

Results of the initiative to put online and digitize the reality of the atomic bombing, and the future

Mitsuhiro Hayashida (Project Researcher, RECNA)

RECNA is implementing the initiative to put online and digitize the reality of the atomic bombing as commissioned research (FY2021-FY2023) from the Nagasaki National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims (Nagasaki Peace Memorial Hall). This fiscal year we have pursued initiatives placing an emphasis on the diffusion and utilization of the materials collected and teaching materials created during FY2021 and FY2022.

In terms of use in schools, we gave lessons about life before the atomic bombing on nine occasions, once each at three elementary schools, one junior high and one high school, and four times at three universities. The participant students shared many opinions with us including “Initially I thought everyday life was different from now before the war, but having looked at photographs I think it’s much the same” (Nagasaki City elementary school student), and “Through understanding everyday life before the atomic bombing I felt that the magnitude of what was lost and the significance of the bombing in terms of human lives” (student at Nagasaki University). There is still much need for further analysis but a large number of students identified with the people who lived at the time and the hibakusha through seeing everyday life before the atomic bombing, and a degree of effectiveness was observed as a measure for creating empathy and self-association regarding atomic bombing experiences, which has thus far been seen as an issue in the passing on the legacy of the atomic bombing to younger generations.

As out-of-school developments we implemented



Peace education at elementary school

(23 June 2023, Photo credits. Nagasaki City Nomozaki Elementary School)

fieldwork in which students used tablets to look through aerial photography archives while walking around the environs of the Peace Park, conducted lecture meetings on using documents and teaching materials aimed at volunteer peace guides, and took initiatives in diffusion and utilization. This series of initiatives was given plenty of media coverage through national news, special programs and articles, particularly around the atomic bombings memorial period of July and August.

As additional content, we created three sets of slide teaching material that we have been working on since FY2022. As well as the Hiroshima edition of the aerial photograph archive, a Nagasaki version was created in which we pinned still photographs of before and after the bombing on an aerial photograph of the city to make an archived map. Furthermore, to serve as contents aimed at outside of Japan, we create and provided an English language video compiling an outline of the damage of the Nagasaki atomic bombing including life before it for the America tour of the Nagasaki Prefecture Hibakusha Health Hand-

book Holders' Association. The video was shown at 15 locations during the tour. The work of translating into English the other fruits of the past three years

and our website is underway, and we expect to publish them by the end of FY2023.

The Steady Growth of the Journal for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament: Recent Developments and an Interview with Dr. Masao Tomonaga

Hibiki Yamaguchi (Managing Editor of the Journal for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament (J-PAND))

The Journal for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament (J-PAND), an scholarly journal edited by RECNA and published online by Taylor & Francis, was launched in December 2017 and has reached its seventh year this year.

Although there are only two issues a year, the ease with which papers can be published immediately online is perhaps a contributing factor to the growth in the number of papers, which has reached an astonishing 225 as of mid-March 2024. Recently, we have seen an increase in the submission of unsolicited papers, even though some of them are far from satisfactory in terms of quality.

In addition, maintaining an Open Access status without asking our global readership to pay a subscription fee has boosted the number of page views. While it is not uncommon for the number of views of the papers in paid subscription academic journals to be in the double or triple digits, more than a few of those in J-PAND reach four or five digits.

Among these, the paper that dwarfs all others is “The Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki: A Summary of the Human Consequences, 1945-

2018, and Lessons for Homo sapiens to End the Nuclear Weapon Age,” written by Visiting Professor Masao Tomonaga in 2019. As of March 13, 2024, the paper has been viewed 103,936 times. Commenting on this unexpected global attention to his paper, Professor Tomonaga reflects that it is probably because his title, a “Summary of the Human Consequences” of the bombings, is appealing. A next step for him is to revise and update the summary on the 100th anniversary of the atomic bombings. In addition to a deepening of the research into aftereffects of the atomic bombings, Professor Tomonaga is expected to expand his ideas in the future. Additionally, readers of his work often ask him about the correct number of people who have died from the after-effects of the atomic bombings, but Dr. Tomonaga says that this is a very difficult issue where it is hard to come to a conclusion.

