



2018 NARPI Newsletter



Jeju Island, South Korea | August 8-22, 2018

Jeju Island

The 2018 NARPI Summer Peacebuilding Training took place in Jeju Island from August 8-22. Many new and past NARPI friends gathered to share and learn together on the beautiful Island thanks to the effort of several volunteers. Inhee Jang, this year's local host, organized details for the venue, local transportation and Day 3 of the field trip. Emily Wang and Kaia Vereide, who both have deep roots in NARPI, also put in a great deal of effort to plan and guide the field trip.

Words from Participants

"Meeting face to face and getting to know each other as Northeast Asians is so worthwhile for peacebuilding in our region." –Michiko Iki

"This is my second time to join NARPI, but I could learn many new things that I can use as a teacher in the future. I want to keep connecting with NARPI from now, too. – Anonymous

"I could spend a peaceful, safe and inspired time which I seldom experience." –Jeram Kang

Bishop Peter U-il Kang of the Jeju Diocese joined us at both the Week 1 Opening Ceremony and the field trip pre-session. His eloquent, detailed explanation of the history of Jeju Island, Korea, and the whole region enabled us to understand the cycle of violence that has been perpetuated in Jeju, often falsely in the name of justice and peace.

The tragic history of Jeju Island is still not well known in this region or in the world. For many NARPI participants, it was the first time to hear how Jeju was used as an airbase to attack Nanjing during the Asia-Pacific War. It was the first time to learn about the 4.3 Massacre of civilians in Jeju soon after Korea gained independence. For most new NARPI participants, it was the first time to hear about the naval base in Jeju, recently constructed in a strategic line of military bases that can be used by the U.S. to surround China. The context of historical tragedy and continued militarization in Jeju Island held a meaningful space for reflection and discussion about peace in the Northeast Asia Region.

Courses

There were six courses offered this year:

Week 1	Conflict and Peace Framework
	Restorative Justice Paradigm and Its Practice
	Optimizing Peace Making by Ending Generational Trauma
Week 2	Theory and Practice of Peace Education
	Peacebuilding Beyond Nationalism and Militarization
	Arts, Media, and Peacebuilding

Of these courses, two were new. We'd like to briefly introduce the two new courses:

Arts, Media, and Peacebuilding

Facilitator: Kyoko Okumoto

Special Resource: Gayeon Kim

During this course, participants focused on the role of the arts and the media in peacebuilding in general and in Northeast Asia specifically, while exploring the functions of narratives, dialogue, journalism and various art forms to transform conflicts and create the culture and structure of peace. Participants described the atmosphere of the class as “inclusive, experiential, respectful, well-held” as well as “kind and encouraging.” Throughout this course Kyoko and Gayeon led participants through a number of experiential activities that illustrated to participants the role art and media (both old and new) can have in journalism. Regarding how she will apply this course in the future one participant, Li Linli from Mainland China said, “Maybe I will pay attention to distinguish peace journalism with war journalism now.”



Peacebuilding Beyond Nationalism and Militarization

Facilitator: Ryozo Teruoka

Special Resource: Kang-ho Song

In this course, participants explored the shape of a coexisting Asia by addressing (actual and potential) ethnically/nationalistically linked violent phenomena with an emphasis on militarization. Participants in this course engaged in role play, debate, and discussion about the various topics and identities related to nationalism and militarization. Participants said that they felt the course offered, “A safe and comfortable place to take our time to talk about serious issues” and “the diversity of classmates from different backgrounds and colors and voices they bring into the class allowed for so much of insight and learning from each other.” This course also took an afternoon field trip to Gangjeong Village where special resource person Kang-Ho Song shared about the militarization of Jeju Island.



Field Trip

This year's field trip followed the NARPI tradition of three days each respectively focusing on past, present, and future issues of peace in the host region.

