

**KOBAYASHI, SOMEI**, International Scholar, Kyung Hee University, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

**Okinawa's Role for Peace-building in East Asia: Lessons from the ROK's "Peace Project" in Jeju**

Panel: Good Governance

This paper will discuss how Okinawa could play a significant role in building peace in East Asia by examining the development of South Korea's "Peace Project" in Jeju. Jeju is a resort island in the extreme south of Korean peninsula, but people on the island have tragic memories of massacre, known as the Juju Uprising of April 1948. The massacre happened in U.S. occupied Southern Korea on the eve of establishment of Republic of Korea. Under the military administration of ROK, the number of casualties was not fully investigated, nor the tragic memories told in public. In 2005, the administration of Roh Moo-hyun christened the island the "Island of World Peace," by way of apology for the tragedy. The ROK government launched various projects on peace-building in Jeju involving both private and public sectors. The themes of these projects varied from culture and tourism to academic and economic-political fields.

Okinawa is also known as a resort island in Japan, but the people on the island have tragic memories similar to those of Jeju people concerning the World War II. Referring to the experience of "Peace Project" in Jeju, this paper will consider the possible role of Okinawa for peace-building in East Asia. By offering a successful example of overcoming the ideological conflicts healing the people, such consideration will offer a clue to peace-building in other parts of the world.