

The Global Article 9 Campaign marks the Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) 2014

This year, the Global Article 9 Campaign once again participated in the 4th edition of the [Global Day of Action on Military Spending \(GDAMS\)](#) with a series of events held in Tokyo and onboard [Peace Boat](#), which serves as the Global Article 9 Campaign Secretariat.

GDAMS is a global movement that seeks to raise awareness on the overall size of global military spending and call for a shift of resources from the military to human needs. The day of action coincides with the release by the [Stockholm International Peace Research Institute \(SIPRI\)](#) of their annual statistics on global military spending, which totaled \$1.75 trillion in 2013.

Symposium in the Diet building in Tokyo, Japan

On April 14, the Global Article 9 Campaign joined together with other organizations and individuals to hold a symposium in the Diet Members' Building in Tokyo, entitled "From Military-Centered to Human-Centered: Rethinking 'Security'".



The event brought together speakers from Japan and abroad to consider the "security" challenges faced by Japan, and together rethink the priority and allocation of budget necessary to ensure the security of human beings.

As the current administration is accelerating its efforts to revise the country's longstanding peace policies (notably war-renouncing Article 9 of the constitution) and expanding its defense capabilities through increased military budget and armaments for the said purpose of protecting the country, participants made a case that it is being done at the expenses of what most Japanese citizens consider being their immediate security and livelihoods.

Japanese panelists, including representatives of nuclear power plant workers, homeless rights advocates, NGO activists, think-tanks and lawyers, looked at the various social issues in Japan that are overlooked in the public budget and policy, such as the urgent need to deal with the ongoing disaster situation in Fukushima including the health dimensions, the poverty gaps in Japanese society, issues facing social welfare and more. The fact that the budget allocated to social welfare in next year's budget will be cut by 100 billion yen, while there will be an increase of the same amount in defence expenditure, left a great impression on participants, showing the prioritization of the state over its citizens.

International guest speakers from the Netherlands, the Philippines and Australia contributed to the debate by placing it in the international context and introducing concrete examples of how citizens can make a difference.

Some 80 participants, including Parliamentarians, attended the event, and over 1200 people watched it online. Watch the video [here](#) and read more about the event [here](#).

Activities onboard Peace Boat's 83rd Global Voyage

Throughout the week leading up to GDAMS, a series of events took place were held onboard Peace Boat's ship.



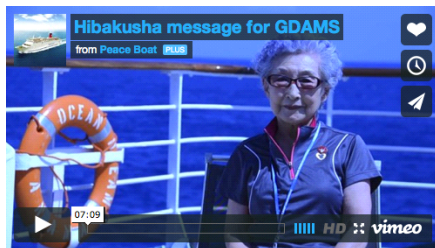
Two lectures were held, including an introduction to GDAMS and presentations on the amount of money globally spent on the military in recent years, as well as on the current Japanese military budget which allocates as much as 4.885 trillion yen for 2014. This second increase in military spending (last year's was the first in over a decade) is part of the current administration's wider policy of so-called "Active Pacifism" which calls for the reinterpretation of Japan's peace Constitution and war-renouncing Article 9 in particular, by which Japan relinquishes the right to use force to settle international disputes.

Other activities held included discussions and exchange of opinions on the theme of military spending, a program as part of the English language program, the collection of over 100 pictures of participants holding a sign reading "If I had \$1.75, I would #move the money to ___" towards GDAMS' Selfie campaign aimed at creating public awareness about how the money spent in global military budget could be reallocated to various human needs, as well as a group picture of more than 500 people behind a banner that read in Japanese and English "Cut Military Spending for a Better Life".



Watch a video featuring some of the events [here](#).

Hibakusha Statement



Another video was produced as part of Peace Boat's actions for GDAMS 2014, featuring a special message by Hattori Michiko, one of eight Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors) traveling onboard Peace Boat's 83rd Global Voyage.

Watch the video [here](#).

GDAMS over the world

The 2014 edition of GDAMS featured around 125 actions in 25 countries over all continents. In addition, IPB coordinated a bigger presence than ever on social media, including a 'Selfie' campaign, a 'Thunderclap', a survey and lively networking via Facebook and Twitter.

For more information about GDAMS, visit <http://www.gdams.org>