Article 9 and Global Peace
Transcending Nationalism

The 4th Global Inter-religious Conference on Article 9 of the Japanese Peace Constitution

December 1-5, 2014
YMCA Asia Youth Center, TOKYO, JAPAN

2014 年 12 月 1 日～5 日
YMCA アジア青少年センター
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Transcending Nationalism

憲法9条と世界の平和
ナショナリズムをどう超えるか

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on Article 9 of the Japanese Peace Constitution

第4回9条世界宗教者会議

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Greetings from the National Christian Council in Japan

As people of faith, we have believed that Article 9 of the Constitution of Japan is one of the foundations of peace not only for Japan but indeed, for the world; however, there are now efforts to fundamentally destroy this foundation.

At this critical moment, the joining of hands and minds of religious leaders around the world is historically significant. As one of Japan’s religious organizations, I would like to offer a summary of the Moderator’s Statement for National Christian Council in Japan.

Moderator’s Statement (summary)
National Christian Council in Japan

● “Put away your sword. Those who use the sword will die by the sword.” (Matthew 26:52)
God’s Word here is the administrative policy of Christ as sovereign over history. Article 9 is a pledge to “put away your sword” that clearly follows this policy. Continuing to uphold this pledge is the most realistic way to free the world from “dying by the sword.”

● Never again shall we walk the path of fatal misunderstanding (sin)
Contrary to the policy of Christ of history, Japan followed world powers obsessed with the fatal misunderstanding (sin) that “in order to prosper the nation, ‘we must become one of those who use the sword.’” The Empire of Japan, with its national policy of “prosperous country, strong military,” was indeed destroyed “by the sword.”

● “Minimum required” and “limited” use of force will not be accepted
Once a sword is “removed from its sheath” and the opponent is confronted, an adversarial relationship is created that only intensifies. This can be seen throughout world history.

● Article 9, the pledge to put away the sword, must be made known worldwide
We must stop this “reckless race toward destruction” that
encourages crises in international relations, stirs up nationalism and seeks to destroy the constitution. Let us make known throughout the world this “pledge to put away the sword” as a basis for human survival.

Rev. KOBASHI Kōichi
Moderator