

Opening Introduction

Hikomichi Umabayashi

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Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to Tokyo from all around the world, and also welcome to Nagasaki, as we, people of Nagasaki, is hosting this meeting. I am Hikomichi Umabayashi, Director of Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA).

Let me start the Workshop in a rather businesslike way as we are going to have a Dinner Session after this first session and Nagasaki University's President Katamine is going to address you with a welcome speech.

This is the third and final workshop of a series with a common sub-title "Developing a Comprehensive Approach to a NEA-NWFZ". In fact it was the main title of the first workshop that was held in Nagasaki University in December 2012. The second one was held in Seoul in June 2013 with its main title "Envisioning Northeast Asia Peace and Security System." It was organized by Center for Peace and Public Integrity, Hanshin University, ROK. Then in this third workshop, we set the main title as "Denuclearization of Northeast Asia and of the World".

There are two major backgrounds for the workshop to bear this title. Firstly, the year 2015 is approaching. It is the year of 70 years anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings and the year of 2015 NPT Review Conference, which marks 20 years after 1995 Review and Extension Conference. So, we wanted to put the NE Asian nuclear disarmament issue in the global context. Unfortunately even on the Eve of this important year, we have only very dim sight towards the world free of nuclear weapons. This year's Nagasaki Peace Declaration expresses concerns about the growing gap between nuclear weapon states plus states under nuclear umbrella and genuine non-nuclear weapon states, and says "if we cannot overcome this opposition, then next year's Review Conference will come to nothing."

Secondly, this recognition of slow progress to a nuclear weapon free world has reassured the appropriateness of RECNA's original intension to start this series of workshops. Established in April 2012, RECNA took the theme of NEA-NWFZ as its central research theme, because we had a firm belief that Japan would be able to take much stronger leadership in global disarmament efforts if it could find exit from the current security policy trapped in the nuclear deterrence by taking a policy alternative to establish a NEA-NWFZ. As the only country that suffered from war-time nuclear attack, the Japanese public voice against nuclear weapons is very very strong. There is nothing more helpful to a Government than the public support. But because of the nuclear trap, Japan has been unable to take advantage of it.

In starting the series of workshop, RECNA enjoyed a luck. In November 2012, just four months before the establishment of RECNA, Morton Halperin presented an eye-opening proposal of his original form of Comprehensive Agreement for Peace and Security in Northeast Asia, the updated version of which has already been distributed to all of you. It was proposed at a workshop in Tokyo organized by Nautilus Institute and others. I myself had been working on the issue for a long time and attended at that workshop. Thus RECNA has been working together with Mort and Peter Hayes from Nautilus in all the three workshops.

Today we are going to listen to Ambassador Dhanapala's keynote speech. In this regard I want to add my personal memory. Dag Hammarskjold Foundation hosted a major international symposium on NWFZ at Uppsala University, Sweden in September 2000. The keynote speaker at that time was Ambassador Dhanapala, then Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations. It was very impressive speech to me and I have cited a part of it frequently, including in my book on NWFZ, whose Korean version was just published with the publication date of tomorrow.

I won't explain the program of the workshop as I think you can easily find it in your package. The workshop is not open to the public except for the Dinner Session, which is open to the media. The workshop session is operated according to so-called Chatham House Rule, in which participants

are not allowed to disclose who spoke what in order to ensure free exchange of views among participants. We have invited some experts working for media companies but they are here to listen and discuss as researchers, not to report the sessions.

Lastly, I want to explain our logo. Please take a look at the bottom of page 2 of the program. It is a deformed Chinese character “出”, which means “exit” or “departure”. Here it symbolizes the “exit” from the nuclear deterrence and “departure” for a NEA-NWFZ. Nagasaki is famous for its port “Dejima” or Exit Island, the only port open to overseas during the period on national isolation in Japanese history.

Now, I want to finish my opening introduction, and I would like to invite Ambassador Yukio Sato, Vice President, Japan Institute of International Affairs, to chair the Session I.