

Reality in North Korea – Aching of conscience -

The 3rd Democratic People's Republic of Korea Visit Report (Hereinafter called “the Republic”)
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**Theme scripture: So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.
(Acts 24:16)**

<Introduction>

If you fly from Kansai Airport to Pyongyang directly, it will take about 2 hours. However, since there is no diplomatic relationship, we need to apply visa at the Embassy of Democratic People's Republic of Korea in Beijing. There will be no record of the visit to the Republic on the passport. A single paper of visa, which is smaller than Japanese passport, with own photo is necessary for emigration and immigration to the Republic. It is forbidden to bring back the visa paper to Japan, so I took a picture of that. Lee Jong-il (李昌一), who accompanied with me, is a second generation of *Zainichi Chousenjin* (在日朝鮮人: Koreans in Japan) in Japan. He is also a member of the *Chōsen Sōren* (朝鮮総連: The General Association of Korean Residents in Japan). His family is originally from Jeju Island in South Korea. Many *Zainichi Chousenjin* in Japan have roots in Jeju Island. It is because that after the World War 2nd, they experienced the tyranny, oppression and genocide (collective killings) by President Rhee Syngman (李承晩 1875 – 1965). There has been a background of immigrating to Japan flee for their lives. Even in Japan, they have been discriminated on marriage, employment and education, and the times of disadvantage, inconvenience, and disrespect on human rights has been continued. Even though they had an excellent score in study, they could not receive a qualification to take an entrance examination to national universities, and a student commuter pass also had not given to them. They have grown up through receiving hate speech all the time. All through those trial times, President Kim Il-sung (金日成 1912-1994) of the Republic gave generously support to *Zainichi Chousenjin* in Japan. *Zainichi Chousenjin* in Japan, whose lives were unstable, were pleased to the Republic so they changed their nationality as a Republic nationality rather than becoming a neither South Korean nor Japanese nationality. In other words, most *Zainichi Chousenjin* in Japan has a historical irony that they don't have any original roots in the Republic.

Lee was born and raised in Japan and he is fulfilling obligations such as paying taxes. However, his rights are not recognized. Since there is no embassy of the Republic in Japan, his passport won't be issued. Instead of that, the Japanese government issues a “re-entry permit”. It is like a passport that a foreigner living in Japan presents when they return to Japan again. They can go abroad by this permission.

Japan, which goes against the trend of multiethnic and multicultural coexistence, will be isolated in the global era unless there is a person who brings reconciliation to civilians among the most hostile countries and deepens a friendship.

(1) What is the Republic?

a. The purpose and schedule of the Republic Visit, and participants.

The first purpose was to know the actual condition of our volunteering targets that are orphans, single women who lost their husbands and elderly people who live alone.

The second purpose was to build a friendship as a same Asian.

The third purpose was that we visit the Republic with awareness as Japanese, who has not done any apology and compensation for the wartime.

The schedule was about a week from October 2 (Mon) ~ 7 (Sat) in 2017.

Participants were six people, Hiromi Miyamoto from *Nichi-cho Yuko Hyogokenmin no Kai* (日朝友好兵庫県民の会: Japan-Korea Friendship Hyogo Prefectural Association), Masaru Kawabata, Hiromi Tanaka, Hideaki Ota, and Lee Jong-il. The brigade leader was Hiromi Miyamoto, a former member of the prefectural assembly.

It was my third time visit to the Republic. Even if I talk about the facts that I have heard and saw, Japanese people tend to overreact, so they even not listen. Japanese people are honestly thinking as that “People are suffering from starvation”, “They only show good sides to foreigners”, “Only Pyongyang is developed”, and so on. After returning to Japan, as soon as I deny the prejudice of the Japanese people, I received the reaction that I had been cheated and being a Communist Party who has been brainwashed. Many travelers from the European and African countries come and go in the Republic. There is no feeling of tension under the wartime that see President Trump as an their enemy, and even I explains about the peaceful life of people to Japanese people, they don't try to understand. Which one is the mind-controlled? I think that people who visited the Republic and gave report about it, they would feel the same stiff attitude of before the World War 2nd. It is a rebirth of *Futo Shyugi* (沸騰主義: boiling propaganda) of the time of World War 2nd, when Japanese people were imprinted *Ki-chiku-Bei-Hei* (鬼畜米英: Demons -Animals-The United States-the United Kingdom) and lost control their mind.

