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“CHARACTERISTICS OF PEACE MUSEUMS IN JAPAN”

Abstract

The growth and some characteristics of Japanese peace museums will be made clear in the international context. Japanese peace museums were founded after World War II while some non-Japanese ones were created before the war. The number of Japanese peace museums is the highest in the world. They were founded most in the 1990s by the influence of peace movement while non-Japanese peace museums were established most in the 1980s. Japanese peace museums tend to put an emphasis on history education and the past while Western peace museums tend to put an emphasis on a culture of peace and conflict resolution. It is hoped that more information, ideas and exhibits will be exchanged among peace museums using the international network of peace museums in the future.

1. Introduction

There are clear differences of character between peace museums and war museums. War tends to be glorified at war museums while it tends to be criticized at peace museums in Japan. What is the growth of Japanese peace museums? What are characteristics of peace museums in Japan? In my presentation Japanese peace museums will be explored quantitatively and qualitatively. The number of Japanese peace museums is the highest in the world, which will be shown later. What is the situation of Japanese peace museums in the world? First, forty-eight peace museums in the world except Japan will be explored chronologically. Secondly, fifty-two Japanese peace museums will be investigated chronologically. Thirdly, 100 museums for peace in the world including Japanese ones will be made clear chronologically in order to make clear characteristics of Japanese peace museums in the world.

An Overview of Japanese Peace Museums in the World

What kind of peace museums exist in the world? The answer is well explained in Peter van den Dungen’s article of “Peace Education: Peace Museum”. A list of thirty-four main peace museums in the world is made from 1946 to 1995. In this section more peace museums will be listed. First forty-eight peace museums in the world except Japan will be listed chronologically.

2.1. Peace Museums in the World except Japan

First, what peace museums exist in the world? When and where were they founded? What are the differences of peace museums between Japan and other countries? This section puts an emphasis on quantitative aspect of peace museums in the world. The following is a list of forty-eight peace museums in the world except Japan. The reason why Japan is not included is to know the situation of peace museums in other countries. Then the number of the peace museums will be classified using a graph according to decades from the 1900s to the 2000s.

Name of Peace Museum	City	Country	Founded
The International Museum of War and Peace	Lucern	SWITZERLAND	1902
Peace Palace and Library	The Hague	NETHERLANDS	1913
Imperial War Museum	London	U.K.	1917
Peace Memorial Museum	Zanzibar	TANZANIA	1925
International Esperanto Museum	Vienna	AUSTRIA	1927
The IJzer Tower	Diksmuide	BELGIUM	1930
League of Nations Museum	Geneva	SWITZERLAND	1946
Gandhi Memorial Museum	Madurai	INDIA	1959
International Museum of The Red Cross	Mantova	ITALY	1959
National Gandhi Museum and Library	New Delhi	INDIA	1960
Anne Frank House Amsterdam	Amsterdam	NETHERLANDS	1960
Museum "Haus am Checkpoint Charlie"	Berlin	GERMANY	1963
Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya	Ahmedabad	INDIA	1963
War Remnants Museum	Ho Chin Minh	VIET NAM	1975
Peace Museum, Lindau	Lindau	GERMANY	1980
Bridge at Remagen Peace Museum	Remagen	GERMANY	1980
Anti-War House Peace Centre	Sievershausen	GERMANY	1981
The Peace Museum, Chicago	Chicago	U.S.A.	1981
Anti-War Museum, Berlin	Berlin	GERMANY	1982
Peace Museum	Meeder	GERMANY	1982
Peace Library and Anti-War Museum	Berlin	GERMANY	1984
Memorial Hall of the Victims in the Nanjing Massacre	Nanjing	CHINA	1985
Sword Into Plowshares Peace Center and Gallery	Detroit	U.S.A.	1986
International Museum of Peace and Solidarity	Samarkanda	UZBEKISTAN	1986
Käthe Kollwitz Museum	Berlin	GERMANY	1986
The Independence Hall of Korea	Seoul	KOREA	1987
Museum of the War of the Chinese People's Resistance	Beijing	CHINA	1987
Caen Memorial	Caen	FRANCE	1988
International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum	Geneva	SWITZERLAND	1988
Children's Friendship Museum Tashkent	Tashkent	UZBEKISTAN	1989

