

## **BC ALPHA WORK REPORT (JULY 2015 – JUNE 2016)**

**6 July 2015** Support Satoko Norimatsu and Peace Philosophy Centre for hosting the public forum on Resistant Islands: Okinawa Confronts Japan and US.

**27 July 2015** Thekla representing BC ALPHA participated in Current Affairs Program of FM96.1 to speak on the forced labour issue and the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the End of WWII in Asia.

**30 July 2015** Thekla representing BC ALPHA was interviewed by News Program on OMNI TV to speak on the forced labour issue and the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the End of WWII in Asia.

**1 August 2015** Thekla representing BC ALPHA was interviewed by News Program of AM1470 to speak on the forced labour issue and the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the End of WWII in Asia.

**5 August 2015** ALPHA issued press release regarding the “Settlement Agreement” proposed by Mitsubishi Corporation to the Chinese forced labourers abducted to Japan during WWII. BC ALPHA challenged the sincerity of the settlement proposed by Mitsubishi.

**9 August 2015** In support of International Memorial Day for the “comfort women”, ALPHA issued Statement to

- Halmonies (Grandmas who survived Japan’s military sexual slavery system)
- The Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan
- War & Women's Human Rights Museum

**12 August 2015** Thekla representing BC ALPHA was interviewed by FM96.1 to speak on the commemoration events of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the End of WWII in Asia.

**15 August 2015** Representatives of BC ALPHA including Thekla, Joseph, Martha, Greg, Grace and Magdalena took part in the commemoration event of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the End of WWII in Asia. Thekla was one of the speaker at this event. The speech can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNB4tWPnfFw>

**31 August 2015** **Donation Appeal** was sent out to solicit donations to support the work of BC ALPHA.

**1 September 2015** Thekla representing BC ALPHA was interviewed by LS Times TV to comment about the speech delivered by Japanese Prime Minister Abe on August 15, 2015. The program can be viewed at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QV\\_3RDwFYJc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QV_3RDwFYJc) and  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5g\\_AVGunjOs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5g_AVGunjOs)

**5 October 2015** Meeting with Corrie Clutchey of Windermere Secondary to finalize the 2015/16 IHRDSS in Vancouver to be hosted by Windermere.

**13-17 October 2015** Support Peace Philosophy Centre for hosting Professor Nobuyoshi Takashima from Japan to speak at various public forum events including one in UBC and another at Unitarian Church of Vancouver. Prof. Takashima's talk focused on the atrocities committed by the imperial Japanese forces in Malaya.

**23 October 2015** Information table was set up at the [BC Social Studies Teachers' Association Provincial Conference](#) at Vancouver Technical Secondary School to promote the newly developed Prezis on the different presentation topics for classroom use.

**4 November 2015** Thekla representing BC ALPHA was interviewed by FM96.1 to speak on the inclusion of documents of Nanking Massacre onto UNESCO's Memory of World Registry.

**5 November 2015** Meeting with Brent Schieve of Guildford Park Secondary to finalize the 2015/16 IHRDSS in Surrey to be hosted by Guildford Park.

**24 November 2015** Thekla representing BC ALPHA was interviewed by LS Times TV to talk about the inclusion of documents of Nanking Massacre onto UNESCO's Memory of World Registry. The program can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSeCiM0dAwc> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXm64BukQus>.

**24 November 2015** BC ALPHA conducted a workshop to introduce the education work and the prezi packages at the Teacher Candidate Conference of UBC School of Education.

**2 December 2015** Thekla representing BC ALPHA to talk about the 2015/16 IHRDSS.

**3-4 December 2015 & 28-29 January 2016**

The 7th [International Human Rights Day Symposium: Human Rights in the Asia-Pacific 1931-1945](#) was held at Guildford Park Secondary in Surrey and Windermere Secondary respectively. The symposium were sponsored by both the Vancouver and Surrey School Board.

The symposium was organized to help students better understand and reflect on issues of human rights violations during the Asia-Pacific War (1931- 1945) and to make connections to present day local and global issues. Videos of the symposium are available at the following YouTube links:-

- *70 yrs after WWII - Canadian students commemorate the Asian Holocaust Victims* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpJpI7iAHHE>
- *IHRDSS at Windermere Secondary in Jan 2016* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fa8mGksNkyQ>

**Around 1400 students and 47 teachers from 28 secondary schools of 9 school districts participated in the Symposium with 21 presenters/speaker and 12 volunteers.**

**15 February 2016** Classroom Presentation on “Comfort Women” at Moscrop Secondary by retired teacher Pat Parungao, participant of 2006 Peace & Reconciliation Study Tour.