What we have to pay attention to is not only the

J-PAND Website : Number of Views of papers written by Prof. Tomonaga

Cover page of the paper written by Prof. Tomonaga

number of viewers but also how the works are recognized and accepted. J-PAND finally got a Journal Impact Factor very recently (which is 0.7 as of 2022), but I personally think that the sheer volume of readers has not led to a higher frequency with which

the journal's content is cited as useful papers. We still have a long way to go to improve the quality of the papers published in J-PAND.

FY2023 Citizen' Lectures and Special Citizens' Seminar

Kimiaki Kawai (Vice director, RECNA)

Nagasaki Citizens' Lectures on Nuclear Weapons Abolition hosted by the PCU Nagasaki Council for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (PCU-NC) and co-hosted by the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA) were held under the theme of "Aiming for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons." The lectures took place on five occasions in total, four times at the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum and once at the Nagasaki National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims, drawing a total number of 581 participants.

At the first lecture on April 22, 2023, RECNA Director Fumihiko Yoshida, Nagasaki University School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences Professor Michiru Nishida, and the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center Executive Director Yumi Kanazaki spoke on the theme of "Prior to the G7 Hiroshima Summit." They discussed matters of attention surrounding the nuclear weapons issues at the G7 Summit held in Hiroshima, and the roles of the media and citizens.

At the second lecture on July 15, International Christian University (ICU) Professor Mikiko Nishimura gave a keynote report on "The Role of the Atomic Bombing Sites in Peace Education and University Students' Study through Service Learning." Following on from Professor Nishimura, two ICU students, Ms. Haruka Aizawa and Ms. Miko Kuze, and Nagasaki Youth Delegation member Mr. Tatsuhiro Kaji joined the discussions, and there was an exchange of opinions about the role of the atomic bombing sites in peace education.

At the third lecture on September 16, RECNA Associate Professor Keiko Nakamura and RECNA Professor Kimiaki Kawai gave presentations under the theme of "The Current State of and Issues in the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons." They considered the significance and challenges of both the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and discussed the roles that should be played by Japan as an atomic bombed-nation, Nagasaki as an atomic bombing site, and citizens.

At the fourth lecture on November 11, under the theme of "The Future of Media Reporting from the Atomic Bombing Site" Nagasaki International Television reporter Ms. Sayo Kato and journalist Mr. Ryo Sasaki delivered lectures. They discussed what the meaning of messages from Nagasaki are in this changing era, and how to communicate them from their experiences in media reporting.

At the fifth lecture on February 10, 2024, held as a screening event and debate under the title of "We and the Hibakusha," in the first part the film *The Postman from Nagasaki* was shown, and in the second part a panel discussion on the film followed. In the second part, film director Ms. Mika Kawase and RECNA project researcher Mr. Mitsuhiro Hayashida, and member of the eleventh and twelfth Nagasaki Youth Delegation and first-year student in the Graduate School of Education at Nagasaki University Ms. Chinami Hirabayashi had discussions under the theme of "How to Live with Hibakusha in the Future," moderated by freelance announcer Ms. Mari Maeda.

On February 23, 2024, the Special Citizens' Seminar on "Thinking about Peace through Football" was held. Ms. Haruna Takata, chairperson of the Japan Women's Empowerment Professional Football League (WE LEAGUE), talked about the current

state of women's football in international society, the vision and initiatives of WE LEAGUE, exchanging views with participants on the gender and peace issues surrounding sports.



