

Speech for United Nation University Global Seminar – 8<sup>th</sup> Okinawa session

Emigrant's Expanded Network

Konichiwa, Haisai, Aloha

I am very pleased and honored to be attending this United Nation University Global Seminar. The theme of this seminar is "Globalization: What can we do to establish a peaceful coexistence". The title of my segment is "Emigrant's Expanded Network". Networking is essential for peace. We all have networks, various types, sizes and purposes, some small, some large. We have family, school, business, ethnic, cultural, language, and many others networks. This is how society works. I will be talking about one segment of this network.

In my presentation, I will use the term "Uchinanchu" to describe people with heritage from Okinawa and those who have the "Uchinanchu spirit" worldwide.

*To begin with I would like to give you a brief summary of my background I am a Hawaii Uchinanchu Nisei. After high school I went to MIT in the mainland United States to study Physics. At that time Hawaii was not a state of the United States and I was somewhat like an immigrant in a foreign country.*

*After MIT, I worked in Los Angeles as an engineer for 5 years before moving to work in Tokyo. After working in technical market development in Tokyo for five years, I went to Purdue University for my master's in business, to improve my business knowledge since my work were shifting more towards business versus technology. . I returned to Tokyo, after working in New York in budget and planning for a couple of years. In Tokyo, I worked in the international business area for a total of 16 years. Because of my job I had the opportunity to travel through out Asia, Europe and the United States. Networking is an essential part of international business. In Asia, I experienced the strong Overseas Chinese network. In New York City, I witnessed the influential Jewish Diaspora.*

*Returning to Hawaii after being way for 30 years, I worked at a Merrill Lynch, a securities company, the Hawaii Okinawa Center, a Bank, City of Honolulu, and the East West Center. I became active in the Uchinanchu community to help build the Hawaii Okinawa Cultural Center. In Hawaii, immigrants from Okinawa prefecture are the 3<sup>d</sup> largest prefecture group from Japan, but the only group with a cultural center. Hawaii has a very strong and vibrant Uchinanchu community. In fact this cultural center was built even before the Japanese culture center.*

*The Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival has been held four times in Okinawa. Each time Hawaii had the highest number of participants. This October 1,100 people came from Hawaii 4<sup>th</sup>*

*Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival. Two Jumbo were chartered to bring them to Okinawa. 4,700 participants from outside Okinawa attended.*

*Hawaii also sponsored the 1<sup>st</sup> Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference in 2003. The 1<sup>st</sup> time Uchinanchu worldwide has gathered together outside of Okinawa. We will meet again in 2008 in Brazil for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference. The Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival will be held in Okinawa and in between The Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference will be held outside Okinawa.*

The scope of Worldwide Uchinanchu Network has broadened since the first immigration to Hawaii in 1900. I wish to use Hawaii as a case study on ethnic immigration network, the beginning of WUB (Worldwide Uchinanchu Business association) and the goal to develop a Worldwide Uchinanchu Network.

**(Outline of today's presentation)**

I would like to cover my presentation as follows:

1. A broad picture of Worldwide ethnic networking and Diasporas
2. A background of Okinawa-emigration- networking: the Hawaii experience
3. The development of HUB (Hawaii Uchinanchu Business group) and WUB International (Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association) network.
4. Relationship of Okinawa, Hawaii, EWC and WUB
5. Future of the Worldwide Uchinanchu Network

**1st. A broad picture of Diasporas and Worldwide ethnic networking**

China is famous for their "Overseas Chinese" (Kakkyo) and India for their "Overseas Indians" (Inkyo). Both groups have a worldwide population base of over one billion. About 2% of the Indians live outside their ancestral country and 4.4 % for the Chinese. The Jews with a smaller population base of 13 million have more people (60%) living outside of Israel than within their country. That is 2 out of 3 people. These Diasporas are some of the outstanding ethnic networks we have today.

The Overseas Chinese have a major commercial influence in the South East Asian Countries such as Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, and others. It continues to show more influence worldwide in the economic and political areas.

The Indians influence continues to grow even now, with high tech software, out-sourcing services and call center industries.

The Jews while much smaller in numbers have a powerful worldwide influence in commerce, media and politics.

The Japanese population is about 130 million about 2.1% live outside Japan.

By contrast, the worldwide Uchinanchu population is less than 2 million. Okinawa has a population of 1.3 million, 320,000 in mainland Japan and 350,000 outside Japan. A total of 670,000 live outside Okinawa or 32% of the Uchinanchu population does not live in Okinawa. So, that means 1 out of 3 Uchinanchu do not live in Okinawa.

