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The Candle Night Newsletter--#10

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Candle Night Committee  
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Candle Night Summer Solstice is just around the corner!  
In Japan and around the world, many events are planned.

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What's new

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\*Candle Night Summer Solstice 2006 will be held on the evenings of June 17 to 21, from 8 to 10  
p.m. Turn off your lights, and take it slow.

\*Candlescape on the globe is now open!

\*Subscribe now and win a prize--Newsletter Registration Campaign

\*Representatives of the Korean Women's Environmental Network visited us!

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Candlescape on the globe is now open!

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A new Candlescape is now available on the web. Click your location on a  
global map and a message form will appear. Send your message and e-mail address  
via the form. Your message will appear from that point on the globe. It will show  
the "wave of darkness" on a global scale. Please encourage your friends and family  
to send their messages, too. Stay tuned!

<http://feel.candle-night.org/scape/>

Note: Depending on the computer and software you use, this system may not function well.  
Apologies in advance for any inconvenience.

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Subscribe now and win Japanese candles!

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A total of six subscribers of the Candle Night Newsletter will receive a wonderful set of  
"warousoku" (Japanese candles).

Register to win by May 31, 2006 & June 21, 2006. (Japanese Standard Time)

Three winners will be selected in a drawing from each of these dates.

(Winners of the first drawing will be excluded from the second drawing.)

Winners will receive an e-mail.

Subscribe now at <http://www.candle-night.org/english/home.php>  
and win a prize!

Japan has its own distinctive candles called warousoku ("wa" means Japanese and "rousoku"

means candles). Japanese candles were made from beeswax or plant-derived materials, such as Japanese lacquer trees, Japanese wax trees, and rice bran. Read the article to learn more about "warousoku."

[http://www.candle-night.org/english/news/200603\\_beeswax\\_candle\\_workshop\\_andvol\\_1.php](http://www.candle-night.org/english/news/200603_beeswax_candle_workshop_andvol_1.php)

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Candle Night website updated

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The main visual of Candle Night Summer Solstice 2006 is Ms. Ayako Kimura, photographed by ARIKO. It shows the gentle time spent under the candlelight.

<http://www.candle-night.org/>

<http://www.candle-night.org/english/>

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Candle Night--when Environment sets the trend of the new era

Messages from Promoters of Candle Night--#2

Miyako Maekita

250 candles are placed on the steps of Zojoji Temple.

Tomoko Nakajima was taking a yoga pose, extending her arms gently and slowly.

The flames of the candles flittered, and I could see the night winds breathing.

"Tottemo kirei." (How beautifully she moves!)

"Turn off the lights for two hours on the night of the summer solstice." Everybody can do it simply with no cost. Candle Night has been spreading all over Japan due to careful planning from the beginning. We tried to lower the hurdles of preconceived ideas to attract participation and make it appealing to people with all types of beliefs.

There are several factors that help Candle Night reach people. The first is choosing the date of "Summer Solstice", as it turned out to be the best choice for the event. We named the overall movement and the concept "Candle Night," and that name proves to be successful. The official logo and the slogan, "Turn off the lights, and take it slow," has become common language. Lastly, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) started this event. As a result, Candle Night Summer Solstice 2003 was on the front page of major Japanese newspapers. I believe a key to the success was our ability to create an unprecedented movement and to face all of the challenges and frictions with determination. I'm just wondering to what extent people understand Candle Night.

Candle Night is a peaceful, yet quite innovative idea. It entails ideas from conventional points of view from various sectors such as NGOs, the Japanese Ministry of the Environment, press clubs, those who support both pros and cons of nuclear power generation and those involved in energy saving. We ask all of them to participate by turning off lights together, but do not ask them to change their beliefs. It is revolutionary because our policy to include all types of ideas, even conflicting ones, is consistent throughout the entire campaign. This carefully planned idea has made Candle Night attractive to everyone.

Candle Night Summer Solstice 2003, the first Candle Night, was significant to the environment both in Japan and throughout the world. It is also significant for all citizens to feel that the responsibility of society is in our hands. What I learned most was the sense of feeling that

"Now is the time to change." All people realize that they want to change, and need to, but don't know how to change themselves. (This is why we are here.) However, I've learned that just a little effort can change everything.

Further efforts might be required in the future. However, the world is surely changing. Time has passed since the first Candle Night, and the reactions from people have changed. I feel like saying we are frontrunners of the age. Nobody can create the age. All of our power converges and it can send a message to people.

It is easy to say we should respect diversity. However, I'm afraid no one can see their real shape. Thinking of the earth, the environment, energy, the future and happiness leads me to think of us, human beings. (Great job everyone!)

Candle Night has been gaining momentum since then. More and more people are realizing how wonderful it is. I can't wait for the next Candle Night. I believe many people are looking forward to it. It's exciting, isn't it? Let's make Candle Night an "incident" together!

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Two representatives from South Korean NGO visited us!

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Ms. Park Eun-jin and Ms. Lee Bo-Eun from the Korean Women's Environmental network (KWEN) attended our regular meeting to find a way to work together on Candle Night.

Since last year, the KWEC have called on cafes and second-hand clothing stores to hold Candle Night for two hours on the last Friday of the month.

During the meeting, the two Korean representatives and the members of the Candle Night Committee exchanged ideas. We found out that we share the same concern. June 18 to 21 falls on the same date of the 2006 Soccer World Cup, which may distract attention from Candle Night.

On the Candle Night website, we have the global-map based event registration system and the globe-based Candlescape. How Candle Night is spreading to the world can be visualized on the global map. Of course, the South Korean movement can be seen there, too.

We have received messages from them.

We will have Candle Night in South Korea together with people in Japan and around the world. Each tiny light gathers and forms a wave, and it will change a world into the one we are dreaming of.

Lee Bo-Eun

Being slow makes us happier, our society better, our world peaceful.

Park Eun-jin

Stay tuned on our website!

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Send us your event information!

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If you have a plan to hold a Candle Night event, please register it on the web or send the following information.

Time, location (country, city), admission fee (if any), event plan, inquiry (name and e-mail address of the person in charge)

On our Googlemap-based event registration system, the contents of your event will be shown in your location on the world map. You can also register by yourself, if you are able to follow Japanese directions. When you need our help, please send your information to: [eninfo@candle-night.org](mailto:eninfo@candle-night.org)

We will upload the information you send on behalf of your organization.

Event page is found at:

<http://event.candle-night.org/>

Drag the map with your mouse, or double-click the center to move the map.

Registration entry form is found at:

<http://event.candle-night.org/form.php?new=1>

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](mailto:eninfo@candle-night.org)

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

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We welcome your comments. Please send them to:

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