Museum of Compassion	New York	U.S.A.	1990
National Civil Rights Museum	Memphis	U.S.A.	1991
The House of Sharing	Kwangju	KOREA	1992
Franz Jägerstätter House	Ostermiething	AUSTRIA	1993
First Austrian Peace Museum	Wolfsegg	AUSTRIA	1993
The World Centre for Peace, Freedom and Human Rights	Verdun	FRANCE	1994
Prairie Peace Park	LincolnÅ	U.S.A.	1994
Peace Museum	N_rnberg	GERMANY	1995
Yi Jun Peace Museum	The Hague	NETHERLANDS	1995
Peace Gallery	Bradford	U.K.	1996
Robben Island Museum	Bellville	SOUTH AFRICA	1997
"In Flanders Fields" museum	Ieper	BELGIUM	1998
Gernika Peace Museum	Gernika	SPAIN	1998
Peace History Museum	Hindelang	GERMANY	1999
Peace Museum	La Vall d'Uixó	SPAIN	2000
European Museum for Peace	Shlaining	AUSTRIA	2001
Community Peace Museums	Nairobi	KENYA	2001
Dayton International Peace Museum	Dayton	U.S.A.	2004

Table 1: 48 peace museums in the world except Japan in chronological order of foundation

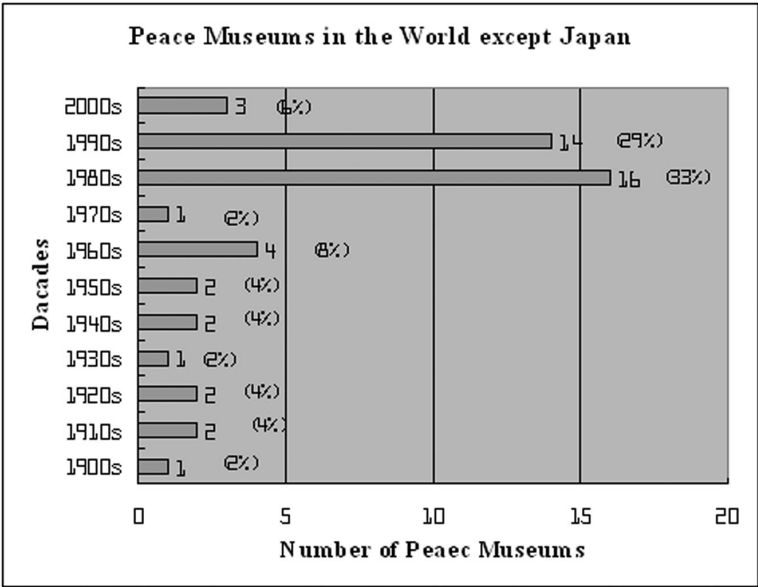


Figure1: The number of peace museums in the world except Japan

The graph above shows that forty-two peace museums (86 %) were founded after World War II. Sixteen peace museums (33%) were created in the 1980s, which was the highest number in the history of peace museums in the world except Japan. What is the situation of Japanese peace museums?

2.2. Peace Museums in Japan

A list of fifty-two peace museums in Japan will be made first and be classified according to the decades from the 1950s to 2004.

Prefecture	Name of Peace Museum	Year Founded
Hiroshima	Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum	1955
Nagasaki	Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum	1955
Saitama	Maruki Gallery	1967
Okinawa	Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum	1975
Tokyo	Display House of the Fifth Lucky Dragon	1976
Fukuoka	Peace Museum for the People	1979
Kanagawa	Soka Gakkai Toda Peace Memorial Hall	1979
Miyagi	Sendai Hukkou Memorial	1981
Tokyo	Japan Peace Museum	1983
Okinawa	Life is Treasure House	1984
Osaka	Liberty Osaka	1985
Hiroshima	Okunoshima Poison Gas Museum	1988
Wakayama	Teranaka Art Museum	1988
Kochi	Grassroots House	1989
Okinawa	Himeyuri Peace Museum	1989
Kyoto	Tanba Manganese Memorial Hall	1989
Nagasaki	Shoukokumin Museum	1990
Kochi	Kochi Liberty and People's Rights Museum	1990
Osaka	Osaka International Peace Center	1991
Wakayama	Ishigaki Memorial	1991
Hiroshima	Mirasaka Peace Museum of Art	1991
Osaka	Suita Peace Center	1992
Kyoto	Kyoto Museum for World Peace	1992
Kanagawa	Kawasaki Peace Museum	1992
Hokkaido	No More Hibakusha Hall	1992
Tokushima	German Museum	1993
Saitama	Peace Museum of Saitama	1993
Okinawa	Sakima Art Museum	1993
Shizuoka	Shizuoka Peace Center	1993
Hiroshima	Fukuyama City Human Rights & Peace Museum	1994
Osaka	Sakai City Peace and Human Rights Museum	1994