I am thankful that we had an opportunity to visit the hot spring at the foot of Mount Kumgang in the relation of the brigade leader Hiromi Miyamoto, who has the active background in the Japanese Society of Hot Spring. Mount Kumgang is a dynamic valley area that is consisted of the highest peak of Birobong peak (1,639 meters), range of 60 km of north-south and 40 km of east-west, and 11,167 mountains and peaks. For the Koreans, it has become more than just a scenic spot, but is has become a symbol of ethnicity. Alongside the Paektu Mountain on the border of Korean Peninsula and in Northeast China (the Changbai Mountains in Chinese), it is the well-known mountain that represents the Republic. It is located on the east coast of Gangwon Province, which is near the Military Demarcation Line (the 38th parallel north). Surprisingly, Mount Kumgang is deeply related to Japan, it is printed on the first stamp [1937-1941] of 7 *Sen* (銭: old money counting) that was

issued in 1939. Furthermore, Mount Kumgang is drawn on *Fusuma-E* (襖絵: Drawings on Japanese vertical rectangular panels. Recreated by Kakuou Satsuki during 1950s) at Ryōan-ji, which is registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Among the five rooms, *Fusuma-E* of four rooms is all Mount Kumgang drawings. The total drawings are about sixty panels. It derived from the popularity among Japanese cultural people that Mount Kumgang is well-known as the famous mountain in the Republic.

b. Beijing Capital International Airport

We flew from Kansai Airport to Beijing Airport. We stayed one night in Beijing to receive the visa to enter the Republic. We met 29 members of delegation that visit the Republic from Fukuoka Prefecture when we ride on Air Koryo at Beijing Airport. Fortunately, we visited the Republic on the same period of *Fukuoka Nichi-Cho Yuko Kiyokai* (福岡県日朝友好協会: Japan-Korea Friendship Association in Fukuoka. Chairman Mamoru Kitahara. Former member of Fukuoka Prefectural Assembly) delegation that is seeking a diplomatic normalization between Japan and the Republic. *Nichi-cho Yuko Hyogokenmin no Kai* visit the Republic about every other year, but *Fukuoka Nichi-Cho Yuko Kiyokai* has been visiting every year since 2008 and it is the same time that we also started our visiting. In commemoration of the 10th year, other prefectures such as, Nagasaki Prefecture and Kagoshima Prefecture, also joined to create a group of “Kyushu region Japan-Korea Friendship Goodwill Delegation”. A reporter Ms. Mami Nagayoshi from Kyushu Asahi Broadcasting Corporation and a reporter from the Nishinippon Shimbun were also on board.

«Videos reference»

<http://www.kbc.co.jp/movie/index.html?id=5956>

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Broadcasting by the female reporter after her returning to Fukuoka, it gave a strong impact that the mediational visual power can give. I had the enviously feeling in a sense of introducing the local reality, atmosphere, general trends and ethea through delivering by the words. I was overwhelmed by the power of the image was shown in many ways in order to Kyushu Asahi Broadcasting report the impression of the country “*Chousen* (朝鮮: Korea)” to Japanese people.

Media people who sat next each other in the airplane told me frankly that they were told by their family and colleagues various things, and they also have tension and anxiety before entering the Republic. The feeling of delectation and excitement is a common sense only among those people who have experienced of visiting the Republic.

In the Republic, religion is by no means encouraged. Natural science is respected and it is an object to replace so-called God worship.

Therefore, compared to Southeast Asia where religious mind is serious, you can hardly see the worship act of the people. However, natural science has been educated since childhood. Logical thinking is provided thorough. We could visit the “Pyongyang Sci-Tech Complex” that was

completed in 2005. In that facility, there are various methods that children can learn science and technology interestingly from young age.

c. Pyongyang International Airport

A hamburger is provided during an in-flight service.

The Pyongyang International Airport became much more modern than when we visited in 2008 and 2012. Researcher 李河進 Lee Ha Jin and O Son Woo 吳成宇 from *Chosen Taibunka Renraku Kyokai* (朝鮮对外文化連絡協会: The Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries (CCRFC). Hereinafter called “*Taibunkyo*”) came to pick us up. It was a reunion for the first time in 3 years.

