



Nagasaki 75th Anniversary Pandemic-Nuclear Nexus Scenarios Project

“Pandemic Futures and Nuclear Weapon Risks”

Nagasaki, Japan

October 2020

Co-hosted by: Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA), Nautilus Institute and Asia Pacific Leadership Network for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (APLN)

Cooperation with: Nagasaki University Planetary Health Project, School of Global Humanities and Social Science, Panel on Peace and Security of Northeast Asia (PSNA),

Background

2020 is a special year for nuclear disarmament, as it is the 75th the anniversary of atomic bombings over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the 50th anniversary of actuation of the Treaty on Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). But nuclear threats and risks are now considered highest since the end of World War II, as the “doomsday clock” published by the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists show only “100 seconds” to midnight, which is the closest the doomsday since the clock was introduced.

Besides, new corona-virus (COVID-19) pandemic is now threatening the world, affecting all aspects of international society. Nuclear disarmament is no exception. The 10th NPT Review Conference which was scheduled to take place this April to May has been postponed to early 2021. It is not clear at all how this pandemic will affect the international order, as there are parallel trends in the world. One is the increasing international cooperation and solidarity to fight against the pandemic, and the other is increasing conflicts and antagonism among major countries. Therefore, it is critically important now to analyze the relationship between post-pandemic international order and the nuclear weapon risks.

In addition, both in the area of nuclear disarmament and of movements against COVID-19 pandemics, the role of local governments and non-governmental institutions play pivotal roles in reducing critical risks. It is also important to understand the role of civil society in pandemic era to reduce nuclear risks.

Objectives

The basic objectives of this “Nagasaki Scenario Process” project are the following.

1. To explore various future scenarios in short and mid-long term future (up to 2030) in dealing with nuclear weapon risks in the context of pandemic-era
2. To identify key driving factors to drive nuclear disarmament and reducing nuclear risks

in pandemic era

3. To understand the role of civil society in uncertain future of pandemic-era to reduce nuclear risks
4. To draw implications for Japan and the Northeast Asia to reduce nuclear risks in a pandemic era.

Approach

We will give a contract to Nautilus Institute, who has wide network and deep experiences in scenario planning approach, including experienced facilitators, to conduct on-line scenario process on the theme of “Pandemic Futures and Nuclear Weapon Risks”. We invite variety of experts to join the process, while reflecting views of Nagasaki citizens is essential. In addition, we will ask PSNA co-chairs to write individual essays based on scenarios developed under this project. Scenarios will be published under the name of RECNA/Nautilus Institute with cooperation from Nagasaki University Planetary Health Program (Institute of Tropical Medicine, Global Humanities and Social Science), PSNA and APLN.

- **Schedule: On-line (Zoom) Workshops**

1st round: October 31 (Sat) 9:00-13:00 and Nov. 1 (Sun) 9:30-13:00 [Japan Time]

2nd round: November 14 (Sat) 9:00-13:00 and Nov. 15 (Sun) 9:30-13:00 [Japan Time]

Only the Opening session will be open to the public and media, live stream via You Tube:

<<https://nautilus.org/livestream>> or <<https://youtu.be/qFrnkgrex0Q>>

Opening Session I

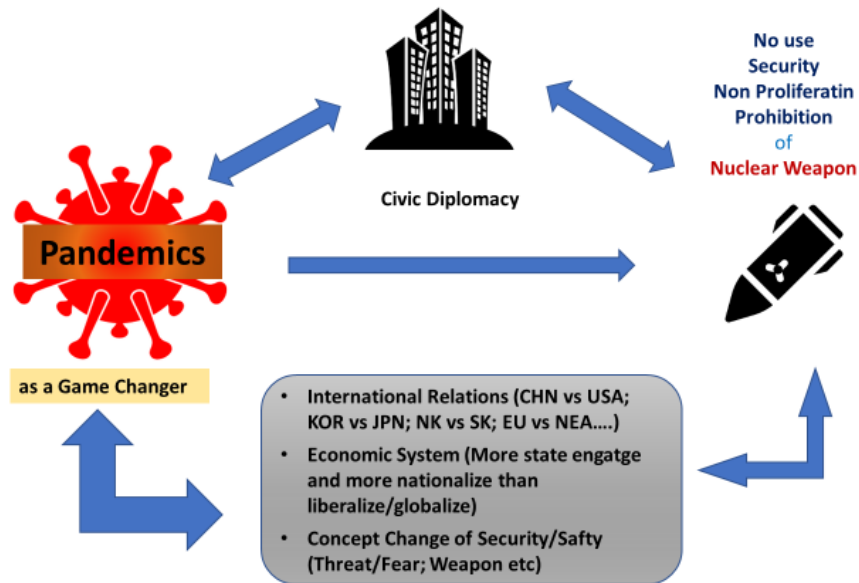
- 9:00 Prof. S. Shirabe (Nagasaki University)
- 9:05 Message from Mayor Tomihisa Taue
- 9:10 Eun-ha Kwon (APLN)
- 9:15 Dr. Gareth Evans (Former Foreign Minister of Australia, APLN)
- 9:25 Dr. Peter Hayes (Nautilus Institute)

Opening Session II

- 9:30 Presentation of Working Papers (1) [Sigal, Moon]
- 10:30 Break
- 10:40 Presentation of Working Papers (2) [Legge/Kim, Taylor/Moji, Tomonaga]
- 11:40 End

● **Outcome:**

1. Future Scenarios of “Pandemic and Nuclear Weapons in Northeast Asia” (Dec.2020)
2. Policy Recommendations based on Future Scenario Workshop (Feb. 2021)



A focal Question

What are the opportunities driven by global pandemics for Northeast Asian governments, civil society, and market actors to reduce nuclear risk and resume nuclear disarmament?