

Peace and Reconciliation Study Tour for Educators 2009

1. INTRODUCTION

Rationale

The motivation for this program was derived from the events of WWII in Asia where the Japanese military perpetrated war crimes prior and throughout its invasion of China and other parts of Asia from 1931 to 1945. Only in the past decade has an accurate reporting of this history been made available and until only recently has it impacted Ontario high school curriculum.

There are, however, issues concerning the historical record of this period that behooves further attention. More specifically, history textbooks have been recently introduced in some Japanese educational districts that contain historical revisions in which a less than accurate representation of these events is being presented. Moreover, unlike in other theatres of WWII, appropriate acknowledgement, restitution, and compensation for war crimes remain unresolved and a source of continuing rancor, particularly for the many surviving victims.

The purpose of this Study Tour is to offer educators a unique opportunity to learn about these events of WWII in Asia along with an exploration of these unresolved contemporary issues. This will be achieved through a Study Program before the tour and a guided educational tour in China and Korea where these events took place over 70 years ago. Participants will also have the opportunity to supplement their learning by hearing firsthand testimony by survivors as well as by collaborative discussions with respected and reputable scholars, professors, redress activists and fellow teachers who have been working in this area for years.

Opportunities will also be made available to experience the Chinese and Korean cultures respectively and share in the mutual warmth of personal friendships with local citizens.

Sponsorship

This Study Tour is being made available through the efforts of the *Toronto Association for Learning and Preserving the History of WWII in Asia (Toronto ALPHA)*. Established in 1997, its mandate is to foster humanity education and racial harmony with a mission to promote public awareness, learning, and the preservation of an accurate historical record of WWII in Asia. Since 2004 **Toronto ALPHA** has been working closely with Ontario educators to integrate this important but relatively unknown period of history into Ontario educational curriculum across the province.

Toronto ALPHA puts forth intensive fundraising efforts in order to make this Study Tour possible. Through these efforts the individual cost to each participant is highly subsidized.

Individuals who work on behalf of **Toronto ALPHA** are mostly volunteers.

2. PARTICIPANTS

Approximately 20 – 25 educators will be selected for admission to this program. Most of them will be selected from among certified and practicing educators, teachers and students at faculties of education.

Interested individuals are invited to submit their application to Toronto ALPHA. Qualified applicants will be called for a phone interview, followed by an orientation session. Selected candidates will be invited to join the 2009 Study-tour.

Applicants will be selected based on the following criteria:

1. Commitment to the area of study
2. Willingness to participate in the study program
3. Relevance of teaching & other professional experiences to the subject
4. Cooperativeness in learning and traveling with a group
5. Respect for new cultures
6. Adaptability to new experiences and living conditions
7. Application (available online at www.torontoalpha.org)

3. LEADERS

Flora Chong – Coordinator for 2008 Study-tour

Flora (B.Admin.) retired from a senior executive position of a mid-size business group with Head quarter in Toronto and became a full time volunteer in 2005. Not only does she have a strong business and information system background, Flora was also professionally trained and had been practicing as an interior designer. She has been an active volunteer in a number of organizations other than serving as Vice-Chair of Toronto ALPHA. At present, she is also on the boards of Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation (a geriatric care centre) and Across U-Hub (a youth leadership organization). Flora has led the highly successful 2006 and 2008 Peace and Reconciliation Study-tour, and involved in numerous projects of ALPHA in the past years. She was the executive coordinator for the Canadian Parliamentary motion on ‘Comfort women’, consultant and coordinator for the production of “Iris Chang – the Rape of Nanking”, and Chair of Education Program Development for Toronto ALPHA. She received the Queen’s Jubilee Medal for her volunteer work and philanthropic contribution.

Joseph Y.K. Wong

Dr. Joseph Wong (C.M., M.D., D.Sc.) is a family physician practicing in Toronto for over 30 years. He has been a life-time volunteer helping various causes in Toronto, Canada, and many other countries. He served as Chairman of United Way of Greater Toronto from 1990 to 1992, as Hon. Chair from 1994 to 2000. He founded the National Harmony Movement for Canada and is still Co-chair of the organization, promoting harmonious interaction among peoples in Canada.

He founded Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care and Yee Hong Foundation in 1987, which has grown over the last 20 years to become the largest non-profit geriatric care centre and program in Canada, with 4 centers in G.T.A. serving over 4,000 seniors every day. He led efforts to fund-raise for various natural disasters in the world: droughts and floods that hit China in the 1980's and 1990's, famines in Ethiopia and Somalia in mid to late 1990's; North Korea famine in 1998; India earthquake in 2000; Tsunami relief in 2004 and most recently the Burma cyclone and China earthquake in Sichuan. He founded Toronto ALPHA in 1997, and still serves as chair of the Board. He was named Toronto Star Man of the Year in 1986, received a Hon. D. Sc. Degree from University of Toronto in 1992; Order of Canada in 1993, and the Canadian Red Cross Humanitarian Award in 2005.

