

# NAGASAKI Youth Delegation

PCU  
Nagasaki Council  
for Nuclear Weapons Abolition



# What is Nagasaki Youth Delegation?

The Nagasaki Youth Delegation is a human resources fostering program targeting youth aged between 18 to 25 (in principle) residing, studying or working within the Nagasaki prefecture. This program is organized by the PCU Nagasaki Council for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (PCU-NC), ※ a consortium of Nagasaki Prefecture, Nagasaki City and Nagasaki University. The first group of young people commenced their activities in 2013. The Nagasaki Youth Delegation 2019 visited the UN Headquarters in New York in 2019 to for the 3rd Preparatory Committee Meeting for the 2020 Nuclear Weapons Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference and, in 2020, the Nagasaki Youth Delegation 2020 is planned to attend the NPT Review Conference. Usually, the selection process for new members takes place in November, followed by the appointment ceremony in December. Their term ends at the end of August of the following year.

The Nagasaki Youth Delegation activities are designed to equip young people in Nagasaki who will lead the next generation with an ability to think and act on their own, through learning in a practical manner about nuclear disarmament and peace issues by meeting with figures involved in this field from both Japan and overseas.

※ On October 4, 2012, Nagasaki Prefecture, Nagasaki City and Nagasaki University established the PCU Nagasaki Council for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (PCU-NC) as a new framework towards a world free from nuclear weapons. This is a reflection of the wish of citizens living in Nagasaki Prefecture and Nagasaki City that Nagasaki should be the last city in human history which has been subjected to a nuclear attack.

PCU-NC constitutes of Nagasaki Prefecture, Nagasaki City and Nagasaki University as regular members and Nagasaki Foundation for Promotion of Peace and Nagasaki National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims as special members.



# Before

The Nagasaki Youth Delegation members in advance acquire a wide spectrum of knowledge covering nuclear disarmament, peace and other basic knowledge necessary for delegation activities, as well as the latest world situation. Lectures and workshops are held by faculty of the Nagasaki University's Research Center for the Nuclear Weapons Abolition (RECNA) ※※ and external experts. Field studies are also conducted and dialogues with hibakushas held to learn about the reality of atomic bombings in Nagasaki and Hiroshima, and the background leading up to them. Furthermore, opportunities are provided to learn technical terminology and the presentation skills members need for the activities. The Nagasaki Youth Delegation 2019 members, for example, had, between their selection and visit to New York, more than 20 study sessions and intensive lectures. With the benefits of such preliminary education and training (in principle, at PCU-NC's expense), even individuals without any specialized background in nuclear disarmament and international politics may be able to function fully as members of the Nagasaki Youth Delegation.

※※ Nagasaki University is the only university in the world that has inherited a medical college having experienced the atomic bombing. Achieving a "world free from nuclear weapons" is thus a paramount concern to the University. Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA), located in a city that was attacked by an atomic bomb, is an educational and research institute which is the interdisciplinary center of local academia with a firsthand experience of the horror of nuclear weapons. The objectives of RECNA are as follows:

- 1) Through academic research and analysis, to redefine the significance of Hiroshima and Nagasaki experiences in the light of the current world trend, and disseminate information and make proposals from various aspects towards abolishing nuclear weapons;
- 2) Making best use of such a process and outcomes of its research and analysis, to contribute to university education.

RECNA, as a think tank open to the local community longing for nuclear weapons abolition, operates in close cooperation with partners including Nagasaki City and Nagasaki Prefecture.

# Departure

## Study sessions for acquiring “knowledge” and “study attitudes”

**Sunao Takami**

2nd Year, School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences, Nagasaki University (2019)



Over the approximately three months from our appointment in December last year to our trip, we have conducted some 20 study sessions. In being dispatched to the NPT conference, we took up subjects of interest and decided the content of the sessions. From the RECNA teachers we learned about NPT, government statements, concepts of nuclear weapon-free zones, Middle East situations, world history, arrangements for nuclear power generation stations and others. External lecturers were invited, and from them we learned about wartime and atomic bomb experiences, national security and social movements. The lecturers listened to our opinions and questions. One's own willingness to know what one does not know is, in my view, the essence of study. I felt the importance of such a willingness, not just knowledge.



