This newsletter is sent only to those who have registered at http://www.candle-night.org/ or sent e-mail to eninfo@candle-night.org

If you find the Candle Night Newsletter interesting, please forward it to friends and suggest that they start their own free subscriptions at http://www.candle-night.org/english/home.php

One and half months have passed since the year 2007 started. We are preparing for the Candle Night Summer Solstice 2007. Please enjoy Candle Nights in 2007.

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#### Topics

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\*English flyer available on Candle Night website.

\*Report on Candle Night Winter Solstice 2006--Kobe, Japan

\*Reports from overseas

\*Candle Night Summer Solstice 2007 will be from June 22 through 24, 2007.

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\*English flyer on Candle Night (for two-sided printing) available on the web.

Please download the English version PDF files from the following URLs and distribute generously to promote Candle Night.

### Front page

http://www.candle-night.org/english/how\_to\_join\_candlenight\_omote.pdf"

## Back page

http://www.candle-night.org/english/how\_to\_join\_candlenight\_ura.pdf

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Report on Candle Night Winter Solstice 2006--Kobe, Japan.

On the evening of the winter solstice, December 22, 2006, from 8 to 10 pm, Candle Night events were held around Japan.

On the Candle Night website, 280 events were registered. In this newsletter, we'd like to show our readers the event held in Kobe City in western Japan.

Kobe City is a traditional port town in western Japan with a population of around 1.8 million. It is a popular destination for tourists. Old western-style buildings still remain in the city, featuring an exotic atmosphere. Kobe is also famous for its "10 million dollar night view."

On December 22, youth from ages 16 to 26 held a Candle Night event. They aimed to enjoy the night without "10 million-dollar" artificial electric lights, even if it was only temporary. They formed a committee called "Ho-ki boshi" (meaning a comet in English) and organized a Candle night at a seaside park. Around one thousand people joined the event, decorating 5,000 candles.

The city of Kobe and surrounding areas suffered from the Great Hanshin-Awaj Earthquake on January 17, 1995. Over six thousand people died.

Ten years have passed since then, but many people who lost their families still feel psychological pain. One of the staff members of the organization said that after joining the Candle Night event, he could, for the first time, attend a memorial ceremony for his grandparents who died in the quake. He said he felt something change in his mind during the Candle Night event.

Candle Night offers time to enjoy oneself in their own way. During the next Candle Night, something may change somewhere in the world.

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Reports from Overseas

Worldwide, Candle Night is attracting people's attention. During the last

solstice, December 22, 2006, Candle Night events were held in Brazil, Melbourne, and Taipei. Magazines in Lithuania and Canada carried articles on Candle Night.

In Slovenia, people enjoyed Candle Night for the first time. A non-governmental organization against light pollution, "The Dark Sky Society of Slovenia" and 80 other environmental NGOs joined. One radio program featured time and light--offering people an opportunity to think about the quality of their lives.

Marjeta K. Svetel, a member of the Mountain Wilderness SLovenia, who promoted the event sent us a message: "I think Candle Night is a wonderful idea. Everyone can find his or her own way to observe it - and this is a great advantage!"

Several initiatives to turn off the lights are underway around the world. In Sydney, Australia, they will observe "Earth Hour." In this initiative, people are encouraged to turn off the lights for one hour on the evening of March 3, 2007. Details are in the following URL.

http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/let-there-be--less-light/2006/12/15/1165685862255.html

In Europe, corresponding to the release of the 4th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, people were encouraged to turn off the lights for five minutes on February 1, 2007, from 19:55 to 20:00. http://www.lalliance.fr/

During this five minutes, 800 megawatts of electricity were saved in France, equal to about 1 percent of the overall national electric consumption.

Similarly, in Belgium, this five minute action saved 325 megawatts of electricity,2.7 percent of the national electric consumption. In Spain, 1,000 megawatts,2.5 percent of the national power consumption was saved. Other countries,including Netherlands, Germany and Italy, joined the action too.

Do you have similar initiatives or movements in your country? If so, please send us the information.

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The next Candle Night, Candle Night Summer Solstice 2007, will be held from June 22 to 24, 2007. Please turn off your lights and enjoy slow quality time.

We also released the 2007 Activity Report on the following URL. Please take a look to see the whole picture of our initiative.

# http://www.candle-night.org/english/news/200611\_candle\_night\_summer\_solstice\_2.php

Please send us information on Candle Night events in your community. We also invite your local stories, festivals and events related to candles and fires.

Please send emails to: eninfo@candle-night.org

We hope you enjoyed this issue of the Candle Night Newsletter.

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We welcome your comments. Please send them to: eninfo@candle-night.org.

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