After 30 minutes driving by car, we entered an urban area. As same in the changing China, I take my breath on remarkable modernizations every year. It was the same impression when I visited Nanjing, China just a month ago (September 8th – 12th) that I was impressed by the development of such as skyscrapers, modern roads and subways. It would be an “advantage of backwardness” in economics. Economic development in such as Vietnam, India and Singapore is remarkable. We can no longer call them as a developing country. Despite being merely stopping by transit purpose, once you enter the city area, the cityscape of China is something that Japan and Western countries want to have. The Republic is full of enthusiasm that successfully received the “advantage of backwardness” and it is just like go ahead of South Korea, China and Japan.

In Japan, the image of the Republic is just only “evil” through the documentaries of the North Korean defectors, the abductions, Taepodongs, and the nuclear testing. If you make good remarks about the Republic, you will be frowned upon by society. Even I wish for the “Republic tour”, general travel agencies including “JTB” are not promoting it. I have never seen a travel book such as “How to walk through the Republic” or “Travel guide of the Republic”. Information is not delivered to general Japanese people. The reaction of the Japanese people for my visit to the Republic is stereotypical. There are severe reactions such as, “You are not able to return back. Freedom doesn’t exist in the country”; “People only show you the good points of Pyongyang. Starvations, poverties and oppressions at rural areas are hidden”; “Dictatorship state of Kim Jong-un (金正恩 1984?~) will send you to concentration camps”. The Republic that repeats nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches. The negative images such as “North Korea = Bad”, “Islam = Terrorism”, and “China = Regional Hegemon”, are flowing through medias. If we do not have a dialogue with people from neighboring countries at the personal level, we are not likely to put an end on the hatred relationship.

(2) Nations both close geographically and distant politically.

a. From the poorest country Nepal to the Republic

A week before, September 28, I attended the opening ceremony of an orphan facility in Dharmasthali, Nepal. The day before that, I headed to Manahari Children Home, which was

completed in May. It took about 6 hours on way by Indian jeep. Even we took a toll road, the road condition was bad. Pusfons (22 years old), who was our driver, was from the Dalit (The lowest class among the Hindu society. If you touch “untouchables”, you will be disgraced). It was a very hot weather, but he drove without putting a air conditioner. I guessed that he was told to save money from his company. The road surface was full of irregular holes, so that I could not think that asphalt pavement was done. If you run at high speed without any conscious, you will fall from the road to the bottom of the valley. There were many holes, so we needed to drive at low speed by using the foot brake all the time. Even so, the shock to us was great. Despite there were no street children, poorly-dressed children stand out when we went through streets in rural areas.

Three days after finishing my visit to Nepal, we could drive street in Beijing, and that was smooth like in heaven. Even after we entered the Republic, we did not feel any poverty because the road conditions were just as same as in Beijing. When I entered the Republic from Nepal, it was like a different world. Economic growth, progress in science and technology, and superiority of the advantage of backwardness were notable.

It seemed that the pride of struggle to keep up, effort and the advantage of backwardness have been giving influence to the Republic. There was no fatuity impression to the Nepalese since they are diligent, energetic and fast in mental arithmetic. The Republic is also family-oriented state, so it shares commonness on points of paying respect to own parents and ancestors.

Even though there was not enough oil due to the economic sanction, I was surprised at the number of cars in Pyongyang City. Officials or foreign travelers were not the only users of taxis. Ordinal people also use taxis. The ride fee is fixed at five won, even with a subway, so it is five won to any distance. 1 Japanese yen is about 7.6 North Korean won. So, riding fee is less than 1 yen. Rotary buses, subway and two-story bus is the same fee, so those have become the transportation way of the common people. There was no signal in 2008, and the female standing traffic control police officer was popular among of foreigners. Not only they were beautiful, but give wonderful instructions. This time, there were many LED signals at various places and crossroads.

Japanese people do not know that both education and medical expenses from the nursery school before the kindergarten to the university are free in the Republic.

What the difference from Nepal is considered political power. Nepal is deficient in the structure to exercise strong leadership and encourage people. It seems that people feel secured when they were elected by a political power holder so that they think that they achieved their goal. However, we should stand on the starting line when they receive the confidence in the election, and should devote in flood control, welfare and prosperity. There is no leader's thoughts that be filled with horror, a self-sacrificing ambition and policy to subject the people in Nepal.