For example, if you had a family group of 6, two will not be living in Okinawa and you will become more aware of people outside of Okinawa.

**Map of the World:** Okinawa is so small that it does not show on this map

**Question?** Can such a small group have an effective network?  
Lets us review the past and examine this question

## **2nd. Background of Okinawa-emigration-networking: The Hawaii experience**

**Toyama Kyuzo**, from Kin Town, the "Father of Okinawan Immigration", said

**"Iza yukan Warera-ga ie-wa Godaishu"**

*"Go out and let the five continents be our home"*

.. Implying that our homes is everywhere in the world.

Uchinanchu worldwide networking started on an informal basis when the Japanese government approved emigration from Okinawa to Hawaii in 1900 and then to South America. They went to Hawaii because they were poor. The Japanese from mainland Japan, who were allowed to go to Hawaii 15 years earlier (in 1885). The Japanese government felt that the people of Okinawa were not representative of Japan. The early Japanese immigrants did not easily accept the Uchinanchu, since the language and culture were different. Uchinanchu identity of music, songs, dance, family values and financial cooperation (moai, tanemoshi) were maintained through the Shon jin kai "Home town" clubs in Hawaii.

The Isseis worked hard in the pineapple and sugar cane fields and sent money back "home" to their families in Okinawa. Many left the plantations to start their own business or other skilled jobs. In spite of their hardships, the Isseis sent their children to colleges and universities. In the beginning their networking was limited to their family, relatives and their "home town" in Okinawa.

*Allow me to tell you about the experience of my parents*

*My father is from Ishikawa City, now Uruma city. My mother from Nishihara. My parents showed me the essence of hard work and perseverance by example.*

*My father immigrated to Hawaii in 1920 at 17 years old with his father. My grandfather later returned to Okinawa. As a young man, like many immigrants of that time, he worked in the plantations. In Lanai, a small plantation island, my father as a young man, collected garbage from the plantation cafeteria for the pig farm. The cook noticed my father, and gave him a job washing dishes and he then learned how to cook.*

*The island of Lanai had only an elementary school. In order to provide a good education for his young family, he decided to move to the city of Honolulu. He bought a small store call "Aloha Hot Dog Stand" in the middle of the bar district. We lived upstairs in rooms with no water or toilet. It was necessary to go outside for water and toilet.*

*Business was difficult in the beginning. My mother carried me on her back while working in the store. By working long hard hours, and saving, they were able to buy a bigger store. During all this time he was supporting his young family in Hawaii and his parents in Okinawa.*

*The business improved and he created a successful small business. He sent all six children to University, who became accountant, engineers, banker, computer programmer, and businessman.*

*This is not a special story. There are many similar Uchinanchu emigrant stories worldwide.*

The Pacific War was a difficult period in Hawaii. Nisei served in the US military, while some of their relatives in Okinawa served in the Japanese military. Some from Hawaii were sent to the concentration camps in the US mainland.

After the War, an American Uchinanchu soldier, **Taro Higa**, a "Kibei" Hawaii Uchinanchu Nisei, after serving and being wounded in Europe he went to Okinawa as an interpreter. Okinawa was devastated by the "Battle of Okinawa", he informed the Uchinanchu community Overseas that Okinawa was devastated and desperately needed help to rebuild their islands. In particular the Hawaii Uchinanchu community united to provide help by sending clothes, food, toys, medical and school supplies. Hawaii also sent live pigs and goats to restock their livestock.

This joint project of assistance was a major factor in the establishment of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) in 1951. HUOA organizes many events throughout the years. In Hawaii the largest ethnic event each year is the annual "Okinawa Festival", held each year at the end of summer for over 24 years.

In the 80's, after Okinawa's economy normalized, Okinawa invited some young Uchinanchu leaders from Hawaii for a study tour to Okinawa, to discover their roots. This helped to strengthen the networking between Okinawa and the Hawaii Uchinanchu. Annual study tours to Okinawa continue to strengthen this networking, even today.

In 1990, **Okinawa** generously supported the building of the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Okinawa never forgot the war relief assistance they received from Uchinanchus in Hawaii. They thanked us for the relief efforts from Hawaii after the war. It was through the encouragement of the late Governor **Nishime Junji of Okinawa**, and the leadership of **Ed Kuba**, who established the "Bunka Kaikan" committee, when he was the HUOA president in 1986. He also served as fund raising chairman that was central to the building of this successful center. He is known as the "Father of the Hawaii Okinawa Center".