Aldreu Airfield

On the first day of the field trip we visited Aldreu Airfield, a former Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service and United States Air Force (USAF) air base on southern Jeju Island. We heard about this airfield from local friend and guide, Oum Mun-hee (Myeolchi). She explained how Jeju civilians were forced to construct Aldreu Airfield during the time of Japanese colonization. It was then used by the Japanese military to send bomber planes to Nanjing and other cities in China during the Asia-Pacific War.

Myeolchi also shared with us the history of Jeju civilians who, soon after the end of the Asia-Pacific war and the independence of Korea, were accused of being communists by the Korean government. The military ordered mass killings of thousands of civilians, hundreds of which took place at Seodal Oreum near Aldreu Airfield. This tragedy, which took place between 1948-54, became known as the 4.3. Massacre.

Bukchon Neobeunsungi 4.3 Memorial Hall

Following Aldreu Airfield we visited the 4.3 Memorial Hall, located in Bukchon village. Bukchon is a seaside village located in the northeast end of Jeju Island that was the site of one of the largest massacres. Here we watched a short film about the 4.3 Uprising and heard from the Memorial Hall staff about the atrocities surrounding the massacre that followed the uprising against police violence on Jeju island on April 3, 1948. Afterwards we divided into two groups and walked to the nearby elementary school where many of the killings took place. We also observed the grave sites near the museum where the women, men and children who were killed in the massacre are buried.



“The field trip was very helpful. I appreciate a lot that I can listen to local guides of 4.3 and struggle in Gangjeong even though I can't understand Korean.” –Yu-Hsiang Huang

Gangjeong Village



On the second day of the field trip we visited Gangjeong Village, the site of the Republic of Korea Jeju Naval Base. Though Jeju was designated as an Island of Peace in 2005, not long afterwards, Gangjeong Village, on the southern coast, was chosen as a site for the construction of a naval base by the Korean government. In the process of many illegal steps by the government, the village was thrown into conflict, and a strong resistance movement formed against the base. Construction was completed in 2016, and villagers and activists continue to protest the military base.

In the morning our group divided into three smaller groups to tour Gangjeong village. We concluded our tour of Gangjeong at the round-about near the entrance of the naval base where activists gather every day to dance and sing in protest of the base.

In the afternoon we again broke into several small groups and rotated through various stations around the center of Gangjeong village. At each station we got to hear from different members of Gangjeong village, including Dongpyo Hong, Mi-ryang Kim, Sunghee Choi, Gwon-il Go, Kang Ho Song, and Seon-nyeo Jeong about their experiences prior to, during and since the construction of the base.

Our day in Gangjeong concluded with a set of songs performed by the Gangjeong Peace Choir, and a lively monodrama by Go Bomi & Neo-yeong Na-yeong Theater Troupe about the folklore of Gangjeong.

“NARPI is a place where we build a better understanding and trustful friendship. NARPI is also a doorstep to help people find clues that answer their questions in their context.” –Jungjoo Park

Dongbaek Garden



The third day of the field trip was a visit to Dongbaek Garden—an ecological tourist center seeking to prevent the forested wetland area in Seon-heul Village from being developed like the surrounding areas on the island. The community surrounding the wetland unified to protect the habitat and the many species that live there.

While at Dongbaek Garden the staff led us on a tour through the beautiful forest while explaining the various species that have been preserved thanks to the wetland center. Then we moved inside to hear about the

foundation of the center and the involvement and effects on the surrounding village. After hearing about the

operation of Dongbaek Garden, all the NARPI participants were invited into the kitchen to make a traditional Korean soup called “Kal-guksu.” The center provided each table with dough made from acorns gathered in the forest, then each table took turns rolling and cutting the dough into noodles before placing the noodles into a boiling broth.

The visit to Dongbaek Garden offered a beautiful model of how Jeju citizens can come together to protect their land not just from environmental destruction, but also from the force of militarization that so many islands suffer from – and a model of how people can work together to create healthy, safe communities to provide healing from the painful history of Jeju.



2019 Training - Nanjing

The 2019 NARPI Summer Peacebuilding Training will be held in Nanjing, China. The tentative dates are August 8 (registration) to August 22 (departures). Please mark these dates on your calendar. We hope to see you there!