Judy Cho

Judy Cho (B.Sc) is a professional interpreter/translator in Legal & Medical field in GTA area. She has been actively involved in various community works such as Food Grain Bank Projects and School Merging Project in rural areas since she migrated from South Korea in 1990. Judy has recently become a board member of Toronto ALPHA and has been involved passionately in many of Toronto Alpha's projects such as volunteering as a Korean interpreter and itinerary coordinator for the 2008 study tour, attending the History NGOs World Conference in Seoul, helping organize the annual fundraising dinner, attending the annual TDSB workshops and sharing the history and ALPHA mission with high school students. She is also a board member of Justice for Comfort Women which organized the showing of a Korean play on Japanese Military Sexual Slavery, NABI/Comfort Women in Toronto which was highly acclaimed.

Dennis Lam

Dennis (B.BA, PMP) is Associate Director of Finance in Bell Canada. He has strong Finance and Computer background. After migrated from Hong Kong in 1996, he has been an active volunteer in a number of organizations other than Toronto ALPHA. His involvements including teaching grade 8 Junior Achievement Program and Organizing Committee of York Region Bell Walk for Kids Help Phone. Dennis is an active board member of Toronto ALPHA and has been involving in a lot of major projects of Toronto ALPHA.

Margaret Wells

Margaret Wells (B.A. B.Ed. M.A.) is an instructor in the initial teacher education program at OISE/UT. Before working in this program, Margaret was a secondary school teacher and a consultant on equity issues in education at the Toronto District School Board. She also was an instructor at York University's Faculty of Education. Margaret does volunteer work with Facing History and Ourselves, an international non-profit educational organization that supports teachers in addressing social justice issues connected to genocide and other human rights abuses. She is currently the co-chair of the Advisory Committee for Facing History in Canada. Margaret found that her participation in the 2008 ALPHA study tour was an amazing learning experience.

4. ACADEMIC PROGRAM

It is expected that all participants will take an active part in the pre-trip academic preparation. Please be assured that this component is not intended to be demanding nor onerous, but rather to provide all participants the opportunity to maximize their learning.

There will be an interview and tour orientation to be held on March 29, 2009 and three meetings prior to departure, scheduled as follows:

Sunday April 12, 2009	3:00pm-6:00pm
Sunday May 17, 2009	3:00pm-6:00pm
Sunday June 14, 2009	3:00pm-6:00pm

All orientation and pre-tour meetings will take place at Yee Hong Centre – Scarborough Finch at 60 Scottfield Drive, Scarborough, Ontario.

These meetings will provide practical details of the trip, health and safety recommendations, historical background, and introduction to the contemporary issues associated with the themes of the program. Participants will be invited to take an active role in all facets of the program.

There will be a suggested **reading list** provided. This list will be prioritized into essential recommendations as well as secondary recommendations. This will be available well in advance to give participants sufficient time to prepare.

Participants will be invited to explore more fully a single particular area of interest and to share this learning with the group. A list of suggested topics will be provided.

Journaling: Many former participants have found that writing a daily journal was a very effective means to assimilate the experience, both in terms of the historical learning as well as the impact of many personal testimonials of survivors. In addition, a composite journal whereby participants are invited to submit a single day's entry can provide a powerful commemoration of this shared experience. Every teacher participant is required to write journals on 2-3 days of the trip.

Toronto ALPHA will have the right to publicize these journals for educational purposes.

Meetings during the Trip: There will be meetings or group discussions scheduled periodically during the trip. Some will incorporate guest speakers, and others will be for the purpose of debriefing and reflection within our group.

5. ITINERARY

Travel Dates: July 2, 2009 - July 16, 2009

This itinerary is intended to highlight the types of activities that will occur in conjunction with the locations that will be visited. You will receive a more accurate itinerary closer to the departure date.

July 2	Thursday	Departure from Toronto
July 3	Friday	Arrival in Shanghai, China; Evening – dinner and introduction of participants to each other
July 4-6	Saturday-Monday	Shanghai – Academic program and some sight-seeing and cultural explanation
July 6-9	Monday-Thursday	Nanjing – Academic program and some sight-seeing program
July 9-10	Thursday-Friday	Harbin - Academic program and some sight-seeing program
July 10 – 13	Friday – Monday	Beijing – Academic program and some sight-seeing program
July 13-16	Monday-Thursday	Seoul, Korea - Academic program and some sight-seeing
July 16	Thursday	Departure from Seoul, Korea

Please note that all educational activities and group discussions are mandatory. Prior notification is required if participant choose to withdraw from any sight-seeing and cultural activities.

