



Youth Development & Peace Japan Network

Experiences of Japanese Youth

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Self Introduction

- Yasui, Tsutomu (Presenter)

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2003-2004; a member of a students' group for the mutual understanding in the North East Asia

2005; a staff of youth conference(YDPJ2005)

2006; Manager of the of youth network dept.





Today's Overview

WDR2007 and Japanese Youth

- **Background;** Current Situation of Japanese Youth
- **Why Networking;**
- **Strategy;** our uniqueness/how to set up and boost the network
- **Achievements;** from the case of HIV/AIDS campaign
- **Future Activities;** challenges and action plans
- **Conclusion;**



Background (1)

Japan in the World

■ Japan...

- is a developed country
- already closed the demographic **window of opportunity** (Fig. 2, WDR07 p. 5)

■ Japan's Youth...

- is an age on **transition**
(as same as other Asian countries')
- so, have unique challenges related to transition



Background (2)

On 4 Life Transitions, Better Condition

- Learning;
 - 45.5% of who graduated high school go to Universities
 - 75% (Including other schools)
- Work;
- Health ;
- Forming Families;



Background (3)

Citizenship does matter

■ Youth's voice is not big

Participation to the Politics

36%(age 20-24) ←→64%(Avelage)
in national assembly election(2000)
both side (youth and the society) have problem

Population

age 0-14	14%
age 15-24	10%
age 25-64	55%
65 over	19%



Background (4)

Youth is Important!

■ Stakeholder to Self-affairs

- We have **special needs** on such as HIV/AIDS, information of life and politics

■ Owner of the Future

- Next generation have the biggest interests on environmental and social **sustainability**.
- **Potential** to develop themselves and change the world

■ Everyone Have Their Youth Time

- Can get sympathy
- universal viewpoint (Everyone can be a youth)



Why Networking (1)

Youth's Activity on Social Problems

**Now increasing
its diversity and organizations**

- International Cooperation and Mutual Understanding
(Hot Issue!)(200 orgs?)
- Business (Hot Issue!)
- Domestic Issues
 - Environmental problems (200 orgs?)
 - HIV/AIDS
- Social Venture / Entrepreneur (New)





Why Networking (2) Challenges

Many youth do their own activities, but...

■ **Isolated / little capacity**

- Most of them are established newly and small
- high turnover rate
- Lack of collaboration
- Not recognized by externals (Int'l Orgs, NGOs, governments)

■ **Required to Meet the Social Demand**

- Voicing the view of “Japan’s Youth”
- Actual effect/impact on society



Why Networking (3) Solution

Youth Organizations' Network!

- 1. creating a network as a setting for **dialogue** tying together youth organizations.
- 2. working towards providing opportunities for **capacity building** for youth organizations.
- 3. collecting the **opinions** of Japan's youth organizations, and their transmission to society.



Strategy(1)

Our Uniqueness

■ The Network's design

- Comprehensive and not strict/rigid
- Not a new organization
(respect the existent organizations/projects)
- Not individuals' but orgs' network
(good in continuity)



Strategy(2)

How to Set up and Boost the Network

- First hold a **conference** (over 100 people from 70 orgs)
 - Get acquainted each other and “feel” the network
- Focus on **individual** communication and trust (Create and Store the Social Capital)
- Starting with a **project** on specific issue/topic/sector
- Small but Functional **Secretariat** as a facilitator



Achievement(1)

Report of One of the Activities

wAds2006 (world AIDS Day Series 2006)

- AIDS awareness campaign
- 17 youth organizations throughout Japan
 - Display each organizations' activities
 - Big collaboration event
(youth VC and Symposium, club event)
 - Common materials and web-site





Achievements(2)

What Did Youth Do?

- Role of each youth organizations
 - Making an alliance
 - providing their knowledge and projects
- Role of the secretariat of the network
 - Suggesting to relevant youth organizations to collaborate for a campaign to leverage the impact to the society
 - Taking facilitator responsibility in the project
 - Contacting to World Bank and other organizations



Achievements(3)

Impact on Policies

- Youth had **Dialogue and Collaboration** with administrative agencies.
- Then, they changed
 - reset the mindset; they started using the word “youth”
 - regard youth not only as subject but also **partners**
 - want to know the **youth's idea**
 - make the aid budget and meeting time **youth-friendly**



Future Activities(1) Challenges

Youth does not play full supposed role

- The Network itself...
 - Lack of ownership and involvement of Member Organizations
 - Financially not sustainable
 - Lack of Global/External Interaction
- Social environment...
 - Not recognize the youth as an agency on global and other issues (not only in Japan)



Future Activities(2)

Action Plans

■ To work the network

- Activate by increasing the internal communications and trust
- Moves form secretariat

■ To change the social structure

- Advocacy(G8)
- Dialogue and collaboration with externals on projects
- Deliver the information on the activities and voices of youth to the society



Conclusion(1)

By Youth

- **To utilize the citizenship to change the world and own condition (learning, work, health, family)...**
 - Know each other
 - Develop the capacity
 - Take an action and involve others



Conclusion(2) For Youth

- **Policies on Opportunity and Capability (and Second Chance)**
 - Provide youth of knowledge and information, chance to participate/voice
 - Listen to youth's opinion and dialogue patiently
 - Regard youth as partner
 - Give and entrust the resources

- Youth should develop through try and error.



Youth Development & Peace **Japan Network**

Thank you for listening!

