

October 14, 2019

**Statement by the Director and the Honorary Director of the  
Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan University, on  
the discontinuation of the Aichi Triennale “*Lack-of-Freedom-of-  
Expression Exhibit: Part II*” and the decision of the Agency for  
Cultural Affairs not to grant subsidies**

Ago Shin-ichi, Director, and Anzai Ikuro, Honorary Director  
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On August 3, 2019, the exhibition “Lack-of-Freedom-of-Expression Exhibit: Part II” at Aichi Triennale 2019 was canceled due to intimidation by some individuals. It goes without saying that such intimidation is a big threat to the “freedom of expression” and the people’s “right to know”. What is more worrying is that on August 2, Nagoya Mayor Kawamura Takashi criticized the contents of the exhibition, and Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga Yoshihide alluded to a review of the governmental subsidy, and there were a series of critical references made by politicians. In the end, on September 26, the Agency for Cultural Affairs decided to cancel the grant to Aichi Triennale.

These series of events, initiated by politicians and national organizations as public figures, are intended to suppress the free expression of individuals’ thoughts and beliefs. They may infringe the “freedom of expression of assembly, association, speech, publication, and any other expression” as provided for under Article 21 of the Constitution of Japan, as well as paragraph 2 of the same Article, on the prohibition of censorship.

Bearing in mind that some Peace Museums had been forced, in the past, to change their exhibits, following pressures exercised by certain heads of local governments based on their particular historical views and values, we, the Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan University, which is established on the fundamental idea of “facing the past with integrity, looking at both the victims and the perpetrators of the war,” hereby express our deep concern that such a series of events may have the effect of censorship that suppresses artistic expression and exhibition and consequently the freedom of expression and thoughts.

With this letter, we express our dismay over the decision of the Agency for Cultural Affairs and petition the prompt withdrawal of the cancellation of the grant to the Aichi Triennale.

December 5, 2019

## **Mourning the fatal shooting of Dr. Tetsu Nakamura, Founder of Peace Japan Medical Services (Peshawar-kai)**

Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan University

According to reports, Dr. Tetsu Nakamura, Founder of Peace Japan Medical Services (Peshawar-kai), was shot to death on December 4, 2019 in Afghanistan, where he dedicated himself to reconstruction activities. The Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan University, offers heartfelt condolences for Dr. Nakamura's death and expresses deep outrage against such senseless violence.

From early on, our museum paid attention to the activities of Dr. Nakamura and his colleagues and, in 2003 from May to June, organized a special exhibition "Medical Doctors Digging Wells — Activities of Peshawar-kai and the Green Ground Project" with a commemorative lecture at Kinugasa Campus and Biwako-Kusatsu Campus. Dr. Nakamura himself gave a lecture at Ritsumeikan University.

Based on the recognition that many of the refugees in Pakistan and Afghanistan become so due to severe droughts, Dr. Nakamura worked on a large-scale irrigation project to secure water for domestic and agricultural use. The completion of the irrigation channel in 2010 which exceeded 25 km in total length has laid a foundation for the lives of about 100,000 farmers.

In a message that Dr. Nakamura sent to the museum for the special exhibition in 2003 he wrote, "Armed forces and political slogans cannot be measures against draughts. The foundation of peace is mutual assistance and guarantee of survival. If we are alive, there will be hope, we believe. I will continue working silently today, despite the violent military rifles and U.S. military aircrafts flying overhead." The then director Ikuro Anzai (now honorary director) said, "The remarkable activities of Peshawar-kai extending their hands and helping and creating lives, makes us think about how we should be as human beings."

We were greatly shocked that violence took the life of Dr. Tetsu Nakamura, a man so devoted to creating life. Looking at the social causes that create such violence, we will continue to appeal to the people of the world to respect the preciousness of peace in collaboration with peace museums around the globe, and will make efforts to develop a culture that nurtures irreplaceable lives.