Meanwhile, the strong spiritual power that gathers the people comes in the front in China and the Republic.

b. Strong leadership

The spirit of constructing and completing an ideal state by exercising its own strength to overcome

the political and military power of the United States as well as international pressure of the economic sanctions. For example, solve power problems on their own. Researcher 李河進 Lee Ha Jin told me that the standard of living improved by producing electricity at the hydroelectric power stations.

What the most important issue among the tasks resolved at the 7th Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea in May of last year is that making the entire society like Kim Jong-un. In order to develop the all society by the base of the Juche, they will execute the three major revolutions (Revolution of people's political thought, Technology revolution, Cultural revolution) mainly by the Workers' Party of Korea, and strengthen science and technology as well as develop the all advanced technology in the country up to the world-class level. Their breath that developing its technology within the science and technology of five-year plan, increasing the all economic production, and establishment of the economic strong state is snorty. Management of coal, metal, machinery and national road is also a fundamental concept of the People's economic five-year plan. Civilized strong country means the blooming of socialism culture, and I could hear from various work people about their enthusiasm of establishing the highest culture by people's high imagination and cultural standard level.

Japanese people have a prejudice that freedom of speech is restricted because of the dictatorship in the Republic. We have been taught in that way since our childhood. The fact of that completion of anti-American education is understandable from pictures and arts which are decorated on wall of nursery schools, kindergartens and schools. It is the same cognate that Japan took the United States and Western countries as its enemy by calling them *Ki-chiku-Bei-Hei* under the wartime.

Japanese people, who do not know the history of the Republic, have a misunderstanding as if the Republic will attack by Taepodong. Japanese medias also react hysterically about the J-Alert (nationwide warning system in Japan). It is the influence that Japanese policymakers inflame people by using medias. The Republic people frequently claimed that even though Korean peninsula has a history of tragedy that has always been invaded from a great country, but they never tried to invade other countries, so it is impossible to attack Japan. It is also true that the military parade and the news reporting of the Korean Central Broadcasting Station that is read by female announcers with strong tone is giving a sense of fear to Japanese people. However, it is strange that reports about the Foal Eagle (combined field training exercise by South Korea and The United States) is justifying a provocative act against the Republic, and it imprint the impression as it is a legitimate act to whole Japanese people. It is an expression about the stop thinking of Japanese people, psychological cardiac infarction and lack of criticism.

No matter how many exclusive feudalism systems fascisms and dictatorship states exist, there are always exceptions. Although it is a quick digression, there are three security institutions in the Republic; "The Korean People's Army", "The Ministry of People's Security (Police)" and "The State Security Department (Secret Police)". There were illegal people such as Al Capone [1899-1947] even in the time of prohibition law was strict in the United States. I also heard that the secret society "*Bāng-mafia*(朝鮮幫)" was acting freely as they like even in the Republic where has

a severe control.

All ages and places, it can be said that no matter how much foolishness of human beings pursue an ideal, always gaps appear in somewhere

c. Real condition of agriculture

Kobe International Sustaining Organization visits the disaster affected areas such as domestic Japan, Asian countries, Oceania and other places for restoration. We are not able to do much work. However, due to depopulation, aging, and declining birthrate, there is a problem that local young people tend to migrate to the city. After the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami in 2011, We are helping to revitalize the local area with the goal of “Resurrection of Rice Field, Mountain, and Bay”. We are working on agriculture, forestry, fishery, roadside improvement and listening volunteers. We visit the Tohoku area every month in order to let young people will notice about attractiveness even at local areas. In Japan, 70% of the land is forest. It is similar to the Republic. It is not too much to say that Japan failed in self-sufficiency of cereals. Japan has no other way but relying on imports. On July 5, 2017, there was the Kyushu northern part heavy rain disaster, and 270 houses at Haki-Masue, Asakura City in Fukuoka Prefecture were destroyed completely. For centuries, people had been engaging in agriculture at *Tanada* (棚田: rice terraces) and *Dandan-hatake* (段々畑: farming field terraces) on the side of the mountain of their land, which is said to be one of the original landscapes of Japan. Moreover, forestry was also a way of life. However, due to natural disasters, people’s livelihoods have completely damaged. *Shiwagaki* (志波柿: persimmon from Shiwa area in Asakura City), which is the best persimmon in Japan, also has been lost. Our organization started with visiting activities in a way we learned through our supporting activities of agriculture, forestry and fishery in Tohoku volunteers. Travelers from overseas notice that there are many bald mountains among the mountains near the Pyongyang City. The late Kimikazu Tomoi (former member of a Yashiro town councilor) told me when we visited the Republic for the first time that, “It is not because they cut down trees to make cultivation fields since there are many mountains. It is because that people use wood for Ondol (underfloor heating system)”. Like Nepal, we often saw dent corn fields in the Republic. Usually corn leaves extend horizontally, but dent corn grow more over from stem, which is higher than 2 meters. It cannot be said that it is delicious. Annual grass like dent corn easy to causes phosphate depletion, therefore the land becomes unsuitable for other cultivations. However, since Japan imports dent corn, there is also a way to export to Japan in the future.