Special Thanks

Local host: Inhee Jang

Other Local Volunteers: Emily Wang, Kaia Vereide, Ellie Jeong, Jungjoo Park, Jeram Yunghun Kang, Noh Min Kyu

Resource people for courses: Jiyoung Kim, Oum Mun-hee (Myeolchi), Emily Wang, Kaia Vereide

Resource person for introduction to Jeju history: Bishop Peter U-il Kang

Local resource people for evening events: Chan/aRiverDrop, Inho Jeong

We would also like to thank these groups and individuals for their financial support:

Organizations: Yeo Wool Church, Grace and Peace Mennonite Church, Honancho Mennonite Church, Transcend Japan, Obihiro Mennonite Church, Bethel Mennonite Church, University Mennonite Church, Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster, Nonviolent Peaceforce Japan, Mennonite Mission Network, Mennonite Central Committee

Individuals: Ying May, Emily Wang, Hanju Yoo, Lee Hyung Gon, Han Duckhee, Seungmin Hyun, Yoonseo Park & Abby Long, Hyesun Ryu & Donguk Seo, Soyoung Choi & Yongjin Jeong, Kang Ho Song, Kim Jiyoung, Chiang Ying-mei (May), Kyoko Okumoto & Yasu Yoshimura, Yuko Takabe, Gail Okuma, Keiko Miyamoto, Asakawa Kazuya, Fujita Akifumi, Taguchi Chizuko, Kazu Sasaki, Moe Sasaki, Akiko Ishihara, Nojima Daisuke, Noriko Saneyoshi, Tommy Lee Woon, Tom & Sharon Spicher, Micah & Bethany Spicher Schonberg, Jae Young Lee & Karen Spicher, Liu Cheng, Evelyn & Daniel Nafziger, Jim & Carol Spicher, John & Virginia Spicher, Tanya Hoover, Michael Lehman, Thomas A. Spicher, Jesse Johnson, Sriprakash Mayasandra, Stacy Hughes, Alex Piasecki, Ryoza Teruoka, Yuko Ikuta, Kelly forsyth, Russ and Sheryl Noble, Meri Joyce, Pearl Lande, Benjamin Mast, Nolan Thiessen, Peter and Kelly, Kathy Matsui, the Chan family, Michaela Payne, James Lioi, Michelle Tucker, Seohwi Jo, and many anonymous donors.

2018 Highlights



Early this summer, over 550 refugees from the war in Yemen came to Jeju Island, seeking asylum. Three participants from Yemen joined NARPI during Week 1. Jamal Al-Nasiri shared his story during an evening session, and another Yemeni participant taught an Arabic language class. Thank you, Yemeni friends! May you continue to have strength for this difficult journey, and we join in prayers for peace in Yemen.



“One Hundred Bows” is one of the daily efforts of local activists to share a strong message of peace at the entrance of the naval base in Gangjeong Village. Visitors are always welcome to join. Several mornings during the NARPI training, Kaia Vereide organized opportunities for NARPI participants to join the early morning bow ceremony. Thank you, Kaia!



The Jeju government has proposed the construction of a second airport in Jeju Island. There is strong opposition from the people of Jeju and from the villagers near the proposed airport site. This second airport would also be used by the Air Force, adding to the militarization of Jeju Island. During Week 2, Chan/aRiverDrop, an activist committed to organizing opposition to the second airport, joined us to share about the harm this airport would cause, and about the opposition efforts.



Culture and Talent Night is an eight-year NARPI tradition. This year’s NARPI family gathered to share about our cultures together through music, dance, words and laughter. A special highlight at the end was a drum performance by local musician Jeong Inho. Thanks to local host Jang Inhee for inviting Inho and his family to join us!

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The location of this year’s NARPI training - the Jungmun area of Jeju Island - is full of natural beauty. One afternoon in both weeks of courses was set aside for rest and reflection. NARPI participants enjoyed visits to the Jungmun beach, the Jungmun River, and the nearby waterfalls.