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The Candle Night Newsletter--#16
March 30, 2007, Copyright (c) 2007
Candle Night Committee

This year, we had the first snowfall in Tokyo in March, 73 days later than average. Is it a sign of
global warming?

During the 2007 Candle Night Summer Solstice, we will turn off our lights and light candles
together.

Topics

- *Messages from Promoters of Candle Night--#4 Hirokazu Kometani
- *"Earth Hour" in Sydney to Turn out Lights
- *Preparation also Underway in Candle Light--South Korea's Report on 2006 Winter Solstice

What I want to share with you on Candle Night
Message from Promoters of Candle Night--#4
Hirokazu Kometani
Chief Executive of Slow Society Association

When I was a child, typhoons always caused blackouts in my neighborhood. "Darkness" was taken
for granted in those days. Whenever it happened, a big candle would come out of the closet in my
home.

Televisions and electric lights were turned off by every family in the apartment building. Everything
was calm except the rambling wind blast. All of my family sat around the flame of the big candle.
We were closer than usual.

Despite the strong rain and wind, I felt safe when we sat close. It was an exciting time for children.

Several years later, when I was a middle school student, I was listening to music on the radio. Then,
I heard the news --"One man has been buried alive in a mudslide . . ." I was shocked by the strange
synchronicity we were having: I was safe in my bed cuddling in the blanket while somebody was
dying in another place. The sense of synchronicity affected me deeply--I prayed for them and felt
sorry for somebody I never knew.

Recently, I had a chance to relive the feeling. In 2004, a great earthquake hit Niigata Prefecture in
northern Japan. I happened to visit Nagaoka City in Niigata after the quake. It was night on the
winter solstice. We lit candles during dinner, thinking of people who suffered from the quake,
spending restless nights in the shelters. We had slow time together in the Japanese restaurant where
people usually enjoy cheerful dinners. Every light created the space where people feel close, and we
had plenty of such spaces there.

It may be one of the reasons I commit so much on Candle Night--that is what I felt in my childhood.

I want my five children to feel the sense of unity that I felt, and to nurture such sensitivity to feel closer with others.

Turn off the lights for one hour on March 31, Sydney

In Sydney, Australia, "Earth Hour" will be held on March 31, 2007, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. This initiative is supported by WWF-Australia and the Sydney Morning Herald.

<http://earthhour.smh.com.au/>

An individual action will lead to a larger "change." We hope similar movements and campaigns will spread to the world.

*Preparation also Underway in Candle Light--South Korea's Report on 2006 Winter Solstice

On December 22, 2006, Candle Night was held in Seoul, South Korea. The Korean Women's Environmental Network (KWEN) called people to join Candle Night. KWEN is a non-governmental organization. It consists of women who pursue a Green Society where every member of the society is equal, and where human beings can coexist with nature.

On that night, about 100 KWEN members gathered at the Korean Traditional Music Hall. They enjoyed several events in candlelight: a gag concert, a magic show, belly dance, hip hop, a cappella, blind dance, and hugs in the darkness.

The performance was conducted in candlelight, starting from the preparation stage. Food and drinks were all organic and traditional. Ms. Eunjin Park, an organizer of the event, told us that candlelight gave them light and atmosphere that no electric lights could.

KWEN plans to participate in the next Candle Night on Summer Solstice 2007. How about holding Candle Night where you live? Please contact us and let us know how you plan to experience Candle Night Summer Solstice 2007.

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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