When I visited a joint farm in the last time in 2012, I had an impression of using chemical fertilizer to increase the production amount. This time, what was different from the last time, they are adopting agricultural methods to consider the natural circulation by using pesticide-free production, organic and biomass.

When we were doing rice reaping on September 18 and 19 at Watanoha, Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture, we did not use reaping-machine, but used toothed sickles. Immediately after reaping, we did “*Hasakake* (稲架掛: rice-drying rack)” to make rice dry by the sun.

We just visited the Republic during the rice reaping season, so I had a hard time controlling my

emotion to help people when I saw them were doing rice reaping while we were driving through the expressway.

According to O Son Woo 吳成宇, he told me that “Because of economic sanction, fuel resource is valuable, so people have no way but do a traditional reaping way without using agricultural machines as much as possible.” Therefore, when I asked back to him “If so, why people don’t use cows?”, he answered me that “The people of the area work together to cultivate, so they do not need to rely much on the power of cows.” Certainly, it seems that it is common to help rice reaping for any people such as a desk worker, professor at university, person who work at the center of state politics, Ministry of People’s Security worker, and soldier of Korean People’s Army on Friday and Saturday.

(3) Poverty and Orphans

a. Mind Control

The Japanese people believe without no doubt that starvations, poverties, and food shortages among the Republic people is true due to the information flowing like a water flood through the medias. However, once everyone enters the Republic, they doubt their own eyes. In the beginning, people cannot accept everything they saw and hear as it is since they feel that they must be cheated or it must be a tricky trick. Japanese people gain culture shock that is hard to believe when they become a witness of the economic growth of the Republic. “*Combatting Cult Mind Control*” (1988. Steven Alan Hassan. Translated by Sadao Asami. Kouyu Shuppan) gives an interesting perspective on mind control.

According to “*Daijirin*” (2006.Sanseido Books. Third edition), it defines that “Mind control is a concept that refers a technique to control thoughts and information of others and to lead a specific conclusion when an individual makes a decision.”

Japanese people show rejection by just listening the keyword “North Korea”. There is “phobia” which is close to a fear of heights. The government of the United States and Japan use the media repeatedly to report about abduction, Taepodong, and nuclear tests for giving image of dangerous. As a result, despite having no theoretical grounds, hatred phobia towards North Korea has penetrated socially.

Japanese people believe that the Republic is constraint the people and taking the freedom of people, and mind controlling the people. However, those people who have been visiting the Republic will be awakened from a sort of psychological manipulation that Japanese people have. Unfortunately, even I deliver the truth of the Republic after retuning, I always be forced to experience unpleasant moments by rejection as “You are being deceived.” In other words, I am frustrating to the foolishness of ignorance that is brought from thinking stop of the Japanese. Rejection to the truth is a kind of pathological symptom. The symptom is that a person does not recognize it telling us the seriousness. Intelligence, healthy criticism and sober analysis get into the cardiac infarction status.

We should not fall in a policy of the United States thinks that the Republic would raise a sound of help if we do the economic sanctions. On July 27, 1953, the cease-fire agreement was concluded and the front line of that time became the de facto border between North and South Korea. Approximately 1.3 million Koreans (mostly civilians) died in the Korean War that contributed to Japan's high economic growth. There are things that many Japanese people have missed. Besides about 500,000 of North Koreans and 54,000 of Americans died, the death toll of the Chinese army that was led by Peng Dehuai (彭德懷 1898-1974) was about 1 million. No matter how many foreign countries give pressure to China by the economic restrictions to do the economic sanctions to the Republic, China will hardly give up the country that they shed tremendous blood of people in the war. Without seeing this, we are not able to have a successful dialogue on the matters of abductions, nuclear tests and ICBM only by the economic sanctions.

b. Hostile policy of Japan

Sounds of J-Alert (nationwide warning system in Japan) rings. Entire Japan becomes tensed and people judge it is justice even though the administration of Japan gives a hard policy. However, according to the questionnaire of Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture, evacuation rate due to the missile alert is only 17%. It is reported that 62% of people think that drill is not necessary. (Ishinomaki Hibi Shinbun, October 3, 2017)

On the other hand, the Japanese government says it as a political cover toward its nation and uses it for an excuse of expansion of armaments.

