



Muse no. 15: Japanese Network of Museums for Peace

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Leaflets for peace

Impulses for conversation: What is a Peace Museum? This often asked question tries to elicit a clearly circumscribed definition. The founding principles of the "FIRST AUSTRIAN PEACE MUSEUM" in Wolfsegg may serve as a guide in such an endeavour:

1. A Peace Museum gives impulses to think about the senselessness of war or belligerence on a personal level, and invites discussion.
2. A Peace Museum is a communication centre for people who are interested in the advancement of peace in small and large communities, and who are willing to make a personal contribution to it.
3. A Peace Museum is a school for the research project:
"Where and when does war start? Where does peace begin?"
To satisfactorily answer these questions there is a great need for EDUCATION FOR PEACE.
4. Peace Museums whose final aim is to evolve into a global network, are the homes for a worldwide "SOCIETY FOR THE FRIENDS OF PEACE", yet to be created.

Generally speaking, the inherent risk of "definitions" is that they may not be all-encompassing and could somehow put limits to the further development of a given subject. This applies particularly to IDEAS and their development through new insight. With regard to Peace Museum, its definition is not meant to be a corset, but merely a term of reference (or thinking point).

**ERSTES ÖSTERREICHISCHES FRIEDENSMUSEUM
FIRST AUSTRIAN PEACE MUSEUM**



There are museums which partially function as "PEACE MUSEUMS", like the Ghandi Museum, the Holocaust Museum, the Anne Frank House, the Jägerstätter House, and others. These museums are very appropriately called "Peace Related Museums"; they fulfill an important duty and belong to the growing family of Peace Museums.

In this "eleventh hour" mankind's greatest concern is not only the prevention of war, but to make life livable in the next millennium. It makes sense, therefore, to include all institutions and associations, which are dedicated to this task, in the great family of Peace Museums - Amnesty International, Greenpeace, World- Wildlife -Fund, Red Cross, the Nobel Institute, and others. I am convinced that only grand ideas will sustain our hope for the continued existence of our wonderful world!