaii Specialist at the Hawaii Tourism Authority

XIONG Heigang
Representative of the Japan Tourism Education Network, Professor in the Tourism Programme at the Faculty of Contemporary Social Science, Kobe Yamate University

NISHIMURA Noriyoshi
Representative of the Japan Tourism Education Network, Professor in the Tourism Programme at the faculty of Contemporary Social Science, Kobe Yamate University

In the 1980s, Fukatsu Takako was engaged in relief efforts for Indochinese refugees who came into Thailand via a land route or the Mekong River. After constantly asking herself why refugees exist and how to put an end to war, she found her answer in a preschool in the refugee camp – peace begins with children. After returning to Japan, Takako studied childhood education and worked at a Montessori kindergarten. She currently works as a freelance care advisor, spreading the message that "peace begins with children" through Montessori Education at Home, interpreting for teacher trainings and lectures, and translating works related to Montessori education. She will be joining the voyage as an advisor to the onboard Montessori Program, and will hold lectures on themes such as “Making peaceful use of our hands” and “The five senses and democracy”.

Ann Wright served for 29 years in the U.S. Army/Army Reserves and retired as a Colonel. She was also a U.S. diplomat and served in U.S. Embassies in Nicaragua, Grenada, Somalia, Sierra Leone, Kyrgyzstan, Micronesia, Afghanistan, and Mongolia. In March 2003, she resigned from the U.S. government in opposition to the U.S. war in Iraq. She has been on Gaza flotillas to challenge the illegal Israeli blockade of Gaza and has traveled to Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Yemen to talk with families whose family members have been killed by US assassin drones. She was in North Korea as a delegate on the 2015 Women Cross DMZ. She has been on speaking tours in Japan in defense of small and medium-sized businesses and environmental protection, defending families whose members have been killed by US assassin drones. She was in North Korea as a delegate on the 2015 Women Cross DMZ. She has been on speaking tours in Japan in defense of small and medium-sized businesses and environmental protection.

Idaka Hiroaki
Journalist, Former Reporter for Kyodo News

Since 1967, Idaka Hiroaki has conducted interviews all over the world in places such as Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Okinawa. No other Japanese journalist has been involved in South and Central America as long as Idaka has, and he has extensive knowledge on various topics, including politics, the military, history, and culture. Idaka has published many books, including “Che Guevara – Travels, the Cuban Revolution and Bolivia” and “A Correspondent’s Notes on Latin America”. He has also translated works such as the “Revolutionary Life Told by Fidel Castro Himself” and “Chavez – Latin America will Change the World”. He also supervised "Notes on Latin America". He has also translated works such as the "Revolutionary Life Told by Fidel Castro Himself" and "Chavez – Latin America will Change the World". He also supervised "Notes on Latin America".
New York → Greenock

**Walter CHANG**
Photographer, filmmaker

Walter Chang is a photographer/filmmaker based in New York City. After graduating from New York University with a degree in film and television, he got a job as an audio-visual technician at Columbia University. Four years later in 2011, Walter quit his job and embarked on a backpacking trip around the world. What initially was going to be just three months became three years, and counting more than 60 countries, he documented his experiences through photography and video. After returning in 2015, Walter Chang compiled his experiences through a video/photography project titled “We Call This Home”. The project resulted in a viral video and raised over $30,000 for a crowd funded fine arts book through Kickstarter. He is currently working on various short form documentary projects as a cinematographer and editor.

New York → Montreal

**Satoko Oka Norimatsu**
Director of Peace Philosophy Centre, Editor of Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus

Satoko Oka Norimatsu is an author based in Vancouver, BC, Canada. She is originally from Tokyo, and has lived on the West Coast of Canada for a quarter of a century including two years in high school. She is the Director of Peace Philosophy Centre (peacephilosophy.com), Editor of Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus (apjjf.org), and Co-chair of Vancouver Save Article 9. She co-authored Resistant Islands: Okinawa Confronts Japan and the United States (Rowman and Littlefield, 2012 & 2018) with Gavan McCormack, for which Japanese (2013), Korean (2014), and Chinese (2015) versions are available, and has published several books in Japan, mostly on the issue of the U.S. military bases in Okinawa.

New York → Montreal

**Falen JOHNSON**
Radio host, writer and actor

Falen Johnson is a writer and actor, and she currently writes and hosts a podcast series called The Secret Life of Canada. It addresses topics that are not usually covered in mainstream media, such as topics related to indigenous issues in Canada, Chinese-Canadian history, and LGBTQ+. As well as being funny or surprising stories from Canada. Falen is Mohawk and Tuscarora, and this heritage inspires her focus on issues related to First Nations and immigrants in Canada. She is very excited about the prospect of traveling the same waterways as her ancestors did when migrating from the US to Canada.