At the fifth lecture
(10 February 2024, at the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum,
Photo by PCU-NC)



Ms. Haruna Takata
(23 February 2024, at the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum,
Photo by PCU-NC)

Final Report of the Project on "Reducing the Risk of Nuclear Weapons Use in Northeast Asia (NU-NEA)"

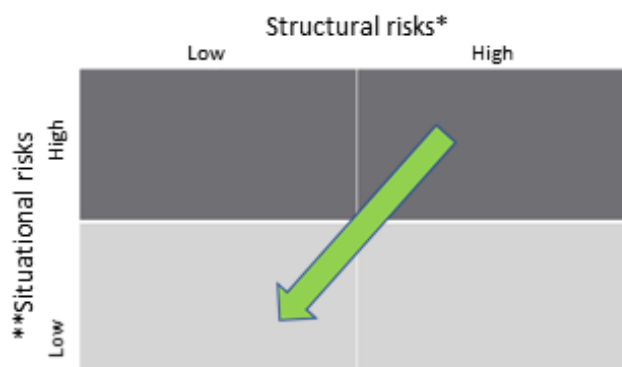
Tatsujiro Suzuki (Vice director, RECNA)

In FY2021, RECNA launched a three-year joint research project with the Nautilus Institute for Security and Sustainability and the Asia-Pacific Leadership Network for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (APLN), entitled "Reducing the Risk of Nuclear Weapons Use in Northeast Asia (NU-NEA)." The objective of the project is to make policy recommendations so that nuclear weapons are never used again. Towards that objective in the first year (FY2021), we presented 25 cases describing under what sort of circumstances nuclear weapons could be used. In the second year (FY2022) five extra cases concerning Russia were added to the 25 cases presented in the first year, and from this total of 30 cases we cited five, and conducted a quantitative evaluation of the impact of the use of nuclear weapons. (This is introduced in RECNA Newsletter Vol. 11, No. 2, p. 3, March 2023.)

In the third year (FY2023), based on the results of the first two years, at the end of March we published our final report—"What Should be Done? Practical Policies to Prevent Nuclear Catastrophe"—which compiles specific and realistic policy recommenda-

tions concerning reducing the risk of nuclear weapon use. During the third year we classified the risk of nuclear weapons usage into "structural risks" and "situational risks," and presented our policy recommendations for reducing risks by moving from the top right box to the bottom left box shown in the figure below.

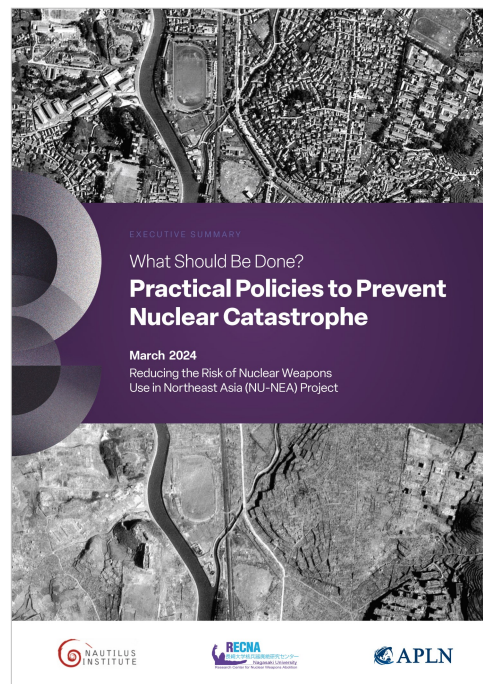
Fig. Nuclear weapon use risk structure



*Structural risks: Policy-oriented. E.g. nuclear strategy, doctrines, disarmament policy
**Situational risks: Actor-oriented. E.g. strategic dialog, military exercises, exchanges of criticism

Furthermore, after dividing the content of our recommendations into the four main areas of transparency, predictability, strategic empathy and rebalancing deterrence and reassurance, we further split the specific policies into the three stages of the

“warming stage,” “ripening stage” and “reciprocal transformation,” and sorted them. In addition, we showed the policies that could possibly be pursued for the recommendation by the governments of each region, namely the US, China, South Korea, North Korea and Japan. A public on-line event to report the results will be held in late April.