Nagasaki	Oka Masaharu Memorial Nagasaki Peace Museum	1995
Kagawa	Takamatsu Civic Culture Center: Peace Museum	1995
Hiroshima	Holocaust Education Center	1995
Iwate	Pacific War History Museum	1995
Hyogo	Historical Himeji Peace Center	1996
Saitama	Ou Kounichi Anti-War Art Museum	1996
Osaka	The Peace, Human Rights and Children Center	1997
Nagano	Mugonkan Art Museum for Peace	1997
Oita	Yawaragi: Peace Memorial in Saiki	1997
Kanagawa	Kanagawa Plaza for Global Citizenship	1998
Tokyo	Tokyo Holocaust Education Resource Center	1998
Nagasaki	Art Museum of Picture Books	1999
Gifu	Chiune Sugihara Memorial: Gifu	2000
Fukui	Yukinoshita Peace Culture Museum	2001
Tokyo	Kourai Museum	2001
Tokyo	Tokyo Document Center on Air Raids	2002
Gifu	Gifu Peace Museum	2002
Hiroshima	Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall	2002
Nagasaki	Nagasaki Peace Museum	2003
Nagasaki	Nagasaki National Peace Memorial Hall	2003
Okinawa	Tsushima-maru Memorial	2004

Table 2: 42 Peace Museum in Japan listed by year of foundation (See also the map of prefectures)

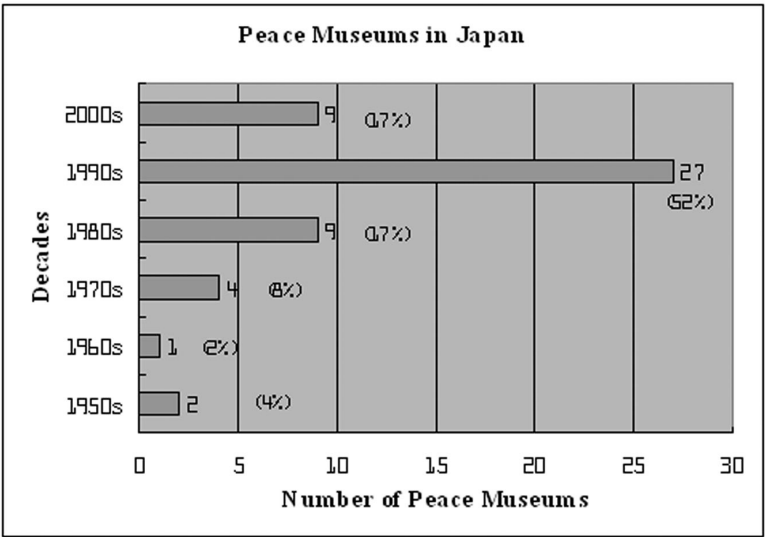


Figure 2: The number of peace museums created in Japan from the 1950s to 2004.

The graph shows that twenty-seven peace museums (52%) were created in 1990s. Why were so many peace museums created in the 1990s? The relation between peace movement in the 1980s and the establishment of peace museums in the 1990s will be explored later. The detail of Japanese peace museums is available by Muse: Newsletter of Japanese Network of Museums for Peace that is published at Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan University.

2.3. 100 Peace Museums in the World including Japan

This section will deal with 100 peace museums in the world including Japan. They will be classified according to decade from 1900 to 2004 and the result will be shown using a graph.

