

PRESENTATION: about “MAY’15 PEACEMAKERS CROSS the KOREAN DEMILITARIZED ZONE”

Speaker: Prof Kozue Akibayashi, Graduate School of Global Studies, Doshisha University, Kyoto; President, Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom; Keynote 2015 Independent Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN) Conference

FRIDAY 10 JULY 12.30pm QUT (Gardens Point) P block: room P-419 <https://www.qut.edu.au/campuses-and-facilities/gardens-point-campus/maps-and-getting-here>



The **Armistice Agreement** (27.07.53), ending the Korean conflict, created the DMZ, the world’s most heavily militarized border. Troops moved 2km back from the **Military Demarcation Line**, creating a 4km buffer zone.
4M mostly civilians died in the Korean War 1950-53
10M families are still separated by the DMZ
70M a state of war continues due to unresolved conflict
60+ YRS after a “temporary” cease-fire, **no peace treaty**
\$1TRILLION spent on militarization by USA, China, Japan Russia, & South Korea

On May 24, 2015, Kozue was one of 30 international women peacemakers from 15 countries who bused/walked with north & south Korean women, to call for an end to the Korean War & for a new beginning for a reunified Korea. International peace symposiums were held in Pyongyang & Seoul, sharing experiences & ideas of mobilizing women to bring an end to violent conflict. The women crossed DMZ that separates millions of Korean families as a symbolic act of peace. 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of Korea’s division into two separate states by Cold War powers, which precipitated the 1950-53 Korean War. After 4million people were killed, mostly Korean civilians, fighting was halted when North Korea, China, & the United States representing the UN Command signed a ceasefire agreement, promising a peace treaty- promise as yet unfulfilled.
<https://www.womencrossdmz.org/>

