

**Post-Conflict Reconstruction of  
Education and Peace Building:  
Lessons from Okinawa's Experience**

**March 2006**

**Japan International Cooperation Agency**

**Okinawa International Center**

This report is based on the discussion and findings of the study group, organized by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The views expressed in this report are those of the members of the study committee and do not necessarily reflect the official views of JICA.

Throughout the report, Japanese personal names are transcribed in the order commonly used in Japan, i.e. family name first, followed by the personal name

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## FOREWORD

Education is everyone's fundamental right, and the foundation for building a peaceful, stable society. Recognizing this, many countries of the world are working together with the aim of bringing universal basic education to developing countries by coordinating the efforts of governments in these countries with governmental aid programs of countries like Japan, international organizations, and NGOs.

However, at the present time, there is still a long way to go, as both "hard" and "soft" measures are obviously needed. In addition, the collapse of the East-West Cold War structure in the 1990s and the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001 have led to regional conflicts in several countries, posing new threats to the spread of education. As we face a future when it might be insufficient to meet basic human needs, education has taken on new importance for its role in social integration; and finding an approach to "educational reconstruction" for nation-building after regional conflicts has become increasingly urgent.

Given these circumstances, we believe that lessons on critical issues for the reconstruction of education in post-conflict developing countries can be learned from examining Okinawa Prefecture's experience of post-conflict educational reconstruction and peace education. Okinawa experienced the devastation of a major ground battle in World War II that took one of every four lives in the prefecture. It is said that, for evacuees returning after the war ended, Okinawa looked from their ships to be beyond "burnt ruins" and to have become, literally, a barren wasteland. Thus, education in post-conflict Okinawa had to start from, literally, nothing.

This report compiles Okinawa's valuable experience and know-how acquired in overcoming these conditions through the cooperating efforts of government officials and local residents. With the increasing importance, noted above, of basic education and educational reconstruction for a nation's development, it seems especially timely to explore the possibilities for systematizing Okinawa's experience in educational reconstruction and peace education as well as for international cooperation that made the best use of Okinawa's special characteristics.

The research for this report was carried out under the supervision of Tsukayama Tomoyasu, chairman of the research committee for this project, who is also Managing Director of the Okinawa Foundation for International Exchange and the Development of Human Resources. Mr. Tsukayama served for many years at local education sites and in educational administration at the Okinawa Prefectural Government.

In addition, valuable contributions came from the advisory Research Committee that included educators and journalists who worked for post-conflict educational reconstruction, as well as specialists in international assistance for education to developing countries, in educational reconstruction, and in building peace. We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the managing director, to all members of the committee, and to the many people whose work made possible the completion of this report.

Finally, it is our hope that this report will be helpful for building education in developing countries, will serve to further exchanges between the people of these countries and Okinawa, and will encourage the widening of international cooperation.

March 2005  
ARAI Hiroyuki  
Director General  
Okinawa International Center  
Japan International Cooperation Agency

## CHAIRMAN'S PREFACE

This report, which benefited from international cooperation, is based on the results of a study group's work over six months starting in October of 2004. The research presented makes us keenly aware that Okinawa's post-conflict educational reconstruction progressed along a steady course fully utilizing Okinawans' characteristic "flexibility with determination and strength;" and, that peace education, though it went through many changes, consolidated the Okinawan people's fervent hopes for peace. The report also demonstrates that Okinawa's experience can be highly instructive for developing countries today. In addition, it confirms that Okinawa has extensive human and organizational resources capable of enhancing international cooperation in education, though many still remain as untapped potential. For the future, we plan to share the results of this research throughout Japan, to strengthen the network of contacts among those who participated in it, and to maintain the cooperation of organizations and individuals who carried it out.

I want to emphasize that this cooperative work was done not only for the sake of developing countries. Through international cooperation, Okinawa greatly benefited by being itself reinvigorated and by gaining recognition around the world as a center for conveying the message of peace. I was much impressed to discover that looking for ways to assist developing countries has led to a reexamination of education in Okinawa, revealing previously unimagined advantages and possibilities.

