



Kanto Reporting Session on the Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization

by Atsuko Tateishi

In the late afternoon on November 22, 2010, over 20 participants in the Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization (CT2010), including myself who went as a volunteer, were reunited in Tokyo. Some differences were immediately obvious. Although Room 416 of the Ochanomizu Christian Center Building was packed almost to its full capacity, the attendance was a little over 50 instead of Cape Town's 4,000. More notably, there were no tables in the room, just chairs. And yet, the vibrant atmosphere and the wide variety of backgrounds of the people who attended the Kanto Reporting Session were comparable to what I had seen in Cape Town during CT2010.

Joining us were about 30 people who were eager to hear what exactly took place in the South African city one month before. Most of those 30 people had some personal connection with one or more of the CT2010 participants. So they were perhaps curious to know why their family and friends have been so excited and optimistic since their trip halfway across the globe.

Japan Lausanne Committee (JLC), as the meeting hosts, certainly made an effort to satisfy the interest and curiosity of the attendants. A collection

of reports by some 30 participants in CT2010 was given to the non-participant attendants, along with a 12-page official report by JLC and a few other handouts. The attendants had, however, little time to look through all the materials during the meeting, as it was fast-paced just like the typical CT2010 sessions.

Mika Takana opened the meeting from the piano. As a member of the international worship team of CT2010, she skillfully led the congregation in praise and prayer. After a brief welcome by emcee Shoichi Konda, five participants looked back at CT2010 from different perspectives.

First of all, Makito Masaki gave an overall summary report. He noted that the evangelical church was greatly encouraged by the fact that a wide spectrum of Christian sectors around the world, including the World Evangelical Alliance, supported CT2010. Masaki also observed that CT2010 provided a model for future Christian gatherings particularly in terms of the emphasis of interaction before, during and after the Congress, the full-scale use of technology, and the assignment of each participant to a fixed table group.

Next, Yoshiyuki Nishioka reflected the Congress from the theological perspective. After a sweeping overview

of the theological history of the last hundred years and of the Lausanne Movement since 1974, Nishioka summarized the contribution of CT2010 as the revival of the roles of theology. He highly regarded the table group system as the instrument to address an issue in a comprehensive and interdisciplinary manner, through interactions among up to six people with widely different backgrounds.

At this point, a five-minute official video entitled *Cape Town 2010: Looking Back at the Congress* was shown, giving the audience a glimpse of what the weeklong event was like. The third presenter was Midori Yanagisawa, who spoke from the missional point of view. According to Yanagisawa, CT2010 painted the picture of Christian mission in the 21st century as setting its goal toward transformation and a radical lifestyle for Christians; sharing the gospel from everywhere to everywhere; reaching out to unreached people groups, the poor, urban populations, and youth; and nurturing the autonomy of indigenous believers.

Kazuo Ichimura stood up next, representing the workplace. He heard during CT2010, stories of business people sharing the gospel as insiders all over the world including Muslim commu-



nities. CT2010 also provided Ichimura with numerous opportunities for building partnerships with the global business community, giving him hope for what differences could be made through partnerships among Chinese, Japanese and Korean Christians.

Finally, Masaru Aoki spoke from the diaspora perspective. He showed how both CT2010 and diaspora ministries concur with the global missional trend of valuing inclusiveness and diversity. Aoki challenged the audience to be engaged in mission

taste a little of the wonder of the table groups.

Following a freewill offering and the doxology, Satoru Kanemoto, Chair of JLC, offered a benediction. This also was patterned after CT2010, where the plenary session each day began with singing praise, and ended with the doxology and a benediction. The message was clear. A Christian community is a worshipping community.

Some 20 people, both CT2010 participants and non-participants,

both at home and abroad.

The next 20 minutes were spent in sharing and prayer in groups of three to four people. Each group had at least one CT2010 participant, who made sure everyone had a chance to speak and to

continued to fellowship over dinner at a nearby restaurant until well past 9 p.m. Now the challenge is how to continue and spread the momentum. One of the possibilities is attending and/or sending someone as an observer to the Seventh Asia Lausanne Congress on Evangelism (ALCOE VII), currently scheduled for June 1-4, 2011 in Ulan Bator in Mongolia. For more information about ALCOE VII, please contact JLC (e-mail in English or Japanese: roozannu@gmail.com).^{JH}

"The Meaning of the Lausanne Movement for Japan"

Speaker: Takashi Fukuda,
Asia-Pacific Director for
Wycliffe Bible Translators

February 14, 2011
2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tokyo Biblical Seminary,
on 2F by cafeteria
1-30-1 Megurita-cho
Higashi-Murayama, Tokyo

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| Hakone | Feb. 22 - 24 | 03-3291-1910 |
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CONTACT EACH KESWICK OFFICE FOR DETAILS



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