## Hiroshima study camp: Study & feel

**Honoka Nakayama**

2nd Year, School of Dentistry, Nagasaki University (2019)



In February, a study camp was conducted in Hiroshima to learn about “the difference between Hiroshima and Nagasaki.” Professor Jacobs of Hiroshima City University lectured on the “Global Hibakusha” concept, and we learned that hibakushas exist worldwide. We interfaced with high school students in Hiroshima and were enabled to hear their opinions about peace. With a view to knowing something about the reality of the atomic bomb disaster in Hiroshima, we visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, toured bombing ruins, and spoke directly with hibakushas. Through this study camp, we identified issues for the future of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In addition, we and found it most interesting that their concepts of the bombings' history are different, as the expression “angry Hiroshima and prayerful Nagasaki.” suggests.



# Activities

The main activities overseas will be members' participation in the NPT Review Conferences or its Preparatory Committee sessions. In these activities, delegation members do not just observe and listen to the Conferences or Committee sessions but actively engage in these processes. The members are thus fulfilling the responsibility of the youth representatives of Nagasaki, the atomic-bombed city, to speak up about nuclear disarmament as citizens of such a city. The members participated in the drafting process of a statement from youth to be presented at the NGO sessions of the Committee to gain an opportunity to directly join in with the Committee proceedings. At the NPT Review Conferences and its Preparatory Committees, not only government representatives but also delegates from international organizations and NGOs, experts, and university students and other youth representatives gather from across the globe. Concurrently with the multilateral governmental discussions, side events including meetings and workshops take place every day. The members join in any of these but also, by utilising UN conference rooms and soliciting international attendance from various groups, organize workshops and presentations of their own. They speak with diplomats and international organizational staff or even visit Japanese-language schools near the venues of the sessions. All these activities are shared with a larger audience on real-time basis through social media. When there are no NPT-related conferences, the members come up with plans to visit mostly Asian destinations to discuss nuclear disarmament with local students, experts, NGO members and government officials. For these overseas activities, each member is

subsidized 200,000 yen by PCU-NC to cover travel expenses and accommodation, with additional costs, if any, to be borne by members themselves.

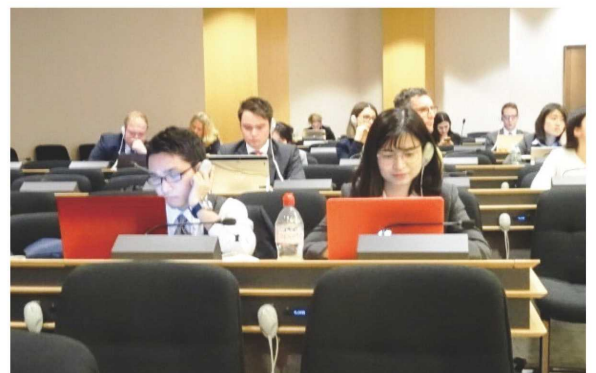
## The world as seen by international institutions

**Kanji Uchihashi**

4th Year, School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences, Nagasaki University (2019)



Among our varied interests were the two UN affiliated international institutions UN Development Planning (UNDP) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), both of which we visited. At the UNDP we heard from persons in charge of African development. Our residual impressions: Not "Africans are poor and pitiable, so our best method is to help them," but instead "Understand our viewpoint and initiate full dialog" as the most important concept of support. This is also necessary in seeking abolition of nuclear weapons. What "method" should be pursued to eliminate them? We felt that it lies in consideration of what must be done to understand the viewpoints of others.



## To inherit the consciousness all humans are Hibakushas

**Urara Muta**

2nd Year, School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences, Nagasaki University (2019)



NPT conference side events were held simultaneously by NGOs and government related persons. This time we made a presentation on the theme “To inherit the consciousness that all humanity are hibakushas” based on what we have learned as the Nagasaki Youth Delegation 2019 members. Our definitions of the hibakusha are: (1) Persons affected by the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, (2) persons affected by nuclear weapons testing and nuclear plant accidents, and (3) persons now living with the nuclear presence. The six members made a presentation regarding atomic bombing experiences of hibakushas, the existence of foreign hibakushas, experiences of persons who evacuated independently due to a nuclear plant accident, and risks surrounding us who are now living with nuclear weapons' existence. Among the roughly 60 participants in the event, most agreed with our definitions of the hibakusha, wanted the definitions to be widely known, and desired to work with us. Over the four months prior to our trip, we six members prepared for the event while talking and disagreeing with each other. This effort made it possible to create side events as no one else could.