Finally, I wish to express my deepest appreciation to all those whose efforts made it possible to complete this research, along with my fervent hope that their work will advance international cooperation in Okinawa and expand the prefecture's role in international society.

March 2005

TSUKAYAMA Tomoyoshi

Executive Director

Okinawa International Exchange & Human Resources Development Foundation

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# RESEARCH PROJECT SUMMARY

## 1. Background and Purpose

(1) With the collapse of the East-West Cold War structure in the early 1990s, a new series of frequent regional conflicts erupted that included religious and ethnic confrontations, struggles over natural resources, and terrorism, all of which posed major obstacles for development and stability in developing countries. In these circumstances, JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) and other organizations are making major efforts to build peace by providing assistance for post-conflict reconstruction, for preventing future conflicts, and for sustaining development. There is growing recognition of the importance of post-conflict educational restoration for building peace and protecting human rights.

(2) In Okinawa's experience of a major land battle in World War II, the loss of human life was compounded by the devastation of basic social organization and industry. Although a fundamental reconstruction of education was vital for educating and training people to lead Okinawa's reconstruction and its future, the war had killed large numbers of teachers and destroyed many schools. In all of Japan only Okinawa has the distinct experience of foreign aid (and foreign rule) over a post-conflict period of twenty-seven years. Until now, the reconstruction of education in Okinawa has been studied from a historical perspective. In the future, it can be analyzed from the viewpoint of developmental assistance and peace-building that will provide lessons for the application of reconstruction aid today.

(3) Furthermore, from the experiences of wartime devastation and foreign rule came the Okinawan people's especially strong desire for peace as expressed in the construction of "Himeyuri Monument" and the Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum, the establishment of regular classes on peace in the schools, and the regular scheduling of such events appealing for peace as local peace festivals. This chapter analyzes the recording and transmission of war experiences in Okinawa and the practice of peace education and local activities appealing for peace; and, it examines the role of these activities in building peace.

(4) As noted above, this research project organizes the history of Okinawa's educational reconstruction by viewing development aid as a way to build peace, and subsequently offers suggestions for the application today of aid for reconstruction and educational development.

## 2. The Organization of the Report and a Summary of Its Content

The report is organized into four chapters which include an introduction (see Table of Contents). The introduction gives an overview of research objectives which are to compile basic information about Okinawa, to present a total picture of Okinawa's post-conflict reconstruction in education and in other fields, to explore ways in which lessons from this study can be applied to education in developing countries, and to survey the changing nature of international aid up to the present time.

Chapter 1 divides the process of Okinawa's post-conflict educational reconstruction into three periods. It discusses features which are characteristic of each period and which offer useful suggestions for developing countries.

Chapter 2 discusses how the practice of peace education became specialized in post-conflict Okinawa, its background, distinctive characteristics, and specific methods.

Chapter 3 presents analytical categories for applying Okinawa's experience of educational revival based on the discussion in Chapters 1 and 2. It also identifies features shared by Okinawa and, in particular, developing countries in the process of reconstruction, while examining the possibilities for Okinawa to assist such countries.

## 3. Committee Members

### Committee Members

TSUKAYAMA Tomoyoshi	Executive Director, Okinawa International Exchange & Human Resources Development Foundation
IHA Katsuo	Superintendent of Schools, Town of Kadena; Chairman, Okinawa Association of Town and Village School Superintendents
UESUGI Yuji	Executive Director, Okinawa Peace Assistance Center
KOMATSU Taro	Associate Professor, Institute for the Study of Linguistic Culture, Graduate School, Kyushu University
TAKUSHI Etsuko	Independent journalist; former Okinawa Times reporter
HOSHINO Toshiya	Professor, Osaka School of International Public Policy
YOKOZEKI Yumiko	Senior Advisor, JICA Institute for International Cooperation

### Secretariat

ISHII Yojiro	Director, JICA Okinawa, Program Team I
HIROSHIMA Junya	Officer, JICA Okinawa, Program Team I
OGATA Yuka	Research Associate, Okinawa Peace Assistance Center

(Positions as of March, 2005)

#### 4. Method of Report's Compilation

This report shows how education was promoted according to Okinawa's characteristic "flexibility with determination and strength" under powerful influences from other countries throughout the eras of the independent Ryukyu Kingdom and even after it. It is hoped that the report's compilation can be useful for aiding the reconstruction of developing countries.

