



The past ten years for RECNA and the PCU Nagasaki Council for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (PCU-NC)

Susumu Shirabe (Chairman of PCU-NC)

Ten years have passed since the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA) was established in 2012, and the Nagasaki Youth Delegation was launched six months later. To support these efforts and serve as a liaison with civil society, Nagasaki Prefecture, Nagasaki City and Nagasaki University also set up the PCU Nagasaki Council for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (PCU-NC) in 2012. Throughout those ten years, we have continued to be a think tank for citizens and bear the responsibility of the thoughts and feelings of the atomic-bombed city of Nagasaki. Researchers of RECNA come from all over Japan to Nagasaki, a place where from around spring until August, the anniversary of the atomic bombing, every year, the thoughts and actions of hibakusha and citizens are reported daily. Living in such a city, the researchers must be sensing the hope for nuclear abolition. It was also a decade of nurturing the youth delegation and other students, and fostering collaboration between the international community and domestic and international researchers.

Meanwhile, the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conferences have continued to make slow progress, and after a period of postponement due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Review Conference has faced such deadlocks that it has failed to adopt a final document twice in a row, and the conference involving the nuclear weapon states and the nuclear umbrella states has continued to be unsuccessful. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) was proposed and entered into force, driven by civil society and nations that have grown weary of this impasse and have chosen to live independent of nuclear weapons. While events have continued like this, RECNA has proposed a process to denuclearize Northeast Asia (the Nagasaki Process) and the establishment of a security framework that does not depend on nuclear deterrence, etc. Furthermore, RECNA publishes Journal for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament (J-PAND), an English-language journal that drives international opinion and provides a forum



for international discussions on nuclear abolition and nuclear deterrence. J-PAND has been making steady progress since its inaugural issue.

As the world situation with nuclear disarmament becomes increasingly turbulent, I believe that our true value will be tested as to what we aim to achieve in the next ten years. I think it all starts here, to keep conveying the truth about Nagasaki, that nuclear weapons must not be used, and that if they are used, they will again produce many more people killed by nuclear weapons as well as hibakusha, who will be forced to live in fear of the aftereffects and the consequences of cancer and genetic abnormalities that could strike them one after the other.

* You may download the latest issue and back numbers of J-PAND from [here](#).

Commemoration events for the 10th anniversary of the establishment of RECNA and PCU-NC

Tatsujiro Suzuki (Vice Director, Professor, RECNA)

As FY2022 marked the tenth anniversary of the establishment of Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA) and the PCU-Nagasaki Council for

Nuclear Weapons Abolition (PCU-NC), we began preparations last year to commemorate the anniversary and successfully conducted the following events.



H.E. Ms. Shorna-Kay M Richards, Ambassador of Jamaica to Japan (29 October 2022, at the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, Photo by RECNA)

Special Lecture in Commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of RECNA & PCU-NC (co-hosted by RECNA and PCU-NC) (Held in two sessions)

For the first session, H.E. Ms. Shorna-Kay M Richards, Ambassador of Jamaica to Japan, was invited to Nagasaki from Friday, October 28 to Sunday, October 30. On the 28th, she paid a courtesy visit to the Nagasaki Governor, Mayor, and President of Nagasaki University, while on the 29th, she visited the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum and the Nagasaki National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims. She laid flowers at the site of the hypocenter of the atomic-bombing. Then, on that day, a special lecture was held (location: Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, 13:30–16:00) titled “New Challenges for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons — Message from Nagasaki.” Following on from the Ambassador’s Keynote Speech titled “Renewing Nagasaki’s Citizen Diplomacy,” the Ambassador talked with Associate Professor Keiko Nakamura. Then a panel discussion was held, moderated by Associate Professor Nakamura with panelists Dr. Masao Tomonaga, Ms. Sonoko Miyazaki, Ms. Kaede Nakamura. On the morning of Sunday, October 30, we held a dialogue with about 20 young people, including those from the Nagasaki Youth Delegation and students from Meiji Gakuin University.