**24 February 2016** ALPHA issued statement to support urging Canadian Foreign Minister, Stephane Dion to withdraw support for the “peace and security” legislation of Japan. For details, visit <http://www.alpha-canada.org/alpha-news/dion-urged-to-withdraw-support-for-the-unconstitutional-peace-and-security-legislation-of-japan>

**27 February 2016** ALPHA’s work was mentioned in the article, “Lest we Overlook the Asia Holocaust” by Douglas Todd in Vancouver Sun. To read the full article, visit <http://www.alpha-canada.org/alpha-news/douglas-todd-lest-we-overlook-the-asian-holocaust>

**3 March 2016** ALPHA issued open letter to Canadian Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister endorsing Article 9 Groups demanding Dion to withdraw his support for the unconstitutional “peace and security” legislation of Japan.

**8 April 2016** Martha and Sylvester representing ALPHA to participate in the Community Forum for Women's Rights: Focus on WW2 Comfort Women. The main concern is about the erection of a memorial statue at a public place in Burnaby, which has been strongly objected by group of people of Japanese descent.

**19 April 2016** Presentation on “Comfort Women” and “Biochemical Warfare and Human Experimentation” by Pat Parungao at New Westminster Secondary’s Social Justice & Global Issues Week.

**27 April 2016** ALPHA issued a letter in support to the 14<sup>th</sup> Asian Solidarity Conference that will address issues critical to the achievement of justice and peace for women who were exploited by the Japanese military sexual slavery system, as well as their families and people in the region.

**25 May 2016** Thekla and Joseph representing ALPHA to attend the Panel Discussion on Proposed “Comfort Women” peace status.

**1 June 2016** ALPHA issued statement to denounce the Mitsubishi insincere “settlement” with the Chinese forced labour survivors and bereaved families. For details visit :

<http://www.alpha-canada.org/historical-issues/%E4%B8%89%E8%8F%B1%E8%88%87%E4%BA%8C%E6%88%B0%E8%8B%A6%E5%B7%A5%E5%92%8C%E8%A7%A3-%E5%8F%B2%E7%B6%AD%E6%9C%83%E6%8A%A8%E5%81%BD%E5%96%84>

**6 June 2016** Thekla representing ALPHA was interviewed by OMNI TV to talk about the insincere Mitsubishi “settlement” For details visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/thekla.lit/videos/10153751710877297/>

**23 June 2016** Thekla and Joseph representing ALPHA participated in the Community Consultation for an East Asian Curricular Project organized by Mosaic Institute. ALPHA proposed that History of WWII in Asia and atrocities committed during this period of time must be included in this East Asia Curricular Project.

**29 June 2016** Thekla representing ALPHA joined the press conference held in Beijing via online video conferencing. ALPHA support the additional 48 forced labour survivors and bereaved families to join the lawsuit filed in Beijing 1<sup>st</sup> District Court to sue Mitsubishi for apology and compensation for the atrocities committed. ALPHA also joined the donation drive to support the 9 forced labour survivors who refused to accept the insincere “settlement” offered by Mitsubishi but insist on taking the compensation claim to court in order to enforce the legal responsibility on Mitsubishi. Each of these 9 survivors will get RMB100,000 from donors inside and outside China including ALPHA who pledges to chip in RMB50,000. For details, visit

<http://www.alpha-canada.org/alpha-news/20160629>

**History + Art = Peace (HAP) Contest** BC ALPHA jointly sponsors the 2016 HAP Contest by inviting students to submit entries to the contest so that they may make a difference with their art. The theme for this year's contest is: "**sustaining hope**" in the context of the Asia-Pacific War. The deadline for submission is July 8, 2016. For details, visit:

<http://www.alphaeducation.org/#!contest/c12tk>

**Website & Social Media:** Our website [www.alpha-canada.org](http://www.alpha-canada.org) has been constructively used to promote our events and issued statements and constantly updated with most [current news](#) related to the Asian Holocaust (Thanks to Sylvester Kong, our General Secretary and a new volunteer, Tim Chan). Our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Canada.alpha> is also actively used to post related news and events.

**Videos Updates:** Besides the 2015/16 IHRDSS videos, here is the list for the uploaded videos onto our YouTube Channel completed during the past year (Thanks to Martha Wong, our Hon Treasurer):-

- *Testimony of Prof. Shue Tuck Wong - "The Japanese occupation of Malaya 1941 - 1945"* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1uyZy4X9jo>
- *Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of V-J Day at the White Rock Cenotaph, BC* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sB2wCfOC5iU>
- *Commemorating the Asian Holocaust Victims through Education* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNB4tWPnfFw>
- *Testimony of Peter van der Veen* [https://www.youtube.com/edit?o=U&video\\_id=7205Vz\\_KAyM](https://www.youtube.com/edit?o=U&video_id=7205Vz_KAyM)

*Prepared by Thekla Lit, President of BC ALPHA*  
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