



GPPAC Northeast Statement

Disappointment at lack of permission for participation by Women Making Peace Representative

July 2012, Vladivostok

The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) Northeast Asia Regional Steering Group gathered in Vladivostok, Russia for its 9th Annual meeting from July 6-8, 2012. The meeting was jointly held by GPPAC NEA's Regional Secretariat Peace Boat and the Vladivostok Focal Point, Maritime State University, with participation by 20 representatives from peace organisations throughout the region. On the first day, an international scientific conference on "Non-governmental dialogue on territorial disputes in Asia-Pacific Region" was also held, organized by the Maritime State University and GPPAC with support of the Slavic Research Centre (Hokkaido University, Japan) and the Russian Pugwash Committee and hosted by MSU(N).

GPPAC is a global civil society-led network which seeks to build an international consensus on peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict. It was established in 2003 in response to a call made by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and has since worked to strengthen civil society networks for peace and security by linking local, national, regional, and global levels of action; and to establish effective engagement with governments, the UN system and regional organisations. Dialogue between civil society, including between citizens in areas of tension and conflict, is one of GPPAC's main priorities. In Northeast Asia, GPPAC has established an effective cross-border network that works on issues of regional security, including nuclear disarmament, reconciliation, historical recognition and peace education, and the peaceful resolution of disputes.

Jung Gyunglan of the South Korean NGO 'Women Making Peace' was invited to participate in this meeting. As a founding member of the GPPAC network in Northeast Asia, her participation is vital to the development of the network, and for sharing information about efforts by Korean NGOs for conflict prevention and creating a culture of peace in the region.

For this reason, GPPAC Northeast Asia was surprised to hear of the decision by the South Korean Government to not grant permission for Jung Gyunglan to participate in this meeting. As a network launched through the United Nations process with the goal of civil society cooperation with the UN, governments, and regional organisations to promote peacebuilding and civil society, GPPAC Northeast Asia was very disappointed by the result of Gyung Gyunglan's absence in the meeting. GPPAC Northeast Asia strongly hopes that Jung Gyunglan and other South Korean NGO representatives in the GPPAC process will be able to participate in future activities and events without any obstacles. Further, we hope that the South Korean Government will support civil society activities, and actively work to build partnerships with civil society in Korea and internationally in order to promote conflict prevention and the building of a culture of peace in Northeast Asia.

GPPAC Northeast Asia

July 8, 2012

Vladivostok, Russia