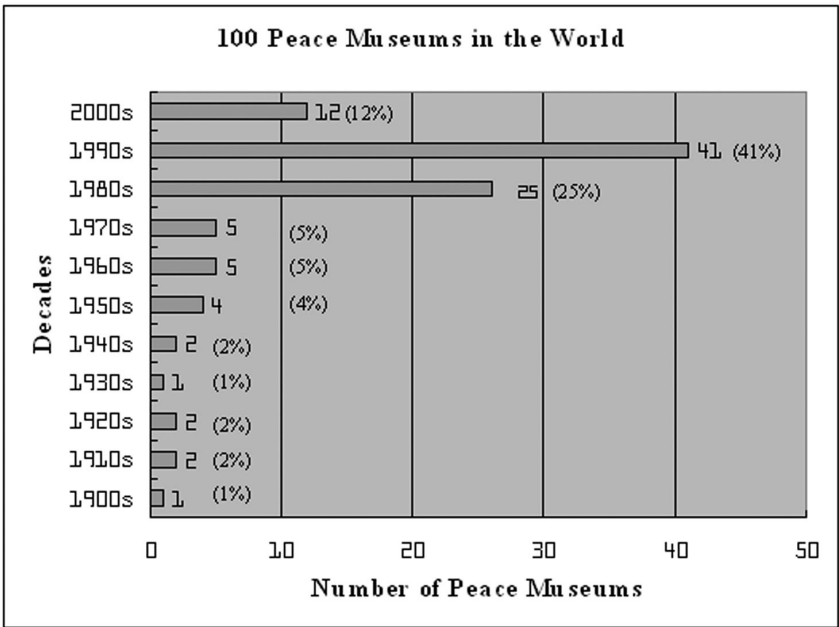


Figure 3: The number of peace museums in the world including Japan from the 1900s to the 2000s.

Figure 3 shows that ninety-four peace museums (94%) were established after the end of World War II. Forty-one peace museums (41%) were created in the world in the 1990s, which is the highest number in history. On the other hand, the number of non-Japanese peace museums that were established is the highest in the 1980s. This is because the number of Japanese peace museums is the highest in the world (fifty-two percent which will be shown later) and fifty-two percent of Japanese peace museums were created in the 1990s. The following graph shows Japanese peace museums, non-Japanese peace museums and the total of peace museums in the world according to the decades from the 1900s to the 2000s and it shows the growth of peace museums in Japan, other countries and the world.

Japanese peace museums were founded after World War II while non-Japanese peace museums were established before World War II. The reason why all the Japanese peace museums were created after World War II is the experiences of the atomic bombing on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and U.S. air-raids of cities. Japanese peace movement started in 1954 when Japanese fishermen were exposed to radiation at the U.S. hydrogen bomb test that was conducted at the Bikini Atoll of Marshall Islands. A fisherman named Aikichi Kuboyama was killed while 267 people were also exposed to radiation in the Marshall Island. The reason why Japanese peace movement did not start immediately after Japan's defeat in 1945 is that the truth on the atomic bombing was hidden by the U.S. censorship. "It was not until after the occupation, on the seventh anniversary of the bombings in August 1952, that the public was afforded a serious presentation of photographs from the two stricken cities" according to John W. Dower. The anti-nuclear movement led to the establishment of peace museums, which will be explored later.

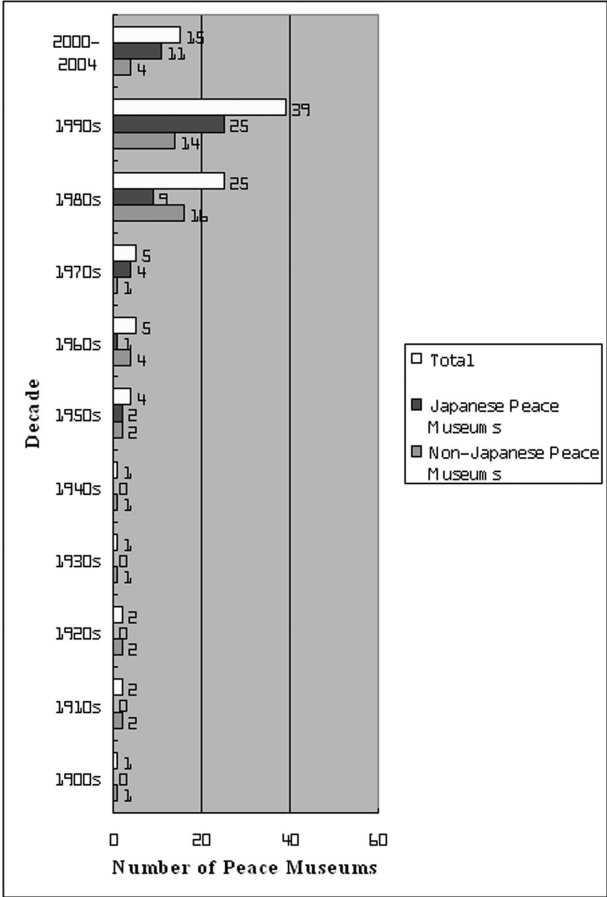


Figure 4:
100 peace museums
in the world: Japanese
peace museums,
non-Japanese peace
museums and all the
peace museums
in the world.

