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第二次世界大戦終結70年にあたっての声明

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立命館大学国際平和ミュージアムは、1992年、紛争の原因を取りのぞき、人間の可能性を豊かに開花させるために大学が果たすべき社会的責任の自覚の上に、「平和と民主主義」の教学理念を体現する社会開放施設として設立されました。その後、学校法人立命館は2006年に「立命館憲章」を定め、アジア太平洋地域に位置する学園として、歴史を誠実に見つめ、国際相互理解を通じた多文化共生の学園を確立することを宣言し、教育・研究機関として世界と日本の平和的・民主的・持続的発展に貢献することを誓いました。そして、2010年に開催された「アジア太平洋学長平和フォーラム」は、中国・台湾・韓国・ベトナム・タイ・インドネシア・アメリカ・カナダ・オーストラリア・日本の11大学の学長の共同声明を発し、立命館憲章の精神と理念についての認識を共有し、次世代を担う人材教育の面での国際平和ミュージアムの社会的・教育的意義を確認しました。

国際平和ミュージアムは、「過去と誠実に向き合う」ことを展示原則として、戦争の被害と加害の両面に目を配りつつ、常設展の充実や100回近い特別展・ミニ企画展の開催に取り組み、延べ95万人を超える参観者を迎え入れてきました。また、寄贈・寄託資料を含む4万2千点に及ぶ収蔵資料の登録・保管・調査・公開に関わる業務を進め、メディア資料室に収蔵する約4万5千点の平和関連の図書を学内外の利用に供してきました。

第一次世界大戦期から100年、第二次世界大戦終結から70年の今年、当ミュージアムは、更なる発展をめざして「平和研究センター」の設立に向けて努力を傾注しています。私たちは、「理念としての平和の諸問題」ととどまらず、「現実としての国内外の平和の諸問題」に関する調査・研究を進め、「平和と民主主義」を教学理念とする大学に相応しい教育・研究機能の発展に努めたいと願っています。また、今年には戦後70年平和企画として戦後史研究を踏まえた特別企画展を開催し、戦後史を踏まえつつ現代の諸問題に取り組む平和博物館としての姿勢を明確に示す方向を打ち出しています。

ひるがえって日本の安全保障をめぐる国会の動向や、平和博物館における加害展示後退などの状況を見るとき、私たちは、「平和と民主主義」に関する重大な岐路に立っていることを再認識するとともに、憲法学や歴史学の学問的成果を蔑にしようとする「権力の横暴」ともいうべき事態に重大な危惧を抱いています。とりわけ、戦後の日本の平和を支えてきた基本的枠組みとも言うべき日本国憲法を改変しようとする性急な政治動向や、「平和安全法制」の名において他国の軍事紛争に巻き込まれる懸念を増大させ、近隣諸国との安全保障環境を悪化させかねない危険な状況については、深刻な問題意識を表明せざるを得ません。

立命館大学国際平和ミュージアムは、国内外の平和博物館と共同して国際ネットワークの発展や共同事業の実現のために努力してきましたが、戦後70年に当たり、今後とも平和博物館としての展示事業や調査・研究、平和教育さらには、社会的共同事業の発展のために一層の努力を重ねる所存であることを声明いたします。

30 June 2015

In Commemoration of the Termination of World War II

*A Statement by the Director and the Honorary Director
of Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan University*

Monte Cassim, Director, and Ikuro Anzai, Honorary Director
Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan University

As an institution open to the all, Kyoto Museum for World Peace was established in 1992 by Ritsumeikan University. Since then, it has been guided by the fundamental principles of “Peace and Democracy.” These principles deeply recognize a social responsibility for contributing to the realization of all human potential. This responsibility includes the elimination of all causes of violence, including military conflicts. In its Charter of 2006, Ritsumeikan declared its resolution, as a Japanese institution located in the Asia-Pacific region, to establish an academy where many cultures would coexist in a spirit of mutual international understanding. This would be achieved by sincerely reflecting upon history, while pledging to promote peace, democracy and sustainable development in Japan and throughout the world as an institution of education and research. The Asia Pacific University Presidents’ Peace Forum of 2010 held at Ritsumeikan issued a joint communiqué in the name of the 11 participants (from China, Taiwan, South Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, U.S.A., Canada, Australia and Japan), which expressed a common understanding of the philosophy and ideals of the Ritsumeikan Charter. The Peace Forum also recognized the social and educational significance of the Kyoto Museum for World Peace as a highly effective institution for the education of coming generations.

The Kyoto Museum for World Peace has welcomed more than 950 thousand visitors. This number is a result of its persistent efforts of adhering to the fundamental principle of “Facing the past honestly”. The museum’s ability to attract this number was accomplished by enriching the permanent exhibition and organizing nearly 100 special exhibitions, while paying attention to both the damage that WWII inflicted upon Japan as well as Japan’s act of aggression. The museum has been taking care of the registration, storage, investigation and utilization of approximately 42,000 documents and materials, including those donated or deposited by citizens. The Media Library for International Peace has been providing about 45,000 books concerning international peace for public use, both inside and outside the university campus.

In this year of 2015, around 100 years from the WWI period along with the 70th anniversary of the termination of WWII, Kyoto Museum for World Peace is now concentrating its efforts on establishing the Kyoto Peace Research Institute in anticipation of further developments over the coming years. We hope to strengthen the function of our institution, not only in conceptual studies on peace, but also in realistic studies on peace in Japan and the world. This would allow a further contribution to the development of educational and research activities of Ritsumeikan University under the fundamental principle of (the furtherance of) “Peace and Democracy”. A special exhibition based on research of post-war history has been held this year to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. This clearly indicates the stance of the Kyoto Museum for World Peace in that it deals with various current issues based on postwar history research.

When we view the current situation in Japan, such as the Diet deliberations on security-related legislation and the recent trend in the reduction of exhibitions at peace museums in Japan on the nation's past aggression, we re-recognize that we are now once more standing at a serious crossroad in the furtherance of peace and democracy. We also feel misgivings about the domination of state power over academic studies on constitutional law and history. In particular, we are seriously concerned about impetuous political trends toward a modification of the Constitution of Japan, the basic framework for peace in postwar Japan. This critical situation has been brought about by security-related legislation named "Laws of Peace and Safety" that may increase the possibility of Japan's involvement in war and may worsen its relations with neighboring countries.

As the Director and the Honorary Director of the Kyoto Museum for World Peace, which has been making great efforts for the development of both networking and cooperation with peace museums in Japan and overseas, we here issue our joint statement in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of WWII. This is done with a vision for the further development of our exhibitions, research and peace education in collaboration with other societal initiatives for peace.