

## 2008 G8 Summit NGO Forum 1<sup>st</sup> Period Activity Report

### About 2008 G8 Summit NGO Forum

“2008 G8 Summit NGO Forum (NGO Forum)” is a NGO network organized for the 2008 G8 Summit in Toyako, Hokkaido, Japan. NGO Forum started on January 31, 2007, and the symposium “Discussion between Civil Society and Government will Change the Global Society” was held on February 10, 2007 to commemorate its inauguration.

During the first period of NGO Forum (From January 31, 2007 to September 17, 2007), 101 organizations participated. Participating organizations have been working on proposals and advocacy activities through three units, “Poverty and Development”, “Environment”, and “Peace and Human Rights”. In the 1<sup>st</sup> period, there were 56 organizations in “Poverty and Development Unit”, 39 organizations in “Environment Unit”, and 31 organizations in “Peace and Human Rights Unit”.

Below is the activity report on NGO Forum from April 1, 2007 until September 17, 2007<sup>1</sup>.

### Activities

#### 1. Trip to Germany

For the Heiligendamm Summit (June 6-8, 2007), 5 members of NGO Forum went to Germany for about a week with the aid fund from ActionAid Thailand. The members consisted of Ms. Masako Hoshino (Chair), Mr. Masaaki Ohashi (Vice Chair), Ms. Mika Obayashi (Environment Unit Leader), Mr. Tatsuya Hata (Poverty and Development Unit Leader), Mr. Shinsaku Nohira (Proxy of Mr. Akira Kawasaki, Peace and Human Rights Unit Leader). In addition to these five, 14 people went to Germany from Japan to represent the units of NGO Forum or NGO organizations. In Germany, these people engaged in the advocacy activities such as participation in the strategic meetings and alternative summit with German NGOs, gathering information in the press center, and having press interviews.

#### 2. 2008 G8 Summit NGO Forum Start-Up Party

A party was held on June 28, 2007 at Seiryō Kaikan in Tokyo. The purpose of this party was to facilitate interaction among people in NGOs and in other sectors. 88 people participated – among them were 5 assembly members, 5 secretaries of assembly members, 7 governmental officials including Mr. Masaharu Kouno, Sherpa (Foreign Ministry), 7 people

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<sup>1</sup> From January 31, 2007 until March 31, 2007, Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC) worked as a secretariat of NGO Forum with the aid fund from Hottokenai Sekai no Mazushisa. JANIC was in charge of organizing the symposium on February 10, 2007 as well as formulation of NGO Forum. Please refer to the following website for the symposium and organizational information of NGO Forum.

<http://www.g8ngoforum.org/>

Please note that the activities of each unit are not mentioned in this report.

from aid-fund organizations and ambassadors.

### 3. Debriefing session of Heiligendamm G8 Summit

On June 30, 2007, debriefing session of Heiligendamm G8 Summit was held at Surugadai Memorial Hall of Chuo University in Tokyo. Representatives of NGO Forum presented what they learned from 2007 G8 Summit and what they should do for next G8 Summit. In addition, Mr. Jurgen Maier (Executive Director of German NGO Forum Environment & Development), Mr. Koji Tusruoka (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan) and Mr. Ryutarou Yatsu (Ministry of Environment) were also invited as presenters. As many as 182 people, including NGOs, governmental officials, international organizations, labor unions, media, companies, and general public participated in this symposium.

### 4. Trip to the host city (Hokkaido) of 2008 G8 Summit

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007, “G7 Summit Civil Forum Hokkaido Preparatory Committee” and NGO Forum co-organized “Toward the Hokkaido Toyako G8 Summit – Debriefing Session for G8 Summit in Germany” in Sapporo, Hokkaido. From NGO Forum, Ms. Masako Hoshino (Chair), Ms. Yurika Ayukawa (Vice Chair), Mr. Masaaki Ohashi (Vice Chair), Ms. Mika Obayashi (Environment Unit Leader), and Mr. Jurgen Maier (Executive Director of German NGO Forum Environment & Development) went to Hokkaido and reported on 2007 G8 Summit in Germany<sup>2</sup>. About 80 people participated.

“G8 Summit Civil Forum Hokkaido” will be formally established upon Inauguration Gathering on September 21, 2007. As representatives of NGO Forum, Ms. Masako Hoshino (Chair) and Ms. Mika Obayashi (Environment Unit Leader) will participate in its celebrating event.

### 5. Advocacy activities and creating position papers

In August 2007, NGO Forum created a proposal document “Calling for G8 summit to be open to civil society” to present its recommendations to the Japanese government on how the 2008 G8 summit should be. “Position Paper Coordination Committee” was called several times in order to prepare position papers (draft) for its appearance in the symposium on October 14, 2007. In addition, NGO Forum had a meeting with Mr. Masaharu Kouno, Sherpa (Foreign Ministry) and other people from Foreign Ministry to arrange and set up next Civil G8.

### 6. PR Activities

PR activities include creating pamphlets (Japanese and English) and setting up website

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<sup>2</sup> The expenses of this activity were partly covered by the Japan Fund for Global Environment (JFGE), which was provided to Environment Unit of NGO Forum by Environmental Restoration and Conservation Agency in Japan (ERCA).

for NGO Forum(URL: <http://www.g8ngoforum.org>).

7. International Conference “What Japanese Civil Society can do toward 2008 G8 Summit in Japan?”

International conference will be held on October 14, 2007 at the Center for the Advancement of Working Women (CAWW) Hall. Japan Foundation will provide fund aid and Japan NGO Center for International Organization will be a co-organizer. Preparation for this conference is being undertaken.

8. Operation of NGO Forum

Organizer Committee members are listed below.

**【Organizer Committee members for 1<sup>st</sup> Period】**

Chair: Ms. Masako Hoshino(JVC: Japan International Volunteer Center)

Vice Chair: Ms. Yurika Ayukawa (WWF Japan)

Vice Chair: Mr. Masaaki Ohashi (JANIC: Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation)

Environment Unit Leader: Ms. Mika Obayashi (ISEP: Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies)

Peace and Human Right Unit Leader: Mr. Akira Kawasaki (Peaceboat)

Poverty and Development Unit Leader: Mr. Tatsuya Hata (SVA: Shanti Volunteer Association)

Organizer Committee members had meetings once a month (8 times in total) for the operation of NGO Forum. Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation was the secretariat of NGO Forum.

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