6. ACTIVITIES

The activities that will comprise the itinerary are still being coordinated with the travel arrangements and so the final schedule has not yet been finalized. Here below are some planned educational activities in different visiting cities:

Shanghai

- Presentation on history of Shanghai and the carving up of China by western powers by Professor Su Zhi Liang
- Study on Japanese Military Sexual Slavery System with Professor Su, meet former Japanese Military Sexual Slavery survivor and visit site of former 'Comfort Station'

Nanjing

- Visit Nanking Massacre Victims Memorial Hall and meet with the curator of the Memorial Hall and survivors
- Visit John Rabe Museum and meet the curator of the Museum
- Visit Historical Massacre Sites such as Swallow Cliff and Zhonghua Gate
- Meet teachers and students and exchange experience in teaching of the atrocities

Harbin

- Visit Biological Warfare Unit 731 Museum and meet with Curator Wang Peng
- Presentation on chemical warfare and history textbook issue by Professor Bu Ping
- Chemical weapons survivors' testimony

Beijing

- Meet Attorney KANG Jian: leading counsel supporting redress for Chinese victims in their lawsuit against the Japanese government.
- Meet survivors of forced labour camps
- Meet Professor BU Ping and learn the chemical warfare as well as the effort by Chinese, Korean and Japanese scholars to publish a unified textbook, and the Japanese textbook controversy

Seoul, Korea

- Meeting with Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan and learn the background of the atrocity in Korea
- Visit House of Sharing and meet former Japanese Military Sexual Slavery survivors
- Meet with Korean teachers /students
- Observe the 'Wednesday Demonstration' started since 1992 by 'comfort women' survivors and supporting peace groups in front of Japanese embassy

Other Activities: Other cultural and leisure activities such as attending local shows, visiting major tourist sites will also be planned in cities of China and Seoul Korea. Planned sight-seeing will include visiting the riverside Bund, Yu Garden in Shanghai, enjoying the Shanghai Gymnastics troupe; Tour of the Great Wall, The Forbidden City/Summer Palace, Tianneman Square, WangFuJing district as well as the Olympic Park in Beijing; climbing the Dr. Sun Yat Sen Mausoleum, watching "Iris Chang- the Rape of Nanking" in Nanjing theatre; shopping at the traditional street in Seoul, and touring DMZ (the Demilitarized Zone between South and North Korea)

7. TRAVEL and ACCOMMODATIONS

Transportation

Local transportation, usually in the form of charter bus, will be organized and provided by **Toronto ALPHA**. Local and international air travel will be provided by reputable regional and national carriers.

Accommodation

All accommodation will be arranged by **Toronto ALPHA** in conjunction with local travel agents. All hotels will be selected based on safety, cleanliness and location at a budgeted price range. Participants will be expected to share a double room with another participant. For those preferring private accommodation, a supplementary fee will be added.

8. FINANCES

Participants are required to contribute C\$1,800 to cover all international airfares. The rest of the tour cost with the exception of the following is subsidized by funds raised by Toronto ALPHA for this purpose.

Other Costs

Other costs to be covered by participants:

- Passport (this must not expire within 6 months of departure)
- Visa fee
- Out-of-country health insurance
- Inoculations (depending upon one's private insurance coverage)
- Participants are requested to prepare a gift of C\$50 value or equivalent to be presented to survivors and speakers whom the group will meet at the tour
- Single Supplement for private accommodation (optional)
- Personal expenses

9. HEALTH AND SAFETY

Careful attention to sound health and safety practices will be an important component in the preparation of this program. This will involve mandatory immunizations, learning healthy eating and drinking habits, and understanding effective illness prevention practices. Some of the leaders have extensive experience in traveling to the developing world and will share their ideas throughout the program about effective health and safety habits.

Dr. Joseph YK Wong will be accompanying the group as one of the program leaders. Dr. Wong is a family physician working in downtown Toronto for 30 years. He will provide preparatory medical advice and will be available for consultation during the trip.

Participants should consider themselves physically and emotionally suitable to deal with the very compacted itinerary under the hot weather. Physical and dental check-ups are highly recommended prior to departure.

Participants should consult his/her family doctor for all recommended immunization.

Precautions

Each participant will be expected to purchase out-of-country health insurance and are advised to purchase a plan which includes evacuation coverage

Each participant will be expected to complete the **Consent to Medical Treatment Form** in the event that urgent emergency care is required.