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The Candle Night Newsletter--#19
August 5, 2007, Copyright (c) 2007
Candle Night Committee

The Candle Night Summer Solstice 2007 ended successfully in Japan. How did you enjoy your
Candle Night?

Topics

- *Candle Night in Tokyo
- *Effects of MOE's "Lights Down" Campaign
- *Candle Night in Taipei

Candle Night in Tokyo

On this year's summer solstice, a variety of Candle Night events were held across Japan. The
number of events registered reached 897, and it is still rising. Many people enjoyed their own Candle
Nights. This year, a collaborative event was also organized through cooperation between South
Korea and Japan.

In Tokyo, one of the biggest Candle Night events was held along Omotesando Avenue, a popular
shopping area with plenty of fashionable boutiques including international brand stores. For example,
at Omotesando Hills, a major commercial complex on the avenue, roughly 20,000 light-emitting
diode (LED) lights on the outside wall of the building were turned off and children lit some 500
candles on the evening of June 22. Many other events were also organized at different buildings in
the area, including an installation of a candle-lit area for reading and knitting. With gentle

candlelight, Omotesando Avenue, which is usually full of electrical lightings at night, looked different on this year's summer solstice.

In Shiba Park near Tokyo Tower, a "Lights Down" event was organized on June 24 by Daichi O Mamoru Kai (The Association to Preserve the Earth), and co-hosted by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan. During the event, roughly 300 candles were lit in the park. Several stalls offered dishes made of home-grown food and people enjoyed an acoustic live music concert. Then the lights of Tokyo Tower were turned off at 8:00 p.m. It was amazing to see the moment when the lights of the tower went out. Without lights, a familiar sight looks completely different. By turning off the lights, we saw the atmosphere and impressions of places change drastically and instantly -- that is one of the things we can find through the Candle Night.

Also at the event in Shiba Park, a lights-down event at N Seoul Tower in South Korea was reported live in collaboration with Korean Women's Environmental Network (KWEN). In Seoul, the lights of N Seoul Tower were turned off at 9:00 p.m. "On the day of the lights-down event, more than 800 people gathered around the tower. An additional 45 Candle Night events were organized, by environmental or peace-related non-governmental organizations and cafes across the city. The dark night without lights reminds us of senses and feelings that we have forgotten. We could change the world by stepping out of our daily lives just for two hours on the summer solstice," says Ms. Park Eun Jin of KWEN.

We hope more and more people join in the Candle Night to spread a gentle wave of candlelight across the world in the future.

To see the messages sent to the Candle Night Committee, go to;

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

This year, we received the registration of events from outside Japan, including India.

<http://event.candle-night.org/detail.php?en&id=2162>

Candle Night is not an event held only on the summer solstice but the one you can enjoy anytime throughout a year -- so why don't you join us and enjoy on your own Candle Night?

*Effects of MOE's "Lights Down" Campaign

The Japanese Environment Ministry conducted a CO2 Reduction and Lights Down Campaign nicknamed "Black Illumination 2007" from June 22 to 24, which called for major facilities and homes to turn their lights out for 2 hours each night.

The total of 63,138 facilities, such as major commercial buildings, businesses and schools, signed up the campaign, increased about 1.5 times from last year. This year's campaign saved 2,932,013kWh of electricity, according to the MOE.

For more information, go to <http://www.wanokurashi.ne.jp/act/campaign/>

(Only in Japanese)

Candle Night in Taipei

A Candle Night event was held at the World Press Photo Exhibition 2007 "Nice Society" in Taipei, Taiwan on June 23, 2007. The event was organized by the Neo-Inspiration to Cherish the Earth Society in Taiwan.

The World Press Photo Exhibition 2007 is a collection of 200 photos representing delight, anger, sorrow, and pleasure taken by journalists and photographers from around the world. At the exhibition site, the organizer explained the concept of "Candle Night" and lights were turned off for 10 to 20 minutes with one-hour interval. About 300 participants enjoyed a marathon music concert in the candlelight. The participants then wrote their plans to turn off the lights--when and how. Later, they would receive a reminder from the organizer by e-mail showing their plans.

Koji Sakurai, an organizing member of the events, told us, "We held Candle Night events in the summer and winter of 2006. They were music events, and many musicians joined, attracting a large audience. However, these events used electric power, and it was difficult for us to explain the principal of Candle Night to such a large audience. Therefore, we reconsidered the way of our Candle Night event. We didn't use electric-powered microphone this year, and made a scaled-down event. We felt closer to the participants, and I think our message reached them this time and we could focus on the principle of Candle Night, 'to turn off the lights.' We have received favorable messages from the participants, and some say, 'Please let me know if I can help you in some way.'" Sakurai said that his group plans another event on the winter solstice this year.

Their event is seen at the following website: <http://www.candle-night.org.tw/>

(Only in Mandarin)

We also invite your local stories, festivals and events related to candles and fires.

We released the 2006 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 emails to: eninfo@candle-night.org

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We welcome your comments. Please send them to:

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