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

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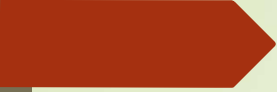
World Conference of Religions for Peace: Understanding Japanese Perspectives on Peacemaking

Matthew J. Smith

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

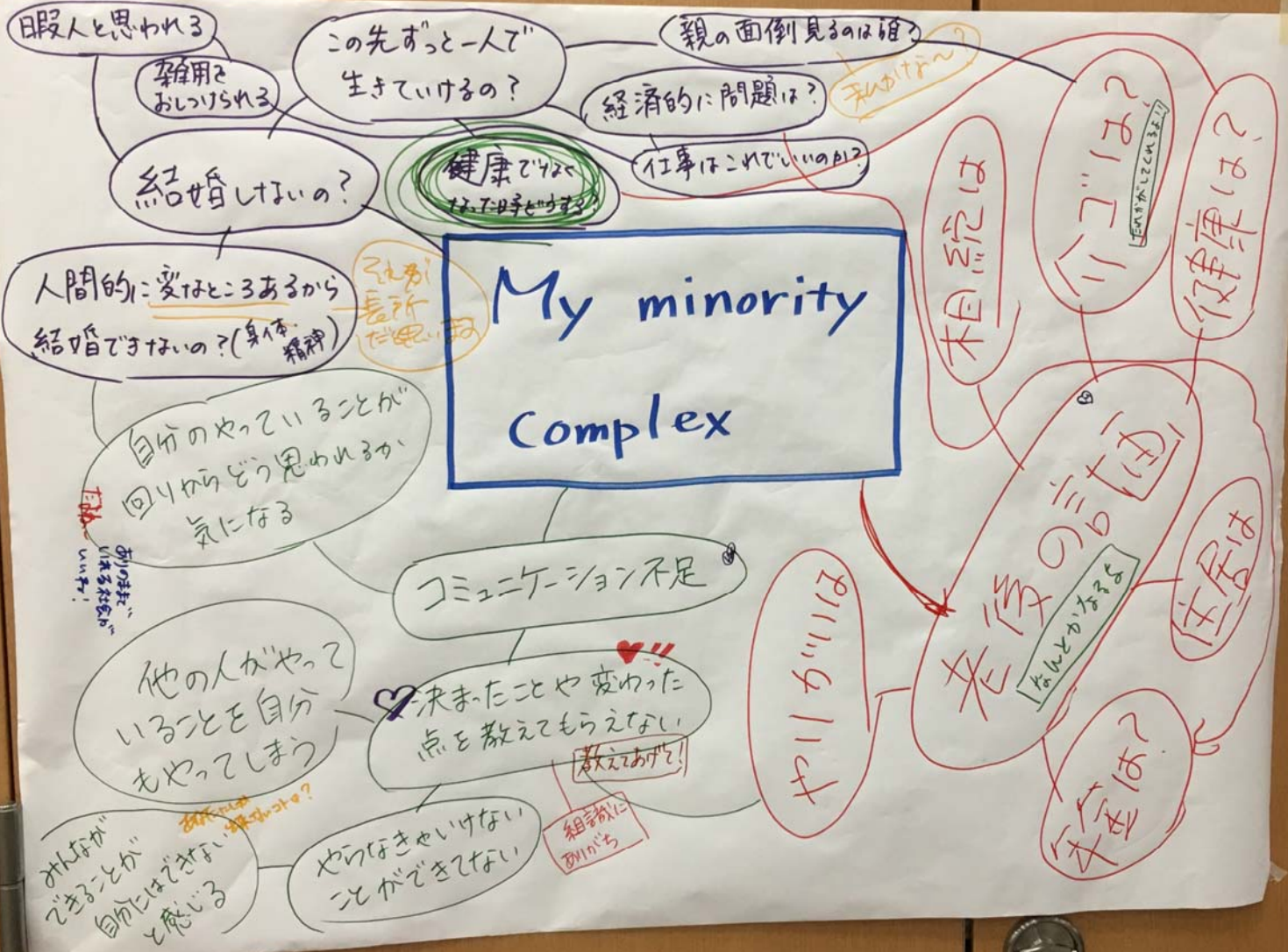
- ▶ Fourth of Eight Trainings for Facilitators
- ▶ Trainings are designed to equip faith and community leaders with knowledge of peacebuilding and conflict transformation through dialogue and non-violent means
- ▶ “Welcoming the Other”
 - ▶ Seminar centered around conflict mediation



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



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