What is the number of peace museums in various countries? 100 peace museums in the world can be shown according to countries as follows.

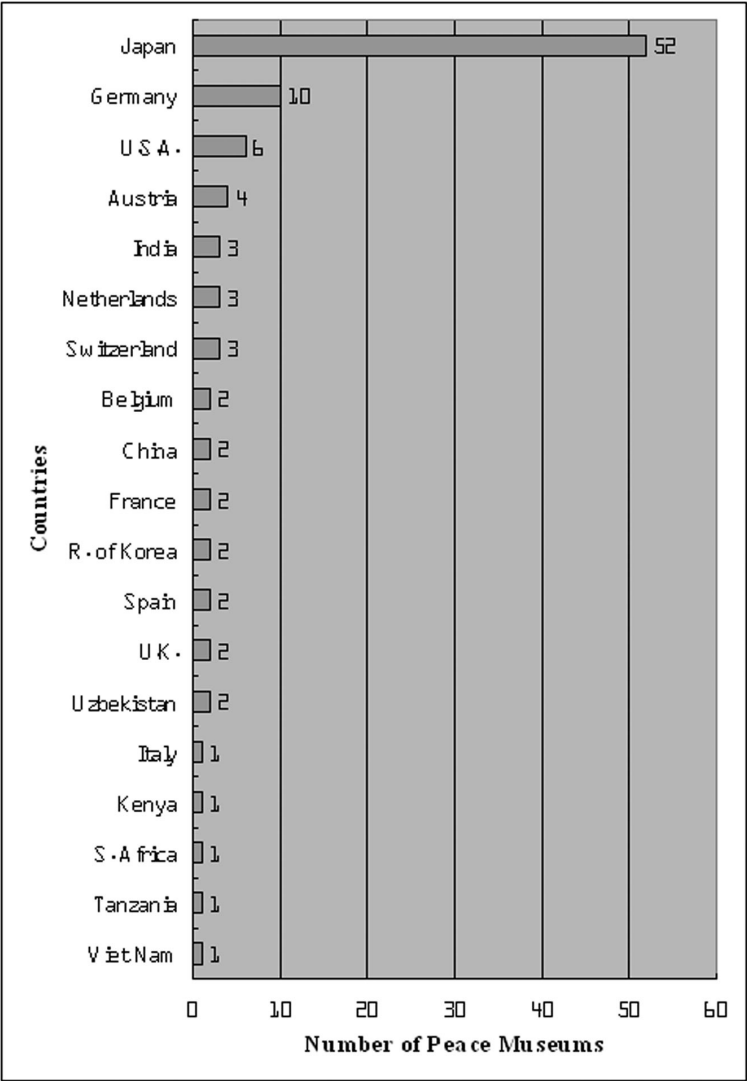


Figure 5: The number of peace museums in various countries. The number also shows their percentage because the total number of peace museums here is 100.

It can be said that Japan has the highest number of peace museums in the world. What are the condition and problems of peace museums in Japan? The answers were presented at the 4th International Conference of Peace Museums and the paper is available at the website of the International Network of Museums for Peace. (www.museumforpeace.org) Besides the quantitative character of Japanese peace museums, one of the qualitative characters of Japanese peace museums should be noted: that is effects of citizens' peace activities on peace museums.

3. Citizens’ Peace Activities and Peace Museums

3.1. Peace Movement and the Establishment of Peace Museums

How were Japanese peace museums established? Many peace museums were established by local governments. However, it should be noted that there had been grassroots movement to create a peace museum at the background. Anti-nuclear movement in Japan played an important role because peace activists and citizens demanded that local governments declare themselves nuclear-free. Once local governments declared themselves nuclear-free, citizens demanded that a peace museum be created. Professor Ikuro Anzai pointed out that the peace movement played an important role in creating many public peace museums in Japan at the 3rd International Conference of Peace Museums.