## What we can see ahead of us

**Taiki Nakashima**

4th Year, School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences, Nagasaki University (2019)



We visited the UN headquarters in New York City from April 29 to May 10 to sit in on the Third Preparatory Committee Meeting for the 2020 NPT Review Conference. The meeting dealt with nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Especially in regard to nuclear disarmament, confrontations were visible among the U.S., Russia Iran and other countries. Going forward, materializing a “nuclear-free world” is expected to be a difficult task.

On the other hand, some countries mentioned signing and ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons adopted in 2017, taking a step forward to a “nuclear-free world.” And I was told by a NGO (non-governmental organizations) staff member that minimum preparations for next year's conference were made at the meeting, giving me the impression that this could be a positive sign for next year. I'll keep an eye on the next year's Review Conference with anticipation to see if any advancement will be made toward a “nuclear-free world.”



## Nagasaki Youth members in a dialog with the government!?

**Daiki Yano**

2nd year, School of Engineering,  
Nagasaki University (2019)



Before our trip we contacted representatives of each country's government. We were able to talk with officials of nine countries: Japan, the U.S., Sweden, Egypt, Germany, Austria, Australia, Colombia, and New Zealand.

We asked the government officials questions and things we wanted to know more about regarding their statements at the meeting. Among them, government officials of Sweden, a non-nuclear-weapon state, were eager to listen to us, enabling significant interaction. In dialog with the U.S. government officials, however, we were instructed to keep the content of the dialogue secret and the talks were thus quite tense. Through these dialogues, we gained valuable experience not obtainable from sitting in on the meeting.



## Young people dare to make a statement at an international conference?!

**Saki Nagae**

4th Year, School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences,  
Nagasaki University (2019)



At the meeting, each country's representative made statements and presented concepts related to their country's nuclear problems. We and young people from other countries cooperated and were able to make statements at the meeting. More specifically, prior to the trip there was online dialog among young people from Japan, the U.S., India, Germany, Kazakhstan, China, Mexico, Malaysia, New Zealand and Vietnam, creating and transmitting to the world the message, "We assembled irrespective of country, and want world leaders to wake up to a future without nuclear weapons." Our cross-border exchange of views about our own future and interaction at the venue were highly significant. Ours was the only statement that drew applause after presentation on that day at the meeting, making me realize the importance and the strong power of young people in international society.



# After the Trip

Upon their return home, the members produce reports of their overseas activities and their results to Nagasaki Prefecture, Nagasaki City, Nagasaki University, as well as Nagasaki citizens, and share their accomplishments via briefing sessions and social media. Until the end of their term, by maximizing the knowledge the members have gained through the series of activities and the Japanese and overseas human network, they conduct various activities, including peace education visits throughout Japan. There are no specific obligations for the members once their term has been completed, but each individual is encouraged to use their own experiences in some sort of way that is related to the nuclear issue. In actual fact the members find that they are frequently requested to enter into exchange with other people, give lectures and reply to media interviews throughout the year. One former member has been invited to overseas events as a representative of young people in the atomic-bombed city, and published a book. Another has entered a graduate school to pursue nuclear issue studies. Others are actively engaged in handing down the atomic bomb experiences to future generations in Nagasaki.

## From learners to teachers

**He Yunyan**

Postdoctoral Fellow, Graduate School of Fisheries and Environmental Sciences, Nagasaki University (2019)



After our return to Japan, we emphasized the necessity for nuclear weapons elimination, and undertook activities to hand down the consciousness that “all humans are hibakushas” to the next generation. Our activities included a briefing session on our activities, peace education visits to nationwide educational institutions and citizens' organizations. In those visits conveyed today's domestic and overseas nuclear weapons elimination situations, with the objective of thinking together about the problem. In addition, we have created a world network of young people, linked up with other peace organizations, and have planned and executed an array of other activities.



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