

Memorial Projects for War Dead

Overview

Outline of Memorial Projects for War Dead

Memorial Project

Recovery of the Remains of War Dead

Teams to collect the remains of Japanese war dead have been sent to former major battlefields since FY 1952. As of April 1, 2009, about 1,250,000 remains out of 2,400,000 war dead abroad (including those in Iwo Jima and Okinawa) have been collected.

Collecting the remains, etc. in the former Soviet Union has been emphasized since FY 1992.

DNA analysis project on the Remains of War Dead Abroad

Since FY 2003, DNA analysis has been conducted at national expense upon the requests of the bereaved relative, under a certain condition such as the availability of the extraction of usable DNA, the existence of materials of the buried decedent, etc.

Pilgrimages for Memorial Services and Visits to Burial Sites

To conduct memorial services for the war dead in former major battlefields, in the sea and in other areas where the collection of remains is not possible, the national government has systematically conducted pilgrimages composed mainly of bereaved survivors since FY 1976.

Friendship and Goodwill Memorial Project

Since FY 1991, from the viewpoint that children of the war dead are also war victims, just as the people living in those areas that were the sites of major battlefields during the war, a friendship and goodwill memorial project has been carried out among those people. In these activities, memorial ceremonies are held for the war victims and the participants pledge their commitment to permanent peace.

Erection of Monuments to the War Dead

Since FY 1970, monuments to those who died in the war have been gradually erected at the site of former major battlefields.

Detailed Information 1 Recovery of the Remains of War Dead Abroad

(Unit: remains)

Area	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
The former Soviet union	595	211	240	95	307
Mongolia(Nomonhan)	16	8	7	26	24
Sakhalin		16			3
the Philippines	54	24	45	161	1,230
Eastern New Guinea	50	47	5	94	114
Bismarck Archipelago, Solomon Islands	115	32	66	119	146
Indonesia	68	141	35	115	108
The central Pacific	21		74	2	
Kiribati				9	
Thailand	2				
Okinawa	180	81	84	96	80
Iwo Jima	50	44	84	43	26
Total	1,151	604	640	760	2,038

Source: Social Welfare and War Victims' Relief Bureau. MHLW