The OPG Okinawa Prefectural Government and City, Town, Village association encouraged us. Support came from the financial group led by the President of the Bank of the Ryukyus, **Sakima Akira**. The Okinawa Hawaii Association played a great part in helping us raise funds. Also many of the Okinawa dance and cultural groups assisted us greatly in raising funds. Supported by leaders such as Nakamura, Kamasuke, Ichiro Oyadomari and Makiya Akira.

Mr. **Masayuki Oshiro** of the International Exchange was instrumental in advising and working with us on a day-to-day basis and continues to be a great friend and supporter of Hawaii.

The **Takakura** Corporation donated the **Takakura** Garden and the Okinawa Kin Town committee donated the Issei Garden.

**Maurice Yamasato**, the architect of the Hawaii Okinawa Center contacted **Ishikawa Takahiro** of Marusangyo, who formed an "Aka Kawara, Hawaii ni Ukurimasho" committee to raise funds to donate 76,000 red tiles "Aka kawara" and "Shisa" for the roof for the center. Hawaii is the only place outside of Okinawa, with an "Okinawan Aka Kawara" roof. This strong bond between Uchinanchus in Hawaii and Okinawa continues.

To date the Hawaii Okinawa Center has no debts, thanks to support from Okinawa and the Uchinanchu community in Hawaii.

1990 also was the year of the successful 1<sup>st</sup> Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival in Okinawa, where Uchinanchu from all over the world gathered together in Okinawa. About 2,400 Uchinanchu came from outside Okinawa, 300 people from Hawaii attended.

In 1995, About 3,400 Uchinanchu came from outside Okinawa, 500 people from Hawaii attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival. The idea of WUB (Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association) was discussed at the economic forum.

In 1997 WUB (Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association) was established in Hawaii at the 1<sup>st</sup> WUB International Conference.

In 2001, About 4,000 Uchinanchu came from outside Okinawa, 800 from Hawaii attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival. The 5<sup>th</sup> WUB international conference was held in Tokyo successfully just prior to the festival.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference sponsored by WUB and HUOA was held in Hawaii in 2003. The first time Uchinanchu Worldwide gathered together outside of Okinawa. About 2,000 people from outside Hawaii attended. The 7<sup>th</sup> WUB International conference was also held in Hawaii concurrently.

It was decided that the "2nd Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference" in 2008 would be in Brazil

### **3rd. Development of HUB (Hawaii Uchinanchu Business group) to WUB (Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association)**

In Hawaii, the strength and unity of Uchinanchus are perhaps one of the strongest among the various kenjin kais and other ethnic groups, even though it is not the largest. Hiroshima and Yamaguchi ken are larger. The organizational structure and purpose of the HUOA are centered on culture and the Uchinanchu community in Hawaii. HUB (WUB), focus on the networking of Uchinanchu businesses.

For many years, we have seen business and government groups from Okinawa and Japan come to Hawaii for business study tours and missions. In October 1993 a small group of us (13) in Hawaii thought that it was time for us to learn more about the Okinawa's economy and how business is done in Okinawa. We visited over 25 companies and had very good business discussions in Okinawa. The trip was successful through the assistance of **Inamine Seiichiro** of Jimmy's Co., **Miyagi Hiroiwa** of Okinawa Industry Federation, and **Tamamori Terunobu** of the Bank of the Ryukyus Foundation. This successful trip encouraged us to form a small business group to continue this networking. This was the beginning of the "Hawaii Uchinanchu Business group" (**HUB**), which was primarily a local community business group. Since 1994, as a community service HUB (and later WUB-Hawaii) have volunteered every year, for clean-up duty at the Okinawa Festival in Hawaii.)

In 1995, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival Committee, through the HUOA, requested **HUB** to participate in the festival by organizing a "Hawaii Product Show". I was also asked to participate in the economic forum at the festival. The theme for the "Economic Forum" was "worldwide business and economic exchange and networking". Due to my international business experience, I discussed the impact of the "Overseas Chinese" and the "Jewish Diaspora", concluding that we, the Uchinanchu of the world can do the same.

**Inamine Keiichi**, was the forum chairman (past Governor of Okinawa), He said the theme for the economic forum for the 1<sup>st</sup> Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival in 1990 was similar, but unfortunately little progress has been made. He encouraged us to move forward. We thought that HUB should make an attempt to expand HUB into a worldwide Uchinanchu business network similar to the "Overseas Chinese"..