The relation between the anti-nuclear declaration of local governments and the establishment of peace museums was explored and the result is as follows:

Peace Museum	Year Founded	Year of Peace Declaration
Mirasaka Peace Museum of Art	1991	Mirasaka Town: 1986
Osaka International Peace Center	1991	Osaka Pref: 1988
Kawasaki Peace Museum	1992	Kawasaki City: 1982
Suita Peace Center	1992	Suita City: 1983
Peace Museum of Saitama	1993	Saitama Pref.: 1991
Sakai City Peace and Human Rights Museum	1994	Sakai City: 1983
Fukuyama City Human Rights & Peace Museum	1994	Fukuyama City: 1984
Takamatsu Civic Culture Center: Peace Museum	1995	Takamatsu City: 1984
Historical Himeji Peace Center	1996	Himeji City: 1985
Yawaragi: Peace Memorial in Saiki	1997	Saiki City: 1985
Kanagawa Plaza for Global Citizenship	1998	Yokohama City: 1984

Table 3. Peace Museums and Anti-Nuclear Declaration of Local Governments

Indeed, anti-nuclear movement in the 1980s seems to result in creating public peace museums in the 1990s.

On the other hand, there are many private peace museums because it was impossible to create public ones: 63% of peace museums are private and it seems that there is more freedom of speech than public peace museums.

3.2. Citizens’ Peace Activities and Exhibiting Historical Truth

One of the problems of Japanese peace museums is that historical truth such as Japan’s aggression is not exhibited at many public peace museums. Japan’s victim side of World War II is more emphasized than Japan’s aggression according to a questionnaire that was conducted in 2001. There are many themes with an emphasis on peace issues, especially the atomic bombing and U.S. air raids, which shows Japan’s victim side of the war (67% of forty-three peace museums). On the other hand, the number of peace museums that show Japan’s aggression is much lower (30%). The exhibits on Japan’s aggression increased in the 1990s, but the nationalists’ attacks on them hindered directors from showing Japan’s aggression during the war. Peace museums that show Japan’s aggression honestly are Osaka International Peace Center, Kyoto Museum for World Peace of Ritsumeikan University, Oka Masaharu Memorial Nagasaki Peace Museum, Children’s Centre for Peace and Human Rights in Sakai City, Osaka and the Grassroots House in Kochi City and others. It seems that historical truth is exhibited at peace museums where citizens are active for peace.

Citizens’ activities for creating a culture of peace is also important as well as learning lessons from the past. For example, a peace concert and a peace action were organized by some members of Grassroots House when the United States attacked Afghanistan and Iraq. Musicians became active for peace playing music when there were such peace activities as collecting signatures against the war on Iraq downtown in Kochi City. Yeong Hwan Kim, Korean secretary-general of Grassroots House, and Keiko Tamaki, the vice-director, have been playing an important role in organizing people, especially young people.

It is encouraging that there are several peace museum projects in Japan. National Network of Preserving War Remains that was established in 1997 plays an important role in bringing groups together. National symposium has been held to exchange information on the research of war-related sites, the movement of preserving them and peace education at peace museums.

4. Conclusion

Japanese peace museums were founded after World War II because of the atomic bombing and the U.S. air-raids of cities while some non-Japanese ones were created before the war. The number of Japanese peace museums is the highest in the world and many of them were established in the 1990s while the number of non-Japanese peace museums is the highest in the 1980s. The peace movement in the 1980s in Japan as well as in the world seems to lead to the establishment of Japanese peace museums in the 1990s. History education with an emphasis on the past tends to be emphasized at Japanese peace museums while conflict resolution and creating a culture of peace is emphasized in Western peace museums such as European Museum for Peace in Schlaining, Austria.

The purpose of 84% of Japanese peace museums is promoting peace education. The result of the questionnaire shows that what is problematic at public peace museums in Japan is that historical truth such as Japan’s aggression of other countries in World War II is not exhibited much. On the other hand, historical truth is exhibited and there are anti-war activities at private peace museums where citizens are active in peacemaking. It is hoped that the International Network of Peace Museums will be strengthened and more information, ideas and exhibits will be exchanged in the future.