

## Imperial couple meet returnees from Manchuria, discuss hardship

- 1) ACHI, Nagano Prefecture--Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko lent a sympathetic ear to surviving returnees from Manchuria, now in their 80s and 90s, on a private visit here on Nov. 17.
- 2) The imperial couple visited the Manmo Kaitaku Heiwa Kinenkan (Settlers to Manchuria and Inner Mongolia peace memorial museum,) which preserves the harsh experiences of “living witnesses” who migrated to Manchuria, present-day northeast China, before World War II.
- 3) Around 270,000 Japanese went to live in Manchuria before the war as members of Japan’s Manmo Kaitaku Dan (volunteer corps for the settlement of Manchuria and Inner Mongolia).
- 4) About 33,000 of those were from Nagano Prefecture, more than from any other part of the nation.
- 5) After Japan’s defeat in the war, many of them were taken prisoner and died of starvation and disease at internment camps.
- 6) “You must have had a hard time enduring such difficulties,” Michiko said to a man who went through hardships after the war and barely returned to his motherland.
- 7) “I think it’s important to convey the fact that history of this kind existed to those who have had no such experiences,” Akihito said. “Modern-day Japan was built after going through all these events.”

【Nov 18, 2016／The Asahi Shimbun／By ASUHIKO SHIMA】

1932年の「満州国」建国から第二次世界大戦末期の1945年まで、日本はおおよそ27万人の入植者を中国東北部に送り込んだ。満蒙開拓青少年義勇軍も入れると、計32万人となる。1945年8月9日からの数日間で、ソビエト軍の銃撃、現地の人たちの襲撃、集団自決などで命を落とした移民は1万人以上とされている。中国残留孤児の悲劇も生んだ。長野県阿智村にある「満蒙開拓平和記念館」は、中国東北部に入植した満蒙開拓団の苦難の歴史を伝え、平和の大切さを次世代に語り継ぐことを目的に2013年に設立された。



lend an ear 耳を傾ける  
sympathetic 同情に満ちた、思いやりのある  
preserve 保存する  
harsh 厳しい  
living witness 生き証人  
migrate 移住する  
volunteer corps 義勇団  
settlement 定住  
be taken prisoner 捕虜になる  
starvation 飢餓  
internment camp 強制収容所  
endure 耐える  
hardship (耐え難い) 苦難、困窮  
barely かろうじて～する  
convey 伝える

### ★Ice breaker for active discussion

1. Have you ever visited the museum mentioned in the article? Do you know anyone who has been to Manchuria?
2. What's the significance of the emperor visiting such kind of museum?
3. Even at his advanced age, the emperor is still active in visiting many places. What is your opinion about it?
4. What do you think about the emperor's remark that modern day Japan was built after many hardships.
5. Make sentences using the following vocabularies: sympathetic, witness, migrated, settlement, starvation, barely and motherland.

←

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko look at exhibits at the Manmo Kaitaku Heiwa Kinenkan (Settlers to Manchuria and Inner Mongolia peace memorial museum) in Achi, Nagano Prefecture, on Nov. 17.