There are no signs of an improvement in the economy in Japan. However, the defense budget in Japan keeps increasing. Fiscal defense expenditures in 2017 is increased 71 billion yen compared with the previous year's budget, and it became 5,125.1 billion yen (about 45.6 billion dollars). It is increasing for 5 consecutive years.

I heard a black humor from several people that "J-Alert should give warning every time Osprey flies in Okinawa. (*Okinawa Times*. October 30, 2017)" said that flying of the aircraft, which cause many accidents over the sky, is more realistic threat than missile from North Korea that certainly passes through outer space.

When I consider the future of Japan more than anything, I cannot help but thinking about the relationship between Germany and Israel. Germany carried out murderous killings against the Jews in the wartime. "Shoah (the Holocaust)" had reached 6 million people. As a result, the relationship between Germany and Israel seemed hostile and there was no space for restoration for everlasting. For example, the line of "Valid in the whole world except Germany" was printed on passport of Israel for a long time.

However, Germany tried to take responsibility by the way of apologizing and paying compensation toward the crimes before and under the wartime.

Human beings are only able to open the future and regain humanity through recognizing responsibilities for the past correctly. Not being just saying that, the German government moved to take actions and established the war museums in Berlin and other major cities, like Yad Vashem

(Holocaust Museum) in Jerusalem, as well as other monuments by spending a lot of expenses. The place of the war perpetrator museum is not important. The memory is important for many people to see and hear repeatedly in order to not commit war criminals and tragedies again. We need an attitude to prove that the beneficial of the memory. The action for the memory should not be from the viewpoint of tragedy in Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Fukushima, but it should create a “Memory Culture” from reflective consciousness on crimes. Otherwise, Japan will not be able to survive as a country that can be trusted from Asian neighbors.

History proves that the Japanese has been having an abnormal discrimination towards Koreans. It will take a longer time for Japanese people to delete disgust feelings on North Korea’s policy and anti-Korean sentiment.

Therefore, it is necessary to try a reconciliation that is based on the various groups and societies like *Nichi-cho Yūko Hyogokenmin no Kai*, friendship associations and the Christian spirit. As in the theme scripture, the action based on “conscience” will be represented by the spirit of *Tako* (他己: altruistic). The parents of the former president Kim Il-sung, father Kim Hyōng-jik (金亨稷 1894-1926) and mother Kang Pan-sōk (康盤石 1892-1932) were Christians, so they were struggling from suppressions, iron-fist rules and merciless policies by the Japanese. This time, the guide explained about the motto of Kim Hyōng-jik, “*Chiwōn* (志遠: Japanese pronunciation is *Shien*)” that and that means to have an endless and great aspiration. Since the pronunciation is same as our activity “*Shien* (支縁: Sustainable Relationship)”, we go a sense of familiarity.

I believe that a grassroots approach such as volunteer activities by young Japanese people for the water flood damage, drought damage and problems of heating during the winter in the Republic, and dialogue on textbook for common historical recognition will restore the relationship between Japan and Koreans steadily and surely from now on.

However, like the relationship between Germany and Israel, is it worth considering that economic and military relationships have brought political reconciliation. We cannot ignore the fact that economic and military assistance to Israel ultimately led to reconciliation between Germany and Israel to the individual level.

c. The country suffers in starvation and poverty.

Speaking of the Republic, I think that there is an image of the country in Japan that it is using moneys only for military purposes although they are poor enough for making starvation victim. Japanese people do not know the inside and outside of the economy in the Republic. They cannot imagine that here are also wealthy people.

