



Northeast Asia Regional Peacebuilding Institute: NARPI

Fall 2010 Newsletter

About NARPI

Greetings friends and supporters of NARPI! This first edition of our newsletter is intended to give you a deeper understanding of the NARPI project, and to provide an update on what we are up to these days!

As you may have heard, the idea of NARPI was born out of discovering the need for peace education among activists and students in Northeast Asia.



NARPI members show their support for a campaign against the construction of a naval base on South Korea's Jeju Island at the April 2010 Steering Committee Meeting in Seoul.

Even a brief glance at recent international news reveals deep tensions and animosities between countries in Northeast Asia, most notably between North and South Korea in March 2010 and between China and Japan as recently as September 2010, among others. As a result of this current context, as well as a history of militarism and conflict, peace workers, activists and students are actively seeking out practical training and education.



The NARPI Steering Committee poses for a group photo as part of its inaugural meeting in Seoul, April 2010, in support of a Peace Boat action for a military free Okinawa.

They are seeking an educational base for their work in transforming the existing culture of animosity and militarism into a culture of peace and reconciliation for Northeast Asia. While working to meet this need for training, NARPI is also seeking to be a space for collaboration and transformation among people in Northeast Asia; a deliberate forum for building relationships and connections between different peoples and nations.

NARPI will provide annual summer courses, with its first courses being planned for August 2011. It is our hope that current and future leaders in the areas of peacebuilding and conflict resolution will be among those present for our two one-week courses. We also hope that the summer courses will result in new ideas for collaboration and action that will transform local communities, and eventually bring regional change.

News: NARPI Steering Committee Meeting

The creation and direction of NARPI is being guided by our Steering Committee, made up of members from China, Japan, Mongolia, Russia, South Korea and Taiwan, who give of their time to provide direction for the NARPI concept and courses. They bring with them a great wealth of experience and knowledge from their work in the peacebuilding field in Northeast Asia, and provide a strong base for this initiative.



The second meeting of the NARPI Steering Committee will be held October 25-30, 2010. The

meetings will take place on Peace Boat, a Japan-based non-governmental organization that organizes educational peace voyages on a large passenger ship to promote peace, disarmament, human rights, sustainable development, and respect for the environment (www.peaceboat.org). The NARPI Steering Committee meeting will be held during Peace Boat's 71st Global Voyage, on the portion between Japan and Hong Kong. This is an especially important meeting, as we will finalize the details for course offerings in August 2011 and discuss matters of student recruitment, fundraising and logistics. Think of us as we try to tackle these tasks collaboratively and efficiently onboard Peace Boat!

2010 NARPI Events

Past

Jan 25-Feb 7 – Partner meetings in China
April 22-27 – Steering Committee Meeting, Seoul
August 19-22 – Joint Transcend Japan/NARPI
Peace conference, Hiroshima
August 24-26 – NARPI presentation at International
Peace Corps for Religion (IPCR) Conference, Seoul

Upcoming

October 24-30 – Steering Committee Meeting,
Peace Boat

Fundraising Update

Fundraising efforts to support the first round of NARPI courses for August 2011 are already underway. A generous grant from Mennonite Central Committee has already helped in making our Steering Committee meetings possible, and will provide a good funding base for the 2011 courses. We are excited to announce that NARPI has also been accepted as a grant recipient by the Schowalter Foundation (USA) and Mennonite Foundation USA! We are extremely grateful for their support and wish to thank them for recognizing the value and importance of the NARPI project.

We continue to seek funders and sponsors to partner with us in making the first Northeast Asia Regional Peacebuilding Institute a reality. We are also seeking organizations (NGOs, schools, churches, etc) and individuals who can contribute financially to cover the institute's costs as well as



The newest member of the NARPI team, Sarah Blackwell from Winnipeg

to create student scholarships. Please contact us at admin@narpi.net if you interested in contributing, or with ideas about how your group can get involved in fundraising. Our new volunteer in the area of fundraising, Sarah Blackwell, would be happy to discuss this with you or to provide any further information you are seeking. We are in the process of setting up channels for receiving donations from outside of Korea, and we include this information in a future newsletter as soon as we can.

Thank you for your ongoing interest and support!

The NARPI Team

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