Cover page of the Final report

RECNA Workshop on Nuclear Disarmament report : Interaction with UCS, SIPRI, UNIDIR

Fumihiko Yoshida (Director, RECNA) / Tatsujiro Suzuki (Vice director, RECNA)

Exchange of opinions with Director Dan Smith of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

Director Dan Smith of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), who visited Nagasaki at the invitation of the Nagasaki University STAR Research Platform on Collective Survival in the Anthropocene: Development of an Analytical Framework for Global Governance Responses to Global Catastrophic Risks (NURECSA), was invited by the RECNA on March 11, 2024, to have a roundtable discussion for an informal exchange of opinions with the members. The roundtable lasted for around one hour with candid talks on a wide range of topics, including: an increased interest in the nuclear issues among many countries and people while the increased risk of the use of nuclear weapons against the backdrop of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine; the possible contribution of discussions about no-first-use pledges in mitigating the tense relations regarding the continuing geopolitical competition between the US and China; and

the anxiety felt within Europe about the increasing likelihood that the Republican Party presidential nomination will be won by Donald Trump, who has repeatedly voiced negative comments about the defense obligations of the US under the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

RECNA Workshop on Nuclear Disarmament: Inviting nuclear experts from the US and Russia

RECNA workshops inviting experts were held twice over FY2023.

The first workshop, held on October 16, 2023, welcomed six experts from the Global Security Program of the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), the US thinktank to which RECNA Visiting Fellow Dr. Gregory Phillip Kulacki is affiliated, and was held under the theme of “Developments in US nuclear weapons policy and the implications for Northeast Asia.” We were provided with a concise presentation on a wide range of topics covering the US plans for the modernization

of nuclear weapons and missile defense, the possibility of reusing weapon-grade fissile materials, North Korea's plutonium production capacity, and finally the chances of a nuclear war between the US and China. A lively exchange of opinions then took place, and the meeting proved to be extremely meaningful.

The second workshop, held on March 12, 2024, welcomed Dr. Pavel Podvig of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), who spoke on the theme of "Are nuclear weapons obsolete? -Nuclear policy lessons from the Russian war against Ukraine." Dr. Podvig, who is an expert on Russian nuclear policy and fissile materials, spoke to

us for one hour from the perspective that "there is no longer any military value in nuclear weapons," based on actual cases. The meeting was held only online, but in the exchange of opinions after his lecture questions were raised about the perspective of international law, China's nuclear arms buildup, and what would happen if there is another Trump administration. Dr. Podvig raised questions from a critical perspective about the current state of affairs in which there is an orientation towards strengthening "nuclear deterrence" as a "realistic policy" despite the fact that in a sense it is clear that the more reliant on nuclear deterrence a country is the more at risk it conversely is.

The Twelfth Nagasaki Youth Delegation members begin their activities

The appointment ceremony of the members of the Twelfth Nagasaki Youth Delegation took place at Nagasaki University on December 6, 2023, and the eight student members from Nagasaki University and Nagasaki University of Foreign Studies launched their activities. The members of Twelfth Delegation are studying the nuclear weapons issue from many perspectives through the lectures provided by the RECNA staff and fieldwork in Nagasaki and Hiroshima to foster within themselves the ability to discuss the issue as best they can. The eight members will be dispatched to the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 NPT Review Conference, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, in late July this year. There they will engage in activities to send out messages from Nagasaki for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The members of the Twelfth Nagasaki Youth Delegation are as follows. (As of March 1, 2024, in Japanese alphabetical order)

Koshiro Egawa / Faculty of Engineering, Nagasaki University

I am Koshiro Egawa, a first-year student in the chemical materials engineering course, Faculty of Engineering, Nagasaki University. I am from Funabashi city, Chiba prefecture. My favorite subjects are physics and world history. When I first spoke with friends in Nagasaki, I was surprised at how different the enthusiasm for peace education was between Nagasaki and Chiba. Back in Chiba, I only thought about "peace" for a few hours in ethics class of elementary school. But in Nagasaki, students visit not only the remains after the atomic bombing in the school in the city but also the Atomic Bomb Museum many times to learn about peace.