The original essays for the report were written by the authors listed, and revised by the authors and compilers based on discussions among the researchers.

<u>Introductory Chapter</u>		
1	Outline of Okinawa's Post-conflict Reconstruction	TAKUSHI
2	International assistance for education in developing countries	YOKOZEKI and secretariat
	1. Issues of Education in Developing countries	
	2. The Historical Development of International Assistance for Education	
	3. Post-Conflict Development of Education	KOMATSU
<u>Chapter 1 Educational Reconstruction in Okinawa</u>		TAKUSHI
1-1	Phase I (1945-1951): Emergency Measures and Quantitative Improvement in Education	
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<u>Chapter 2 Peace Education in Okinawa</u>		TAKUSHI and OGATA
2-1	The People's Accounts of the Battle of Okinawa for Future Generations	
2-2	Putting Peace Education into Practice in the Schools	
2-3	How government and citizen groups make Okinawa a transmission center for peace ?	
<u>Chapter 3 Possibilities for Applying Okinawa's Experience on Post-Conflict Reconstruction of Education in Developing countries</u>		
3-1	A Summary of Post-Conflict Reconstruction of Education in Okinawa	UESUGI
3-2	Educational Reconstruction in Developing countries as Viewed from Okinawa's Experience	KOMATSU
3-3	International Assistance for Education from Okinawa: resources and possibilities	YOKOZEKI, UESUGI and secretariat

# **BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT OKINAWA**

## **1. Distinctive natural and geological features**

In all of Japan only Okinawa has the special characteristics of a separate island group with a subtropical climate. It has much in common with the island countries of the Pacific and Southeast Asia in fields ranging from agriculture to medical treatment.

### (1) Location

The 160 islands of Okinawa (42 inhabited) extend 1,000 km east to west and 400 km north to south over a wide area of the ocean. Okinawa Prefecture has forty-nine self-governing communities including the capital city of Naha (as of April 1, 2005).

It is located approximately halfway between Kyushu and Taiwan. Inside a circle with its radius as the 1500 km between Naha and Tokyo are such major Asian capitals as Taipei, Shanghai, Seoul, and Manila. China, Southeast Asia, and Oceania are very nearby, so Okinawa is called Japan's southern gateway.

### (2) Area

Okinawa Prefecture's total land area is 2,273.71 sq. km., approximately 0.6% of Japan's total. After Kagawa, Osaka, and Tokyo, it is the fourth smallest prefecture in the country.

### (3) Climate

The climate is subtropical oceanic and the temperature is warm with a year-round average of 22.7 degrees centigrade. Okinawa is blessed with a rich natural environment where coral forms in the ocean and such rare species as the Pryer's woodpecker live. The average annual rainfall is approximately 2,037 mm, more than 26% higher than the average in Japan and comparatively higher than other local areas of the country.