The second session of the Special Lecture was titled “Imagining/Creating a World Without Nuclear Weapons,” (location: Dejima Messe, 13:30–15:30, co-hosted by Dejima Messe, RECNA and PCU-NC) and was held on Saturday, January 21, 2023, with Akutagawa Prize-

winning author Keiichiro Hirano as the guest speaker. Kobundo bookstore held a book sale and signing event at the venue at the same time. The lecture lasted approximately one hour, followed by a short break and then a 45-minute Q&A session, during which Mr. Hirano carefully answered questions from the participating citizens, making for a satisfying and fulfilling lecture. The total number of participants reached approximately 510, including approximately 330 at the venue and 180 online (the largest attendance ever in the past lecture series of RECNA).

Nagasaki Citizen’s Lectures on Nuclear Weapons Abolition (co-hosted by RECNA and PCU-NC) (two special lectures)

Two of the five citizen’s lectures held in FY2022 were designated as special 10th anniversary lectures. The second lecture (July 2), titled “Looking Back on 10 Years of RECNA,” featured four speakers: RECNA Adviser Shigeru Katamine, PCU-NC Chairman Susumu Shirabe, Visiting Professor Hiromichi Umebayashi, and Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue, who shared their thoughts on the founding of RECNA and special stories from the preparation period. The third lecture (September 17), titled “Thinking about the Future of RECNA,” featured Visiting Professor Yuichi Seirai, Ms. Mari Kawara (deputy editor-in-chief of Nagasaki Bunken-sha), and Professor Seiji Endo (Seikei University). A prelude to this public lecture, “Meeting to Think about the Future of RECNA” (chaired by Visiting Professor Seirai) was held

Akutagawa Prize-winning author Mr. Keiichiro Hirano (21 January 2023, at Dejima Messe, Photo by RECNA)



twice on July 2 and September 8, with Professor Seirai, Ms. Kawara, Professor Endo, Visiting Researcher Mitsuhiro Hayashida, and Ms. Sonoko Miyazaki (journalist) as members, to exchange opinions about expectations regarding RECNA activities.

First Essay Contest on “Nuclear Weapons and Our Future”

With the aim of raising awareness among the younger generation, we solicited opinions on “Nuclear Weapons and Our Future” (sub-theme for FY2022: “What lessons should we learn from the crisis in Ukraine? ”). NAGASAKISHIMBUNSHA, a local newspaper company of Nagasaki, generously gave their cooperation for this. The selection committee was chaired by Visiting Professor Yuichi Seirai and vice-chaired by Visiting Professor Kenji Ishida, and included young members, Ms. Mei Kojima, Dr. Sumiko Hatakeyama, and Ms. Ruiko Matsunaga, who are active in various fields. The total number of entries was 54 (40 in Japanese and 14 in English), from nine countries: Japan, the United Kingdom, Iran, Pakistan, India, Austria, Australia, South Korea, and Nigeria. The Grand Prize was won by Kokoro Nishiyama who is currently pursuing her master’s degree at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, USA. The Second Prize was awarded to two participants: Alock Chandan, PhD Candidate, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi, India, and also Keisuke Aoki, a company employee. The award ceremony and a press conference were held at Nagasaki University on September 24. The winning essay was published in full in the Nagasaki Shimbun

newspaper on September 25.

Projects to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of PCU-NC

Setting up a portal site for peace activities

As part of the 10th Anniversary of PCU-NC commemorative project, a portal site (Ippome Station—a place where you can encounter peace for everyone) that collects information on peace activities is scheduled to be launched at the end of this fiscal year, and is being prepared with the cooperation of former members of the Nagasaki Youth Delegation. In conjunction with the launch of this portal site, a Peace Career Talk introducing careers related to peace and nuclear disarmament, was also held on March 31, with the invited participation of Professor Mitsuru Nishida of Nagasaki University and Ms. Tamaki Sakai (a member of the 6th Nagasaki Youth Delegation, now a reporter for Nagasaki Shimbun newspaper).

The 10th-Year Journal of the Nagasaki Youth Delegation (CAPSULE No. 2)

As the second issue of CAPSULE, which was previously published on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the Nagasaki Youth Delegation, we published a booklet looking back on the 10 years of the delegation containing the thoughts of alumni/alumnae and people related to the delegation.

The Project on “Reducing the risk of Nuclear Weapons Use in Northeast Asia (NU-NEA)”

Michiru Nishida (Professor, School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences)

Last fiscal year, RECNA initiated 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) titled “Reducing the Risk of Nuclear Use in Northeast Asia: Ensuring Nuclear Weapons Are Never Used Again ” (NU-NEA).

