

STRAIT TALK

Mission

Strait Talk is a non-partisan dialogue program that seeks to transform international conflict by connecting young people from both sides of the Taiwan Strait and the United States and empowering them to strive for peace.

Our Model

We convene DIALOGUE among outstanding university students from both sides of the Taiwan Strait and the United States.

We work with our alumni as they take ACTION for peace and understanding in their communities.

We sustain a COMMUNITY of young people dedicated to pursuing peaceful resolution of the Taiwan Strait issue as they enter positions of influence in politics and society.

Who We Are

We are young people who believe that direct dialogue can break the impasse in relations across the Taiwan Strait. Working together across communities and oceans, we can build a platform of trust that will help us on the path to lasting peace.

Frustrated by the political deadlock between the governments on both sides of the Taiwan Strait and inspired by the willingness of young people to reach out to each other, a group of undergraduate students at Brown University advocated an alternative approach to resolving the Taiwan Strait issue. They launched the first Strait Talk Symposium in November 2005. Since then, Strait Talk has formed a strong network of delegates, involved numerous experts in the project, and even expanded its work to include U.C. Berkeley. Staying true to its roots, each Symposium is still student-run and student-focused.

www.straittalk.org



Creativity and Conflict Resolution: Alternative Pathways to Peace

A Workshop on Methods of Peace Building

Presented by The Strait Talk Symposium at Brown University

海峽尋新/海峽尋新

Monday, November 1, 2010

5:00-6:00 pm

Wilson 301

Speaker: Dr. Tatsushi Arai, PhD

Creativity and Conflict Resolution: Alternative Pathways to Peace

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The goal of the Strait Talk Symposium is to empower the next generation of peace builders in the Taiwan Strait issue and beyond. Named after Dr. Tatsushi Arai's recent book - *Creativity and Conflict Resolution: Alternative Pathways to Peace* - this practical workshop on peace building methods is designed to introduce participants to tools and approaches which can be used to implement ideas for peace building and achieve results on a micro or macro scale, in any part of the world.

In the workshop, Dr. Arai will share his research and practical experiences on how creative ways of resolving social conflicts emerge, evolve, and subsequently come to be accepted or rejected in inter-group relations, with case studies from a few selected regions of the world. This is an ambitious question that concerns human communities at many different levels, from families, to regional independence movements, national governments, and inter-state alliances. It also considers the viability of transcending seemingly intractable inter-communal conflicts through creativity. Dr. Arai will argue that conflict resolution creativity is a social and epistemological process, whereby actors involved in a given social conflict learn to formulate an unconventional resolution option or procedure, and a growing number of others gradually come to recognize it as acceptable and workable.

Dr. Tatsushi Arai, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor of Conflict Transformation at the SIT Graduate Institute in Vermont, USA. He is also a research fellow of the Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research, an international advisory board member of Global Majority: Building Peace Through Dialogue, and a member of TRANSCEND: An International Peace and Development Network. His recent publications include *Creativity and Conflict Resolution: Alternative Pathways to Peace* (2009, Routledge) and chapters in *Conflict Across Cultures* (2006, Intercultural Press).



Dr. Arai's commitment to peace-building has evolved from his first encounter with victims of radiation sickness in Hiroshima when he was 15. His journey in conflict transformation has included work in post-genocide Rwanda, employment as a personnel specialist responsible for managing cross-cultural industrial disputes for an international corporation, and facilitating diverse multi-track peacemaking initiatives across the globe. As a trainer, mediator, and dialogue facilitator, Dr. Arai has led a number of peace building workshops for government officials, representatives of international organizations, and civil society leaders. Dr. Arai has been the facilitator for Strait Talk's Interactive Conflict Resolution sessions since the inaugural symposium in 2005.