



Research Project: Developing a Comprehensive Approach to a NEA-NWFZ

Outline

Substantial researches and policy proposals on a Northeast Asia nuclear weapon-free zone (NEA-NWFZ) have been conducted since the mid 1990's, under the circumstance of the post-Cold War era. In Japan, policy schemes, including a six party treaty with a three-plus-three structure, in which Japan, the Republic of Korea (ROK), and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) constitute a nuclear weapon-free zone, and the neighboring nuclear weapon states (China, Russia and the U.S.) support them, with obligations including negative security assurances, have been proposed at the level of a parliamentary group as well as of NGOs. As an effort at the national level, the Six-Party Talks began in 2003 after the failure of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO, from 1994 to 2005) and has secured a negotiation discussion forum aiming at the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, based on the joint statement on September 19, 2005. Through the 9.19 joint statement, the Parties commit not only to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, but also to "joint efforts for lasting peace and stability in Northeast Asia."

The denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, however, did not go smoothly and the DPRK has conducted underground nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009. As of summer 2012, the Six Party Talks has still been deadlocked without a prospective of resumption. Nevertheless, as the Final Document of the NPT Review Conference in May 2010 clearly states, the international community calls for the resumption of the Six Party Talks on the basis of the 9.19 joint statement. According to a statement issued by the DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman in late February 2012, the Kim Jong Un regime has reaffirmed the commitments in the 9.19 statement during the US-DPRK bilateral discussion.

Meanwhile, it was indeed well-timed that Dr. Morton Halperin, a prominent scholar in the field of international political sciences and a former U.S. high official who was involved in the U.S. policy making on the U.S.-DPRK relationship, proposed a comprehensive Treaty on Peace and Security in Northeast Asia which includes a NEA-NWFZ initiative, in December, 2011, in order to break the current impasse.

The core members of this project have been engaged themselves in the efforts to establish a NEA-NWFZ for a long period of time in Japan. They drafted a model treaty with a three-plus-three arrangement, while developing cooperative relationships with parliamentarian groups and nuclear free local authorities. Building on these achievements, this project will conduct an in-depth examination of a comprehensive approach toward a NEA-NWFZ on the basis of the initiatives proposed by Dr. Halperin.

Themes of deliberations in this research project will include:

- (1) Elements to be included in the comprehensive approach. Dr. Halperin's comprehensive Treaty on Peace and Security includes six elements. Possible additional elements will also be discussed.
- (2) Potential agreeable solutions for those elements.
- (3) Modalities of the general agreement among states concerned that can provide the firm and sound, while feasible, basis for separate detailed negotiations to be followed. They may be a treaty to be approved by the national parliaments, a declaration to be signed by heads of the Administration of States, a Foreign Ministers agreement, or others.
- (4) New ideas on provisions to be included in a treaty regarding a NEA-NWFZ

This research project will be carried out through four international workshops.

International Workshops

--First Workshop: Setting the Agenda

Where: Nagasaki, Tokyo, Japan

When: December 7-10, 2012

--Second Workshop: Seoul, ROK, 2013

--Third Workshop

--Fourth Workshop

Cosponsored by:

Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki (RECNA)

Nagasaki University

PCU Nagasaki Council for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (PCU-NC)*

Nautilus Institute for Security and Sustainability

*A consortium of Nagasaki Prefecture, Nagasaki City and Nagasaki University.

In Cooperation with:

Hiroshima Peace Institute (HPI), Japan

Center for Peace and Public Integrity, Hanshin Univ. ROK

Center for American Studies, Fudan Univ. PRC

International Peace Research Institute Meiji-gakuin University (PRIME), Japan

And More

(drafted by RECNA)