In 1996, HUB members went to South American to attend Peru's 90<sup>th</sup> Uchinanchu Immigration Celebration to learn more about other Uchinanchus overseas. We met leaders like **Shinji Yonamine** from Brazil, now WUB International President, and **Matsuhiro Akamine** from Peru, now President of WUB Peru. We were impressed by their stories of progress, successes, unity, enthusiasm, and hospitality. This reinforced our will to build a worldwide Uchinanchu business network.

I also learned a lot about the Uchinanchu Worldwide by watching OTV **Maehara Shinichi** Worldwide Uchinanchu program. I studied his TV programs before going to South America. His popular program is now being broadcasted in Hawaii with English subtitles. Ryukyu Shimpo also wrote a series of articles about Uchinanchu worldwide, and continues to write about Uchinanchu worldwide..

To give our project greater creditability, in 1997, I discussed this project with **Kenji Sumida**, who was then President of the EWC. He believed that this project will promote international relationship and is in line with EWC's mission of building networks. He offered to support the project.

### **1<sup>st</sup> WUB (Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association) Conference-Hawaii 1997**

In 1997, the Bank of the Ryukyus, whose late president, **Nakayama Yoshikazu**, an EWC alumnus, made a large donation to the EWC, with no restrictions. However, EWC president, **Kenji Sumida** in turn allowed us to use these funds for the 1<sup>st</sup> WUB International conference in Hawaii. With the assistance of President **Miyazato Akiya**, the Ryukyu Shimpo also donated funds to initiate the first Web home page for WUB. The success of the 1<sup>st</sup> WUB International conference was possible through the support of these organizations. We are very grateful for their support for such an "untested project".

The purpose of the 1<sup>st</sup> Worldwide Uchinanchu Business (WUB) Conference was to determine the need and desirability of a WUB network. Uchinanchu business people from, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Okinawa, Tokyo, Fukuoka, Philippines, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Atlanta, New York and Hawaii attended this first conference. After much discussion and exchange of ideas and opinions, we all agreed to move forward with this network project.

Hawaii Uchinanchu Business Group name was changed to Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association. This is how H U B became W U B.

Hawaii was also selected as the headquarters for WUB-International. WUB chapters, **Hawaii, Okinawa, Brazil and Argentina** were established and became members of WUB International.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> WUB International Conference-Brazil 1998**

In 1998, WUB - Brazil hosted a very successful 2<sup>nd</sup> WUB International conference in Sao Paulo, Brazil with representatives from many countries attending. The WUB conference was held after the 90<sup>th</sup> Okinawan Brazil Immigration Celebrations.

Two WUB chapters were added at the WUB Brazil conference, **Peru and North America**. Visits to various Uchinanchus businesses in South America impressed us with their successes. Small discussion groups in different business areas showed that we had much in common and that we can learn from each other.

There was also a post conference WUB International meeting in Argentina, which explained about the immigration of Okinawans to South America. Argentina also celebrated their 90<sup>th</sup> Okinawan immigration. Immigration stories in South America were very similar to the immigration stories in Hawaii, except that we spoke English and they spoke Spanish or Portuguese.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> WUB International Conference-North American 1999**

In 1999, at our 3<sup>rd</sup> WUB international Conference in Los Angeles and Las Vegas, **Dr. Charles Morrison**, President of the East West Center and **Dr. Joel Kotkin**, author of the book "Tribes", were the keynote speakers. **Dr. Morrison** spoke about the "globalization of business" and **Dr. Kotkin** about "Ethnic Networking", explaining the history of ethnic Diaspora, two areas, which are important for our network.

As part of our business discussions, we decided to establish WUB Investment Inc. (WUB II). WUB II, funded by WUB members, will assist members with new business ideas with funds and advice. Eight chapters were represented. **WUB Tokyo and Guam** joined WUB international.

### **4<sup>th</sup> WUB International Conference-Okinawa 2000**

Early in the year 2000, Hawaii **Governor Cayetano** installed Okinawa **Governor Inamine** as the "Honorary Chairman of WUB International" in Hawaii. **Governor Inamine** and a large Okinawan delegation came to Hawaii to help celebrate the Hawaii's Centennial Immigration Celebration.

The 4<sup>th</sup> WUB International conference was held in Okinawa, in June 2000, a month before the G-8 Summit in Okinawa. Keynote speakers were former **Governor of Hawaii, George Ariyoshi**, chairman of the East-West Center Board of Governors, and the University of the Ryukyus, **Professor Kurayoshi Takara**. **Governor Ariyoshi** spoke about the strong

relationship of Hawaii and Okinawa and **Professor Takara** about Okinawa's place in history. WUB chapters increased to 12. The new chapters were **Kansai, Europe and Bolivia**.