On the way returning from Wonsan, the countryside landscape seeing from the window was peaceful. It was the season or rice reaping by using toothed sickles. We did rice reaping with the children of Nagahama kindergarten at Watanoha, Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture on September 18th and 19th. Again, we did rice reaping without using any machine equipments but by the same farming method as Edo period. On September 23rd and 24th, we did grain threshing with the kindergarten children by using a threshing equipment of Taisho era. I also saw the same threshing

equipment at Lan Chan area in Vietnam where had a water flood damage. It is a process work to remove rice stalk by using a foot thresher. On October 5th, all family members and neighbors gather together to do rice reaping at the Republic.

I asked to our guide to take us to the areas where damaged from drought by the severe sunshine and water flood. Because one of our purposes of visiting the Republic was to be with orphans, single women who lost their husbands and elderly single living people. However, I received an explanation that even at the time of drought 2 years ago, the Korean People's Army quickly took relief measurements for the villagers who lost their living abilities, so that any needy person did not remain within the six months. Therefore, there was no place to take pictures now. I told him that “We need a reality of poor people’s life to collect donations from Japan.”

Certainly, the expressway we drove a car, the landscapes from the car window, houses, and people’s clothes were not so shabby and that was different from the poorest country in Asia, Nepal.

No matter how cooperative farms are superior in biomass, solar energy, pesticide-free and organic, I always have experiences that there will be surely orphans at any countries. For example, there are children who lost their parents because of a traffic accident, devotion or illness, so it is impossible that there is no orphan. When I visit Quảng Bình Province in Vietnam on November, 2016, officials of the place made a definitive statement that “There is no orphan in my country”. However, when I asked officers to accompany with us for visiting the water flood damaged area; it became clear that there were orphans in various places. When I asked again, “Are you sure that no orphanage is developed in the Republic and there is no orphan?”, he replied me “Yes, certainly I heard that there are orphans outside of Pyongyang.” Researcher Son Chol Soo 孫哲秀 from Taibunkyo responded me that if we would like to build orphanage facilities by the support from Japan, they will welcome us.

We said good-bye with a firm handshake to make a wish come true that we will be able to build orphan houses and be with them until they will grow up by “the Kayoko Found” in our next visit.

<Conclusion>

I have been active as a standing committee member of *Nichi-cho Yuko Hyogokenmin no Kai* from the beginning. If I do not know the realities of neighboring countries, I am able to live peacefully in “the comfort of ignorance”. However, because of my third time visits of the Republic, I cannot keep in silent about that the perception of Japanese people is so different.

Wonsan is a region where there are many Japanese and returned Koreans in the Republic. Korean dishes that are served at the restaurant often use many Japanese soy sauce, sweet cooking rice wine and miso. As a contact ship between Japan and the Republic from 1992 to 2006, there was Man Gyong Bong 92 at the Port of Wonsan.

By the way, when I was working freely in Wonsan, I became familiar with the people who pass by on the street. I could communicate in Japanese, because they were born and raised in Japan. A person told me about his deepest feelings that “I am happy to be able to speak in Japanese after such

a long time. My true home country is Japan, but my wife and children are all *Chousenjin*. Even I will bury my bones here, but there is no day that I don't think about my home country, Japan. Japan, the land where my parents who I only can meet with them in my dream were living. I could not even be there at my parent's death. I don't have any status but I will be happy if I can do something to connect this country with Japan.”

My determination to do more work for friendship was stimulated by listening to the deep heart of the person who talked about the wave of nostalgia toward Japan in a distant foreign land.

Even if thoughts, religions and nationalities were different, what the reason was that the wall was made between the people of Northeast Asia?

If we think about the cause of the hostile relationship, it will be a result to accuse each other.

To restore the true friendship, if you are making feeling of others bad, it is important to be the first to say apology in human relations, family, and local place, as well as between countries. Before criticizing the abduction, Taepodong and nuclear test, it is necessary for us to think about what Japan has done in the Korean peninsula since 1910, such as deprive the land, forced transportation, the “comfort women” problem of the Japanese army, *Sōshi-kaimei* (創氏改名: rule to adopt Japanese names), forbiddance of using Korean language, and *Kyujyo-youhai* (宮城遙拜: worshipping the imperial palace).

There was compensation with South Korea by the Treaty on Basic Relations between Japan and South Korea, but we have not paid anything to the Republic. First of all, it is reasonable to say apology from the Japanese side for reconciliation. The conscience heart to hear the cry of blood since 1910 is asked.