## **2. Special historical and cultural characteristics**

### (1) Relations and trade with the countries of Southeast Asia

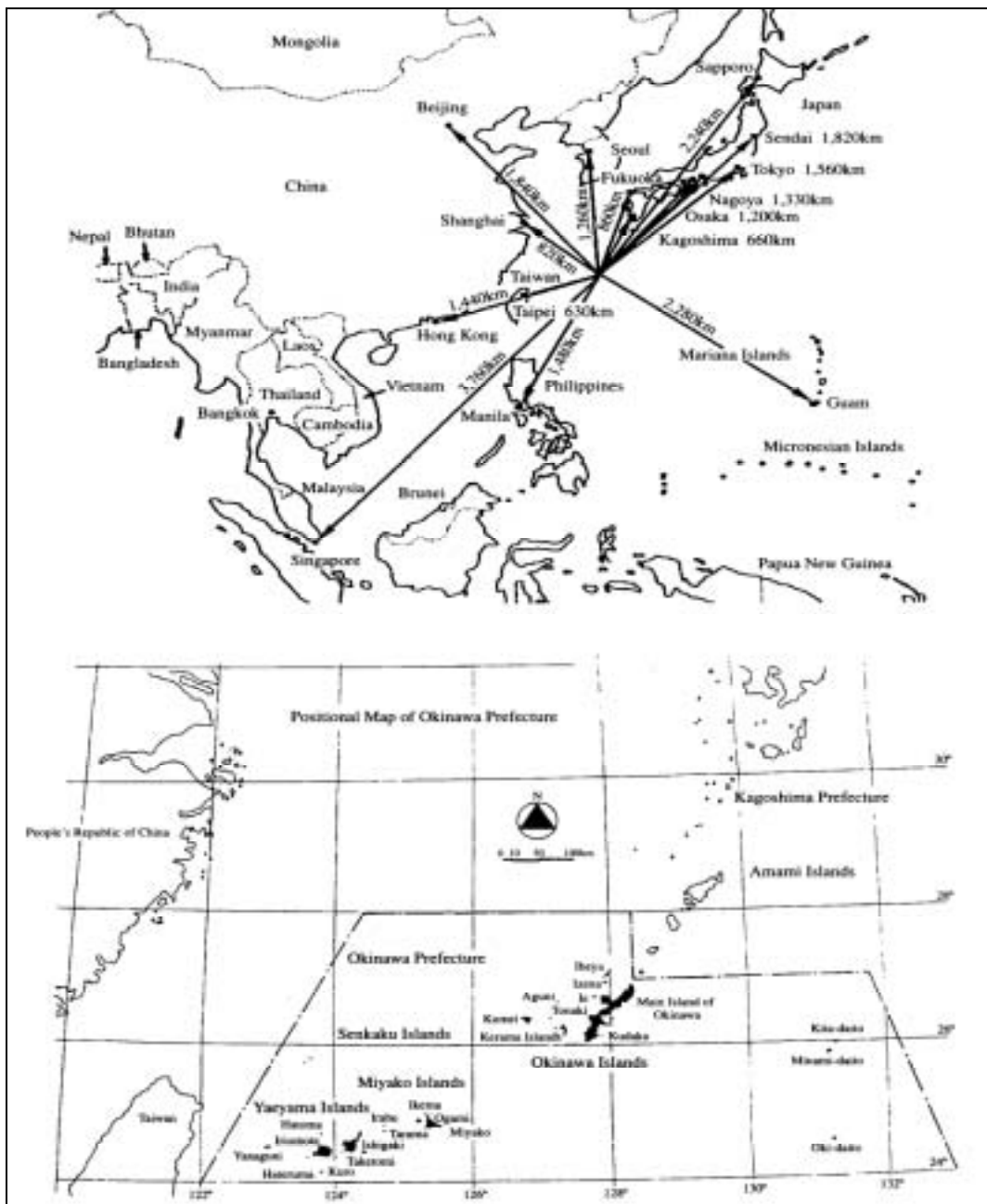
Since Okinawa is close geographically to China and the countries of Southeast Asia, diplomatic relations and trade flourished with them. Trade during the period of the Ryukyu Kingdom with Japan, China, Korea, Siam, Java, Sumatra, Annam and elsewhere brought many strong influences from other countries that are evident in the cultural legacy of Okinawa's distinctive

performing arts and historic relics. From this historical experience, Okinawa formed its distinctive culture by skillfully adopting aspects of Japanese and Southeast Asian culture.

(2) Defeat in war and U.S. rule

During World War II Okinawa was an area of Japan where a large-scale ground battle took the lives of many residents. After the war the United States military ruled Okinawa until reversion in 1972. In Japan it was treated administratively as a foreign country. Until reversion, the system of education was also influenced by the U.S. and developed special characteristics that made it different from education in Japan.