What I would most like to achieve as part of activities of the Nagasaki Youth Delegation is to encourage junior high and high school students, especially those from the Kanto region, who have received little peace education, to visit Nagasaki, to tour the Atomic Bomb Museum, and to share their impressions. To share their ideas with others will create an opportunity for them to think about peace. There are unlimited number of things that the Nagasaki Youth Delegation can do to help realize peace. I will do my best.

Thank you very much.

Maho Kaneko / School of Medicine, Nagasaki University

Hello! I am Kaneko Maho, a freshman at Nagasaki university. I was born and grew up in Hiroshima. Through my school life in Hiroshima, I have got a lot of peace education. However, after graduating from high school, I felt I would not have a chance to do something for peace anymore because I had no confidence to do it only by myself. In the meantime, I found this Nagasaki Youth Delegation. Now, as a member of Nagasaki Youth Delegation, I want to dedicate myself to the world peace using my experience.

In the activities of the Delegation, I want to cherish the importance of “sharing.” I want to share with the world in my words the thoughts I inherited from Hiroshima and those I inherited from Nagasaki. I am looking forward to meeting you and sharing your thoughts and mine.

Sakura Kawabe / Graduate School of Engineering, Nagasaki University

My name is Sakura Kawabe, a first-year student at the Graduate School of Engineering, Nagasaki University. I am from Fukuoka Prefecture and started living in Nagasaki when I entered university. I took peace education classes, but I never thought about war and nuclear issues as my own questions. They were somewhere far away and in the past. However, in the face of the Russian military invasion against Ukraine and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, I have realized that war and nuclear issues are happening now, that there are many people living next to death, and that a state without war is not something to be taken for granted. The reason why I decided to join the Nagasaki Youth Delegation was there is knowledge and information that can be obtained and conveyed only by students studying in the A-bombed cities. It is our mission as students in Nagasaki to convey peace from Nagasaki to the rest of the world. I would like to create opportunities to lower

the hurdles to peace activities for all. At the same time, I would like to actively communicate peace to the world while deepening my own knowledge and thoughts.

Mayo Kobayashi / School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences, Nagasaki University

Nice to meet you. My name is Mayo Kobayashi. I am in my first year of School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences, Nagasaki University. As I am from Hyogo, not from Nagasaki, I don't know much about nuclear weapons except what I learned from textbooks and on a peace study trip to Hiroshima. Therefore, after coming to Nagasaki, I felt a gap of knowledge regarding nuclear weapons between the students here in Nagasaki and myself. However, I learned in a class how terrifying war and atomic bombs are to think that I would like to and should learn more about nuclear weapons. We are entering an era when it is no longer possible to hear the voices of atomic bomb survivors. Now that war is being waged in Palestine, it is important for all people to think more closely about war and the nuclear weapons as their own issues. As young people, we need to carry on the will of the atomic bomb survivors and to advocate for peace. I would like to learn about the nuclear weapons issues in depth and to acquire knowledge as a university student who wishes for peace not only in Nagasaki Prefecture but also from other prefectures and the world.

Ayaka Hirakawa / Nagasaki University of Foreign Studies

Hello, I am Ayaka Hirakawa from Nagasaki. I am a student at Nagasaki University of Foreign Studies who study English to become a school teacher in the future. As a member of Nagasaki Youth Delegation 12th, I have two goals. First, I want more people to feel fear of war and think concretely about nuclear issues. We are witnessing the states in an armed conflict such as Ukraine and Afghanistan. We are conscious about it at first, but become used to it over time while we say it is ‘violent’ and ‘cruel’. I was one of these until recently. However, I think about

the possibility that I may be able to do something to decrease the number of people suffering from war by acting as a member of Nagasaki Youth Delegation 12th member.