Montreal → Reykjavik

**TAKANO Takako**
Nature activist, Representative Director of Non-profit organization ECOPLUS, professor at Waseda University, visiting professor at Rikkyo University

Takako specializes in wide range of environmental studies including field studies, the environment, and sustainability. Based on her expeditions and encounters with minority groups, since 1996 she has been working on environmental and outdoor education projects centred around the idea of “people, nature, and foreign cultures”. Her main focuses are the importance of learning from experience, and the value of “regionally-focused education”. Along with Ms. Sadako Ogata and Ms. Sayuri Yoshinaga, Takako received the “Omega Award 2002”, which is awarded to 7 women who work in the field of social services. In 2016 she received a Waseda Teaching Award, and in 2017 an honourable mention in the Japan Outdoor Leaders Awards (JOLA). She featured in the nature documentary “Gaias Symphony No. 7”, and has also published a number of books including “Children's Transformation in the Outdoors” (Environment Centre Publications).

Quebec → Reykjavik

**SATO Katsuhide**
Professor at Kobe Yamato University

Born in Nagano, Japan in 1960, Katsuhide started working at Cathay Pacific Airways after graduating from university. For 30 years, he devoted himself to international business between Japan and foreign countries as a passengers salesperson, before shifting his career in his 50s to being a professor. Katsuhide first began as an associate professor at Toyama Kookosi University, before changing to Konan Womens University, and finally onto his current position at Kobe Yamato University. He now lectures on Tourism Studies, Hospitality, and cross-cultural understanding, as well as also being actively involved in the practice of Kyogen, the traditional Japanese stage drama. As a member of the Okura sect of Shigeyama, he hopes to revive the Gion Festival at Takayama in Kyoto.

Quebec → Greenock

**Anna GAWLEWICZ**
Social scientist

Dr Anna Gawlewicz is a Research Fellow at the University of Glasgow, Scotland. She is an interdisciplinary social scientist with expertise in international migration and how it contributes to growing social diversity and multiculturalism. She specialises in migration from Central and Eastern Europe, in particular Poland, to the United Kingdom and has investigated migrants’ experiences of difference in receiving societies, and issues related to language and sexuality. She is also a qualitative researcher, which means that she works closely with people and explores who they are and how they understand things. Currently, she is researching how Polish migrants and the long-settled population in Glasgow feel about Brexit (i.e. the United Kingdom’s exit from the European Union) and what consequences it may have for British society.

Quebec → Greenock

**Axel OSKARSSON**
Aurora Navigator

Axel was born in Reykjavik in 1977. Standing at an impressive height of nearly two metres, he is proud of his Viking heritage and calls himself a “modern Icelandic Viking”. He previously joined the Icelandic Coastwatch. In addition to being the owner and creator of “I Am Iceland,” which organizes tours into the untouched nature of Iceland, he has developed a unique method to encounter the aurora in which he analyzes meteorological and magnetic field data from the standpoint of astronomy and earth science. We hope that this time as well, he will be able to guide the Ocean Dream to a place where the night sky is enveloped in the shimmering curtain of the Northern Lights.

Lisbon → Singapore

**Takahashi Kazuo**
Expert in international politics; Professor Emeritus of the Open University of Japan

Takahashi Kazuo is an international political scholar who provides easy-to-understand explanations of global issues and frequently appears as an analyst on television news and other programmes. He will give board lectures aimed at providing the audience with a clear understanding of complex global issues such as the conflicts in Israel/Palestine, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Afghanistan, as well as the United States’ involvement in these conflicts. Kazuo has also written numerous books on issues such as the Israel-Palestine conflict and ISIS.
**Satochiki**  
Singer/Songwriter, erhu musician  

Born and bred in Singapore, Dennis moved to Japan in 2008 and founded BOUNDLESS in 2017. An avid language learner and traveler, Dennis went to all 47 prefectures of Japan during his first four years in Japan. Having established an extensive social network consisting of educational personnel, craftsmen, politicians, celebrities, entrepreneurs and designers, Dennis started his own social business with the aim of reevaluating the charms of rural Japan and finding solutions for the multitude of problems faced in rural Japan. He is currently building a new community of international students and working professionals to contribute to Japan’s revitalization movement. With the knowledge and experience accumulated in Japan, Dennis wishes to contribute to creating a sustainable future for the world.

