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The Candle Night Newsletter--#13
November 20, 2006, Copyright (c) 2006
Candle Night Committee

Dear Readers,

It's getting colder and colder. In Japan, winter is just around the corner. The next global-wide
"Candle Night" will be held on the night of December 22, 2006. (The winter solstice in the northern
hemisphere)

On the night of December 22nd, turn off your lights and take it slow.

Topics

- *Website for the Candle Night Winter Solstice is now open!
- *The 2006 Activity Report (English) is released.
<http://www.candle-night.org/data/candlenight2006report-english.pdf.zip>
- *Messages from Promoters of Candle Night--#3 Kazuyoshi Fujita
- *About the winter solstice

Sense of Connectedness to the Earth
Message from Promoters of Candle Night--#3
Kazuyoshi Fujita
President of Daichi-Wo-Mamoru-Kai (The Association to Preserve the Earth)

"Candle Night" is an initiative in which various groups of people collaborating with other groups,
take part by organizing events full of originality and ingenuity. Through such collaborations,
amazing moves and connections that we never expect come out one after another. I hope everybody
finds their own enjoyment by joining Candle Night on each occasion.

We, the promoters of Candle Night and the Candle Night Committee, merely offer a stage where
people can play whatever they like. Even though what they do is not the same, those who join
Candle Night by turning off their lights at the same time will surely share some feelings and
goodwill which they would not have any other day. Some may join Candle Night just because
everybody else does. Still, I believe, such followers will also feel something when they turn off the
lights --something calm and quiet, something different from what they feel in their everyday lives.

Today, many human relationships are broken and people feel a sense of being disconnected. Without
mending such broken ties, they are unwilling to take part in any movement where someone might try
to enlighten or involve them.

It does not mean that people don't care about politics and society. They simply do not see how they
are connected to society, the Earth, or even others living next to them. Chanting mantras, like "Let's
vote," and "No more nuclear power," does not work. People feel disappointed and turned off by such
phrases because they do not present any hope for the future or sense of being connected. They may

distrust political activities, politicalization of such movements, or they might even lose interest completely.

When people decide to join Candle Night, they may need something that motivates them to act on their own free will. Such motivations might be opposition to nuclear power and a wish for world peace. Or, it could be that one reflects on doubts of modern civilization or their own lifestyles. No matter what their motivations are, when people put them into action, they feel linked to people all over the planet. That is how people are moved by Candle Night.

I am convinced that such sense of community can encourage people to keep taking action.

About Winter Solstice

In the Candle Night Newsletter # 9, issued in April 2006, we introduced that in Japan the solar year was divided into 24 periods, which were used as guides to help farmers schedule their crop planting. The idea originated in China with each period having its own name. One of them is the summer solstice called "geshi" in Japanese.

The winter solstice, "to-ji" in Japanese, is another. Contrary to the summer solstice, the winter solstice has the shortest day of the year, which means it has the shortest night of the year. In 2006, it falls on December 22nd.

In Japan, people eat Japanese pumpkins to make a wish for one's good health and happiness. Pumpkins are originally harvested in summer so people needed to preserve the pumpkins to last for the winter solstice. Nowadays, pumpkins are available all around the year.

In the southern hemisphere, winter and summer are reversed, compared to those in the northern hemisphere. This means December 22nd falls on the summer solstice in some countries. Will you enjoy the next Candle Night on the winter solstice, or on the summer solstice in your country?

We have received messages from people in Hong Kong, Denmark, Canada, Brazil, Turkey, and other countries, that say they are planning their Candle Night.

For those who would like to know how the Candle Night Committee supports their initiatives, we are preparing the 2006 Activity Report.

(The PDF file can be downloaded at:

<http://www.candle-night.org/data/candlenight2006report-english.pdf.zip>

53.8MB zipfile format)

It will be available on the website, too, so stay tuned!

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:
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