My second goal is that our activities will inspire someone to challenge something. Before the application to this Delegation, I lived my life according to what my parents and school teacher told me because I wanted them to praise me: 'You are great.' This way of life made me lose my way and self-confidence. Even though I wanted to try something, I ended up missing out the chances that were right in front of me because I couldn't muster up my courage. However, I was selected as a member of Nagasaki Youth Delegation 12th by mustering up a little courage. Now I can see a scenery that I have never imagined. To challenge something requires courage regardless of age. I would be happy if our activities could inspire someone to challenge something like I did.

Chinami Hirabayashi / Graduate School of Education, Nagasaki University

Hello everyone. I am Chinami Hirabayashi, a first-year student in the Graduate School of Education at Nagasaki University. I was a member of the 11th Nagasaki Youth Delegation and now I continue to be a member as the 12th Nagasaki Youth Delegation. I was born and raised in Nagasaki as a grandchild of atomic bomb victim.

Last year I worked as a 11th Delegation member to abolish nuclear weapons and make sure that Nagasaki is the last place on Earth to suffer an atomic bombing. Through the activities, I realized that there are people who listen to us young people working in the A-bombed cities and that an aspiration for peace is common throughout the world. That means the activities of the Nagasaki Youth Delegation have great significance both in Japan and abroad.

Through such wonderful experiences, I decided to continue to do something that only youths of Nagasaki can do. As a member of the 12th Nagasaki

Youth Delegation, I would like to listen to the voices of Nagasaki and work together with the people of Nagasaki to make a nuclear weapon free world. I will fulfill the responsibility the Nagasaki Youth Delegation 12th with other members.

Kimiko Hirose / Graduate School of Engineering, Nagasaki University

My name is Kimiko Hirose, a first-year student at the Graduate School of Engineering, Nagasaki University. I was born in Fukuoka Prefecture and came to Nagasaki when I entered university.

When I was in elementary school, I received peace education in Kitakyushu, Fukuoka Prefecture, and was shocked to learn that the atomic bomb was first planned to be dropped on the city. Later, I participated in TEDxDejima as an organizer, which gave me an opportunity to think about peace. I realized that those who dropped the bombs also suffered, and that we need to make an effort to understand them from different perspectives from mine. I applied for the Nagasaki Youth Delegation because I would like to deepen my knowledge of peace that I learned in the past here in Nagasaki.

Through the activities of the Nagasaki Youth Delegation, I would like to learn about the history of nuclear issues in the world and share what I learn and think. I believe that it is a small step toward the abolition of nuclear weapons, and that it is essential that as many people as possible become interested in these issues. I will continue to work toward this goal while considering what needs to be done.

Tomoha Fukuura / Faculty of Engineering, Nagasaki University

Hello everyone. I am Tomoha Fukuura, a first-year student in the Faculty of Engineering at Nagasaki University. I am from Fukuoka Prefecture and came to Nagasaki when I entered university. I have been interested in issues of peace and war since childhood, but I have never been able to take action myself. I would like to try something new at university, therefore, I decided to apply for it when I heard

about the Nagasaki Youth Delegation . As I got to know people from various backgrounds at university, I noticed a difference in contemplating peace among people from Nagasaki and Hiroshima, and those from other prefectures. I want to eliminate this regional difference. In order to achieve this, through the activities of the Nagasaki Youth Delegation, I would like to create many opportunities for people

throughout Japan to think about peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons. Because I live in Nagasaki, I have many opportunities to listen to the stories of those who were exposed to radiation, and I believe that I can learn many things from them. I would like to share these real voices with Japan and the world.



(Members of the 12th Nagasaki Youth Delegation:

from left, Ms. Hirabayashi, Ms. Kobayashi, Ms. Fukuura, Ms. Kaneko, Ms. Kawabe, Ms. Hirose, Mr. Egawa, Ms. Hirakawa Photo by PCU-NC)

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Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University

1-14 Bunkyo-machi, Nagasaki, 852-8521, JAPAN

Tel. +81-95-819-2164 Fax. +81-95-819-2165

E-mail. recna_staff@ml.nagasaki-u.ac.jp

<https://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/recna/en-top>

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