Figure 1 : The Position of Okinawa Prefecture



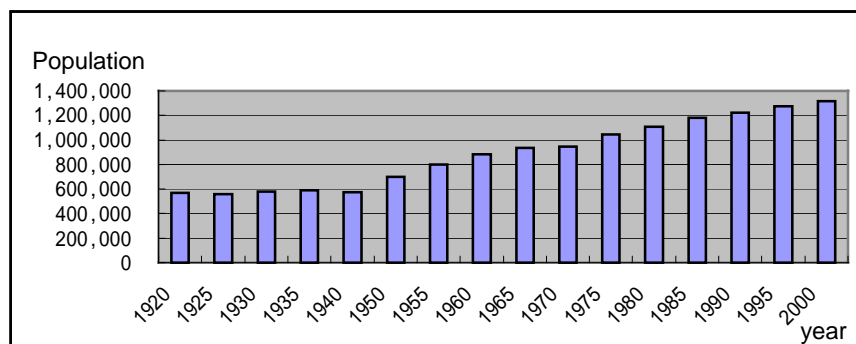
### (3) Migration and emigration

Before and after the war many people emigrated overseas from Okinawa, especially to South America, and at present more than 300,000 people of Okinawan descent live abroad. Emigrants settled in their new localities where they built communities of ethnic Okinawans that maintained strong contacts with Okinawa, its culture and society.

## 3. Population

With the large number of overseas emigrants, the population of Okinawa before World War II rose and fell repeatedly around the 500,000 level. War-related deaths accounted for a sudden decrease just before and after the war ended, but the large number of returnees from overseas and a baby boom subsequently caused a sudden increase. After that, the ratio of increase has declined gradually, and in October of 2004 the population was approximately 1,357,000. 91% live on Okinawa Main Island, and are concentrated in the southern part which includes the capital city of Naha. A birth rate of 2.18% in 1972 has tended to decline and was 1.21% in 2003. The death rate has fluctuated in recent years around 0.6%.

Figure 2: Changes in the Total Population of Okinawa Prefecture



## 4. Economy and Industry

### (1) Economy

During recent years Okinawa's economy fell into recession and low growth, but after reversion, with the expansion of public works projects and development of the tourist industry, growth has almost always exceeded the national average. On the one hand, the share of expenditures related to the U.S. military that used to dominate total prefectural income has declined since reversion, making for less dependence on a base economy. On the other hand, the share of public expenditures has increased, indicating a high dependence on government finances.

Table 1 Major Indexes of Okinawa and position in national level

prefecture's index	unit	Okinawa	rank	total Japan	surveyed
area	km <sup>2</sup> sq.km.	2,272	44	377,887	Oct.10, '03
area of U.S. bases sq.km.	km <sup>2</sup>	2,331	1	312.3	late Mar. '03
U.S. military installations	locations	37	1	135	late Mar. '03
population	thousands	1,349	32	127,619	Oct.1,'03
pop.density	persons per km	594	9	338	Oct.1,'03
births per 1000	persons	12.1	1	8.9	2003
deaths per 1000	persons	6.3	47	8.0	2003
natural increase	persons	5.9	1	0.9	2003
percentage of primary industries (of total production in Okinawa)	%	1.9	25	1.3	2001
percentage of secondary industries(of total production in Okinawa)	%	15.4	47	27.1	2001
(in manufacturing, percentage of above)	%	5.3	47	20.3	2001
(in construction)	%	9.8	5	6.6	2001
ratio of tertiary industries	%	87.0	2	76.6	2001
estimated value of farm production	100 millions of yen	931	33	89,011	2003
annual income per person	thousands of yen	2,057	47	2,971	2003
wholly unemployed(labor manpower survey)	%	7.6	-	4.7	2003
total salaries paid(average)	1000 yen per month	318	39	390	2003
paved streets and roads	%	46.1	5	25.2	Apr. 1, '03

Average individual annual incomes have increased year by year since reversion, but at 2,058,000 yen in 2001, they remain the lowest among Japan's 47 prefectures. Furthermore, they were only 71.4% of the national average in 2002.

## (2) Industrial structure

Compared with Japan as a whole, Okinawa's primary industries account for 1.9% of the prefecture's production, surpassing the 1.3% for all of Japan. But secondary industries account for only 15.4%, which is 11.7% percentage points less than Japan's 27.1%. The percentage in manufacturing is especially low, only one-fourth of Japan's as a whole, indicating Okinawa Prefecture's weakness in material production capacity. At 87.0% its tertiary sector is 10.3 percentage points above the national average of 76.7%, a result of the large contributions of the tourist and information transmission industries.

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