**SOYAMA Naoyuki**  
“Enpitsu” Calligrapher SOYAMAX

Born in Niigata Prefecture, Japan in 1983. In Japanese, “Enpitsu” means pencil, and is written using the Chinese characters meaning “lead” and “brush.” However, SOYAMAX replaces the “lead” character with the character meaning “connection.” SOYAMAX uses his calligraphy brush to form connections with people as a travelling calligrapher. Diagnosed with a stage 4 malignant lymphoma at age 18, he received a bone marrow transplant at age 19 which became a turning point in his life. He borrows Gandhi’s famous words, “Live as if you were to die tomorrow, Learn as if you were to live forever” as his motto. In 2011, he published a book about his battle with lymphoma. He is self-taught in calligraphy, English and Chinese. In addition, he is also licensed as a chef.

**Dennis CHIA**  
Social Entrepreneur  

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**Penang → Yokohama**  
**Satochiki**  
Singer/Songwriter, erhu musician

Satochiki is an erhu musician, and the creator of a new style of playing dubbed “narration strumming.” As an artist working to connect Asia, he is actively involved in international exchange and frequently travels between Japan and Taiwan. He is also devoted to building the Japanese erhu industry, and most recently proposed a new style of “Japanese erhu,” using Japanese wood and paper crafted by Nishino Kazuhiro. Satochiki similarly hosts erhu classes, and supports other artists in both recordings and concerts, collaborating with numerous other instruments, and in making movie soundtracks.

**Piraeus → Phuket**  
**Dennis CHIA**  
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**Piraeus → Xiamen**  
**SOYAMA Naoyuki**  
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**EL SISTEMA**

Since 2005, Peace Boat has maintained a close relationship with El Sistema, Fundación Musical Simón Bolívar (FMSB), a Venezuelan music educational organization, which uses symphony orchestras and choruses as a means of social organization and community development. El Sistema was founded in 1975 by Venezuelan José Antonio Abreu who started out teaching music in a garage. His aim was to educate children who were living on the street through music, and Abreu was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 2012 for the programme which has benefited thousands of people and has been replicated in around 25 countries. El Sistema is an example of how classical music should not be reserved only for those in a position of economic power. According to Abreu’s philosophy, orchestras are much more than a group of musicians. By cultivating certain abilities and attitudes, orchestras have the potential to foster growth and positive change for both individuals and communities.

**Tübingen University**

Founded in the 15th century, Tübingen University is one of the oldest universities in Europe. It is well known for its social and political sciences as a German Excellence University, and since 2005, Tübingen University has regularly been sending graduate students for study and exchange programmes on board Peace Boat. The students joining the 102nd voyage are MA students of Peace and Conflict Research and International Relations, and Tübingen University is delighted to once again be able to contribute to and participate in Peace Boat’s onboard program. The students will give presentations focusing on how Germany dealt with World War II, war crimes, and a violent past in its politics, culture, and educational system. They will also talk about the situation in Germany today and some of the main issues of concern in the country. The students are looking forward to engaging in dialogue with the participants onboard Peace Boat.

**Montessori Programme**

This programme focuses on the theme “peace starts with children”, and aims to provide children with an alternative education onboard and cultural experience. Since 2009, over 150 children and their guardians have participated in this programme. The Montessori programme provides children with the opportunity to see and experience the diversity of each culture of the world through all five senses at a young age before they develop prejudices or preconceived notions. This allows for the development of open-mindedness and rich sensitivity that forms the basis of a more peaceful world. Receiving positive feedback from both the children and parents, this programme supports families on an around-the-world voyage.

**Peace Boat Disaster Relief Volunteer Center (PBV)**

“Strengthening Resilience to Disasters”

In recent years, the world has seen an increase in disasters caused by record-breaking amounts of rainfall as a result of climate change. Peace Boat originally became involved in disaster relief after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995, and has since responded to disasters in countries around the world, including large-scale earthquakes in Taiwan and Turkey, as well as Hurricane Katrina in the USA. Following the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in 2011, Peace Boat established the Peace Boat Disaster Relief Volunteer Center (PBV), a specialist organization to focus on the relief and recovery of communities affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, domestic and international disaster relief, and disaster risk reduction. During this voyage, participants will learn how to protect themselves and their loved ones, how to contribute to disaster relief efforts, and learn from past experiences of people who responded to disasters.

**PROJECT**

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