

Girls game for peace

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Peace Boat, the Japanese non-governmental organisation, kept its date with Kochi when its ship 'Peace Boat' docked here for a oneday visit with 930 activists on board.

The vessel which travels around the globe every year to spread the message of cooperation and peaceful coexistence visited Kochi last year too. This is the 58th global voyage organised by the organisation and Kochi is the only call of port in India.

'The Peace Boat' is an international non-governmental non-profit organisation based in Japan. Creating awareness about international brotherhood is the aim of the organisation. The activists of the organisation are engaged in promoting peace, human rights, equal and sustainable development and respect for environment and conduct an annual global voyage on a vessel which is named after the organisation.

Once the Peace Boat calls at a port, its activists on board and local people come together to share common activities irrespective of language and cultural barriers - with an aim of building friendship and links across countries and cultures.

In Kochi, the peace activists played a friendly football match with the Sealine Santos Football Club at Fort Kochi Parade Ground. A fashion show was also organised at a textile showroom in the city. The passengers on board include students and office-goers.

The vessel which arrived in Kochi on Monday morning left for Yemen on the same day. The vessel started its journey from Yokohoma on June 9 and will dock at Kobe in Japan on June 27 after calling at ports in Vietnam, Ireland, Singapore, New York, Kochi, Jamaica, Yemen, Colombia, Jordan, Panama, Egypt, Greece, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Italy, Canada, Spain, Alaska Glaciers and The Netherlands.

Peace Boat's first voyage was organised in 1983 by a group of Japanese university students as a creative response to government censorship regarding Japan's past military aggression in the Asia-Pacific. They visited the countries on a chartered ship to learn about the war from those who experienced it.