While many have visited Okinawa before, they have not visited the businesses in Okinawa. The business visits were important and impressive. As part of the conference a WUB business exhibit was held where Uchinanchu businesses from all over the world met to discuss possible business opportunities. Various businesses potential were discussed at that time.

The Okinawa Prefectural Museum's exhibit of the "100 years of the Overseas Uchinanchu" showed WUB as part of the history for developing the Uchinanchu worldwide business network.

That year we visited France, Thailand, Singapore and Taiwan to established WUB Europe, Singapore and Taiwan, making it a total of 16 chapters. While smaller in numbers these members knows more what it is like, to be an international citizen.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> WUB International Conference-Tokyo 2001**

WUB Tokyo selected "Information Technology" (IT) as their theme for the 5<sup>th</sup> WUB International conference. We have many WUB members who are active participants in IT. Well-qualified conference spoke. **Professor Haruo Shimada** of Keio University was our keynote speaker, who spoke on "IT for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century for WUB". We had distinguished panelist for our WUB IT panel discussions, such as **Kobo Inamura**, Director General of Policy Planning of the Japanese government, **Paul Yonamine**, President of KPMG Consulting, **William Saito**, President I/O Software and **Thomas Lin**, Senior Consultant, The Japan Research Institute. In the 1<sup>st</sup> WUB international conference, we request that Okinawa send a strong representative, that person was **Morimasa Goya** who became the 2<sup>nd</sup> president of WUB International. WUB **Canada, China, Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong and Malaysia** became new chapters.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> WUB International Conference-Bolivia-2002**

We were very impressed with the commitment and determination of the Bolivia Uchinanchu, who created the "Okinawa Colony", a profitable farm community from the wilderness, that they were sent to after the war. New WUB chapters **Mexico, Maui and Taiwan** were added.

#### **7<sup>th</sup> WUB International Conference-Hawaii-2003**

The 7<sup>th</sup> WUB international conference was held in Hawaii, together with 1<sup>st</sup> Worldwide Uchinanchu conference in Hawaii. This the first time that Uchinanchus worldwide have gathers together outside Okinawa. Keynote speakers, Minister **Omi Koji** of the Japanese Government spoke about the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology and **Maehara Shinichi** of OTV about Uchinanchu Worldwide for the 1<sup>st</sup> Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference in Hawaii 2003 and 7th WUB International conference. Current Governor Nakaima was a

participant in the Chamber of commerce Forum. Many non-business topics were added to the conference expanding the network, such as Kenjin kai, Goodwill Ambassadors, International Marriage, Youth Group, Attorneys, Women's issues, Academic meetings on immigration and identity. EWC was a major supporter of this conference. WUB **Philippines** joined WUB international.

#### **8<sup>th</sup> WUB International Conference-Argentina-2004**

At the WUB International Conference Argentina, the concept of including other non-business topics continued, with their theme of "Identity and Globalization". WUB Argentina has been innovative by exporting wine to Okinawa and starting a wine vineyard. They have also established a WUB store with Kyoshin Trading company. We were also able to visit the Mr. Kochi Chocolate Candy factory. Mr. Kochi had a very interesting immigrant story.

#### **9<sup>th</sup> WUB International Conference-Kansai-2005.**

At the WUB International conference in Kansai, keynote speakers were **Professor Shigeji Miyagi** of Kagawa Nutrition University, and **Mr. Hiyane** President, founder of Edelweiss Cake Factory. Dr. Miyagi spoke about "Okinawa Healthy Food and Longevity". **Mr. Hiyane** spoke about the history of Edelweiss Cake Factory. We were also invited to tour his impressive factory. **Shinji Yonamine** of WUB Brazil was installed as the 3<sup>rd</sup> WUB International President.

WUB members then proceeded to Okinawa to participate in the IDB meetings, to sign an agreement.

#### **10<sup>th</sup> WUB International conference-Peru-2006**

The 10<sup>th</sup> WUB International Conference was held in Peru 2006 at the same time as the celebration of the Peru Centennial.

WUB now has 21 chapters worldwide, representing 15 countries. WUB hold conferences each year rotating location among the chapters, **Goya Morimasa**, past WUB international president, **Makishi Taizo**, WUB Okinawa president and I have visited almost all the WUB chapters encouraging them to contribute and attend the annual conferences.

