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World Conference of Religions for Peace: Understanding Japanese Perspectives on Peacemaking

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World Conference on Religions for Peace - Japan

- Founded in 1972
- Membership is multi-faith
- Four goals for 21st Century Japan:
  1. Bring faiths together to engage in dialogue about inclusionary practices and tolerance
  2. Facilitate multi-religious collaboration in peace initiatives
  3. Work with peace groups internationally to address global issues
  4. Implement religiously based peace education and awareness activities
World Conference on Religions for Peace - Japan

- Initiatives undertaken by WCRP - Japan
  - Network Building
    - Roundtable discussions with South Korea and China
    - Youth Peace Conferences between Korea and Japan
  - Advocacy
    - Nuclear Non-Proliferation
    - Environmental Stewardship
  - **Peace Education**
    - Facilitator Workshops
  - Humanitarian Assistance
    - Earthquake and Disaster Recovery
WCRP – Japan Training  
- February 2018

- Fourth of Eight Trainings for Facilitators
- Trainings are designed to equip faith and community leaders with knowledge of peacebuilding and conflict transformation through dialogue and non-violent means
- “Welcoming the Other”
  - Seminar centered around conflict mediation
Japanese Methods on Peacemaking

- Common methods and themes in Japanese Peacemaking
  - Hearing out all disputants
  - Communicating all points of view to all sides
  - **Evoking empathy**
    - “My Minority Complex”
  - **Using the natural world as a model for peace**
    - Meiji Jingu Peace Shrine
“My Minority Complex” – Peace Theory in Practice
My minority complex
My minority Complex
Meiji Jingu Peace Shrine – A Monument to Peace
Conclusions on Japanese Peacemaking

- Peacemaking in Japan is:
  - Centered around mediation through empathy and understanding for self and the other
  - Grounded in nature’s example of harmony and self-reflective power