

**Collaboration in Peace Activism in the Global Era:
Hidden Aspects of the Australia-Japan Relation**

The peace movement in Australia, Japan and other industrialised nations has developed as a unique form of social protest, attracting not only progressive political organisations but also various types of individuals such as students, religious people and mothers.

Another important aspect seen in the peace movement is international solidarity from a larger scale to a smaller one. The World Peace Conference held yearly since 1955 in both Hiroshima and Nagasaki is an example of large-scale international solidarity. On the other hand, the peace pilgrimage carried out by a small group of people from Australia and Japan from late 2003 to August 2004 is an example of a small-scale grassroots movement. They walked from Roxby Downs in South Australia to Canberra, then flew to Japan and continued walking from Hokkaido to Hiroshima and Nagasaki. During the pilgrimage they met with indigenous people, Australian aborigines and Ainu, and listened to their stories about their relationship with the land.

In Melbourne a peace group called Japanese for Peace was formed in March 2005 by some Japanese residents and it organised peace concerts to commemorate the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 2005 and 2006. The group worked with other local peace groups for the concerts. Such collaborative peace activism has been facilitated by the dramatic diffusion of the Internet in the past decade.

Peace movements have been widely researched from historical, social, political, religious, and gender perspectives. Yet academic research has not looked at the role of peace activism in Australia-Japan relations especially at a grassroots level.

In this paper I will briefly look at some historical aspects of the peace movement in Australia-Japan relations. Then I will analyse contemporary peace activism centring on the peace pilgrimage mentioned above, while attempting to find salient characteristics in such activism. My concluding remarks may suggest that this type of peace activism aims at seeking common ground while globalising the vision of peace activism and nurturing the earth that indigenous people have inherited. The research findings will open a space for a new insight of Australia-Japan relations.