

My testimonial is as follows:

Words cannot convey the magnitude of this trip, in terms of what I have seen and experienced. The study tour to China and Korea has cast a whole new light on the Asian history of WWII, and of what it meant to be a survivor of sexual slavery or a forced labour survivor, under the regime of the Japanese military. The after effects of these horrendous atrocities, still ripple through the lives of the remaining survivors and their families, and have tainted their lives forever. In the past, they were relegated to remain as silent victims, until an association such as ALPHA began its quest in the pursuit for peace, reconciliation and social justice. I believe that through time and perseverance, the mission and mandate of ALPHA will be achieved. This has been an incredibly enlightening experience, which has touched my own heart with an indelible mark. It has left me with the knowledge that I too, must take up the torch, and get involved in the search for global truth and justice, by believing in the power of one.

Patricia Magliocco

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Dear Flora and Dr. Wong:

I am writing to thank you and the other ALPHA volunteers as well as ALPHA's supporters for the opportunity that I was given to join the 2008 Study Tour to China and Korea earlier this month.

To say such an opportunity was wonderful or outstanding is an understatement. Not only did I gain a deeper understanding of the past histories of the various regions, I also gained an appreciation of the many ongoing issues that, sadly, persist.

Firstly, having the opportunity to hear, first-hand, the testimonies of those who were victims of Japanese ultra-nationalism was an unforgettable experience of immeasurable value. The words and presence of these survivors have made an indelible imprint on my heart. Although it has been less than a week since we returned, I have spoken with a half dozen friends, most of whom are teachers, describing what I experienced and sharing the personal narratives of the survivors. At times, my voice has broken and these audiences have been visibly moved by the images of inhuman treatment and profound sense of injustice.

Perhaps equally valuable was the opportunity I was given to meet with those individuals in China and Korea who are advocating, on behalf of the survivors, for a sincere apology from the Japanese government. To put it succinctly, the efforts and passion of these brave and caring persons have been inspiring.

To me, both the survivors and their advocates are role models: they are today's *heroes*.

Thirdly, being able to visit Shanghai, Nanjing and Harbin in China as well as Seoul, Korea has made me appreciate the cultures, traditions and hopes of those living in these parts of the world. Further, my personal attitudes and beliefs have undergone considerable change, and I look forward to learning more in the future about these nations and their people.

Lastly, not only have these many experiences provided by ALPHA recharged my passion for history, they have fuelled my yearning for social justice. I pray that the lessons I share with my students and the workshops I offer to my teaching colleagues help inspire others as well.

In closing, I hope that my future involvement with ALPHA—as a volunteer here in Alberta—will help other teachers experience what I experienced. While textbooks, films and other materials are certainly helpful and provide valuable information to assist teacher understanding, nothing can replace the profound learning that teachers on future Study Tours will experience because of the ALPHA's generosity.

**Cam**

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