

Summary of Press Conference

(June 21st, 2023)

On Programs and Initiatives Themed on War and Peace

(Comments by YAMANA Hiroo, Executive Director of General Media Administration)

Firstly, I would like to introduce programs and initiatives on the theme of war and peace for this summer. Nearly 80 years have passed since the end of the Pacific War. As the number of those who experienced the war continues declining, people's memories on the war are gradually fading. But our opinion survey conducted in October 2021 found out that many teens are interested in delivering information on war. Russia's invasion of Ukraine and else remind us that a war is not something in a far distant past. We will concentrate our efforts on conveying the war involving Japan beyond generations through a variety of approaches, such as documentaries, dramas and digital content.

To begin with, let me explain about "NHK Special." On August 5th, we will broadcast a program to be titled "Inochi Nemuru Umi ~Saishin Chosa de Akasu Taiheiyou Senso~," which is themed on the Battle of the Philippine Sea. With the progress of underwater archaeology, photogrammetry, a technique to produce three-dimensional image from a large number of photographs, has made it possible to conduct research and analysis of military vessels and aircraft that sank into the sea during the war. The program will shed light on the lives of as many as 300,000 people, whose bodies are believed still undersea, and how they met their end. Another program to be aired on August 6th, a day that marks the atomic bombing on Hiroshima, will uncover an unknown history on uranium, a fissile material for an atomic bomb. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has one of the richest uranium mines in the world. The United States took notice of the mine, and this eventually led to development of atomic bombs. Even after the end of the war, countries wishing to possess nuclear weapons came in contact with the mine. The program will deliver the countries' endless efforts to develop nuclear weapons. On August 7th, we will air a documentary based on NHK's exclusive materials related to Emperor Showa. The Emperor was regularly informed of the Foreign Ministry's confidential information through a channel separate from that of the Imperial Japanese Army. An unknown story of the "international information warfare" surrounding Emperor Showa will be uncovered through the records over the period of 12 years. Scheduled on August 12th and 13rd are programs in a series titled "Shin Document Taiheiyo Senso." The programs will make viewers feel the wartime atmosphere through various "egodocuments," such as diaries and memoirs by ordinary citizens back then. This large-scale series, which began in 2021 and will continue through 2025, a year that marks the 80th anniversary of the end of war, is designed to allow viewers to have vicarious experiences of the wartime atmosphere. As the third part in the series, the programs this year will depict the year 1943, 80 years ago from now, for the second consecutive day. On August 14th, the day before the anniversary of the end of the war, we will deliver a docudrama titled "Announcer Tachi no Senso." The drama will focus on NHK's presenters who took charge of conveying the Imperial headquarters' announcements to the public at home, lifting their fighting spirit, while dispatching propaganda broadcasts to the battlefields overseas. The drama will focus on the relationship between the media and the war by uncovering the reality of the "information warfare".

We will also shed light on an initiative by young "digital natives" who are called Generation Z, to pass down the memories on war to future generations in our special programs on radio and other means.

Please note that most titles of these programs are tentative.

Finally, let me introduce our digital content, “NHK Senso wo Tsutaeru Museum.” This is another initiative we’re undertaking through 2025, which will mark the 80th anniversary of the end of war. The content is available on a special website linked to abundant archives stored at NHK. The site is designed to allow users to access information on war and peace anytime they wish. We will continue upgrading special content on the website.

On Programming in the 11 p.m. Slot on General TV

(Comments by YAMANA Hiroo)

Next, I would like to talk about programs on the 11 p.m. slot on weekdays on General TV. Since last fiscal year, we have been changing programs every three months and delivering a variety of content in this time slot, when people tend to watch TV on their own, based on our analysis of how people watch our programs. Today, let me introduce our program lineup from July. On Mondays, we will continue to broadcast “Asagaya Apartment,” an entertainment program themed on diversity. Starting on Tuesday, on July 4th, we will begin broadcasting a new program, titled “Owarai Inspire Drama Rafuna Seikatsu no Susume.” This program in a new style will allow viewers to enjoy joke materials in a drama, combining (the story of) a comedy drama with one-shot performances of various comedians in between, in a setting of a variety store run by actress KOIKE Eiko. We conducted a survey on this program when it was broadcast as a development program as part of “Regular Bangumi eno Michi” on General TV” as a candidate to become a regular program. Favorable responses made us decide to make it into a regular slot. While some people said this is a program with a new feel that is not found anywhere else, others mainly in their 20s said they would like to see it again. Starting on July 5th on Wednesday, we will launch “Kanda Hakuzan no Kore ga Wagasha no Kuro-Rekishi.” Japan is said to have about 4.21-million companies across the country. In this unique economic program, “kodanshi” professional storyteller KANDA Hakuzan will introduce “dark history”, or unknown failures and unexpected pitfalls, of Japanese companies, as well as their real-life experiences of turning things around, in the style of the traditional “kodan” storytelling. This program also was aired as a development program on General TV three times. When it was aired on the 11 p.m. slot, it was well received by men in their 20s and women in their 30s.

We will continue to broadcast challenging programs unique to NHK from July. We hope you will look forward to them.