Recent conferences have included meetings for young people, international marriages, attorneys, academics. WUB is expanding its conference inviting other Uchinanchu groups, creating a broader Worldwide Uchinanchu Network (WUN).

#### **4th. Relationship between Okinawa, Hawaii EWC and WUB**

There are about 45,000 people of Okinawan heritage in Hawaii. In 1945, the Okinawan community organized a relief program to aid postwar Okinawa. From 1960 (when the EWC was established) to 1972 (when the U.S. returned Okinawa to Japan), 17% of the non-U.S. participants at the EWC were from Okinawa, the largest outside group. EWC program for

Okinawa was to help Okinawa reestablish their economy after the war. Many prominent leaders of Okinawa are EWC alumni, University of the Ryukyus former president Dr. **Katsura** and current Vice President Dr. **Taira** and Dr. **Kakazu** are EWC alumni, in addition to many scholars and prominent leaders including EWC Okinawa chapter such as **Mr. Takayama**, and **Mr. Teruya**, who were instrumental in initiating the Obuchi program. In the year 2000 as part of the 100-year celebration in Hawaii, the EWC sponsored an Okinawa Art exhibition and Okinawa Music concert with Musicians from Okinawa. The EWC Obuchi Program for Okinawa, was announce by President Clinton in Okinawa in 2000, which offers young Okinawans an opportunity to study for a master's degree in fields including international business and Asia-Pacific visiting Fellowships. Since 2001, 12 graduate students and 15 visiting fellows have participated in the Center's Obuchi program. EWC was a major supporter of the 2003 "1st Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference" and 7<sup>th</sup> WUB International conference.

The EWC indeed like Hawaii, have a very special relationship with Okinawa and WUB.

#### **5th. Future of the Worldwide Uchinanchu Network**

So what is the future of the Worldwide Uchinanchu Network, a community with such a small population base?

#### **What is WUB business networking?**

WUB exchange information and worked together on business projects. WUB Argentina has opened an Okinawa shop and started a wine business. WUB Okinawa have imported products and used design services from and through WUB members. WUB North America has opened an Okinawa shop. WUB Hawaii member are involved in importing Orion and awamori to Hawaii. WUB Tokyo have published an Okinawa cookbook and produced an excellent WEB site. WUB Bolivia has sold golf shirts to other chapters. We now have in Okinawa a WUB shop.

#### **What about the development of young people for WUB's future?**

Young people of the WUB community have visited other WUB chapters. WUB Hawaii has had young people from Brazil, Argentina, Peru an Okinawa. We feel it very important to give educational opportunities in an international environment to our young people.

#### **EWC WUB Scholarship Fund**

At WUB's board meeting proposed to establish a new WUB scholarship fund for programs at the EWC so that WUB young people can experience international networking environment and become global citizen and broaden their horizons. The awards will be for young people from the WUB community worldwide. Mary Nakada is our 1<sup>st</sup> recipient. In fact she is here in Okinawa after a field trip in Vietnam as part of the East-West Center Asia-Pacific Leadership Program.

### **WUB International conferences**

Since WUB International have a conference annually in different locations. Its conference organization structure has been expanded to include other themes and topics to be discussed concurrently at the same time. This organizational structure was used for the 1<sup>st</sup> Worldwide Uchinanchu conference in Hawaii. The worldwide Uchinanchu Festivals is held every 4 or 5 years in Okinawa. Between these Worldwide Uchinanchu Festivals, Worldwide Uchinanchu conferences will be held outside of Okinawa in various locations. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Worldwide Uchinanchu conference will be held in Brazil in Aug 22 and 23, 2008.

### **In closing**

Uchinanchu are small in numbers, but it must internationalize to survive the era of globalization as Okinawa did during the Ryukyuan Kingdom era.

Small networks can be just as effective, efficient, meaningful... and enjoyable. It takes many networks to create interdependence and establish a peaceful coexistence. In fact this is what this United Nation University is developing and promoting.

### ***Finally,***

*As Toyama Kyuzo said, over a 100 years ago.*

***"Iza yukan Warera-ga ie-wa Godaishu"***

*"Go out and let the five continents be our home".*

*Let us look at the map again, Uchinanchu is everywhere in the world and Uchinanchu are Citizens of the world. "Seikai Uchinanchu.*

*The Chinese, Indians and Jews have had over thousand and hundreds of years to developed their networks*

*-----"Uchinanchu network have just begun"-----.*

*Thank you, Arigato, Ipppei Nihei Deibiru*