In Year 1 of the project last year, we published a report including 25 possible use cases of nuclear weapons in Northeast Asia, based on the findings of experts in security, nuclear strategy, the Korean Peninsula, and international politics, in order to answer questions such as under what conditions, whether intentionally or accidentally, nuclear weapons could be used, and what the subsequent process could be if a nuclear weapon was used.

This year, in Year 2 of the project, we have attempted to quantify the number of direct casualties and delayed deaths from radiation-induced cancer through simulation analysis of five of these 25 cases. The five cases include those that resulted in the use of only one nuclear weapon to those that resulted in a limited but global nuclear war. Quantification of direct casualties and deaths caused by cancer was based on analysis of the following six effects: (1) heat flow caused by a nuclear explosion, (2)

firestorms (multiple fires caused by heat flow merging over a large area due to hurricane-like wind forces created by the thermal updraft), (3) overpressure from the explosion (destroying buildings), (4) acute radiation, (5) radioactive fallout, and (6) cancer deaths caused by acute radiation and radioactive fallout (excluding deaths immediately after the nuclear explosion).

The results showed that even limited nuclear use cases for non-populated areas and military targets would result in tens to hundreds of thousands of deaths, and the largest nuclear use cases would result in more than 2 million direct deaths and hundreds of thousands of cancer deaths. It is important to note that the nuclear use cases in this project are assumed to be plausible rather than likely, and even the most significant nuclear use case in this simulation is an assessment of the damage from a nuclear war with a maximum of about 24 nuclear weapons, although it is possible that a nuclear war could be even more extensive.

In this simulation, mid-air explosions by high-yield bombs had a relatively higher lethality rate than ground explosions. Should further nuclear weapons be used as the conflict escalates (especially midair explosions of high-yield bombs), they would trigger a firestorm that

would instantly increase the number of casualties. Historically, it has been pointed out that military operation planners have underestimated the damage in considering the use of nuclear weapons because they have not adequately taken into account the effects of such firestorms.

Furthermore, when the acute effects on health and long-term cancer deaths from high doses of radiation are considered, even a small number of ground explosions or relatively low-yield nuclear weapons would cause a disproportionately high number of fatalities.

Thus, it is obvious once again that even a relatively limited use of nuclear weapons can have enormous humanitarian consequences. In addition, the economic and social impacts, including the destruction of infrastructure, and the global, regional, and local environmental impacts, including climate change and impact on the world's oceans, would be enormous. In Year 3, based on these results, we plan to present policy recommendations to minimize the risk of nuclear use.

The Eleventh Nagasaki Youth Delegation begin their activities

On Wednesday, December 7, 2022, the appointment ceremony was held for the Eleventh Nagasaki Youth Delegation. Seven students from Nagasaki University and Kwassui Women's University began their activities as the Nagasaki Youth Delegation. This year, they will be dispatched to the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 NPT Review Conference, to be held in Vienna, Austria, in August, and will also engage in activities necessary to send out messages from Nagasaki toward the abolition of nuclear weapons before and after the committee session.

The members of the Eleventh Nagasaki Youth Delegation are as follows. (As of March 1, 2023, in Japanese alphabetical order.)

Hanako Ariyoshi

1st year, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Nagasaki University

My name is Hanako Ariyoshi and I'm from Nagasaki Prefecture. I'm studying at the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the Nagasaki University. I started my peace activities after I came to realize the surprising difference in awareness of peace between students in Nagasaki and in other prefectures. Now that I am a university student, I would like to turn my attention to the world, gain a deeper understanding of nuclear issues, and communicate my own thoughts on peace. I would also like to use this activity as a base to build a large network among young people beyond Nagasaki and expand the circle of activities not only in Nagasaki but also in Japan and the world.



Members of the 11th Nagasaki Youth Delegation:

from left, Ms. Suehiro, Mr. Kaji, Ms. Ariyoshi, Ms. Yasumoto, Ms. Imaoka, Ms. Yamamoto, Ms. Hirabayashi, Photo by PCU-NC)

Asumi Imaoka

1st year, Faculty of Environmental Science, Nagasaki University

When I was in high school, I learned that the world was not a peaceful place at all, with civil wars, invasions, coups d'état, and other humanitarian crises taking place all over the world. My goal is to study these issues and nuclear weapons issues not as history but as issues that are happening now, as well as their effects on other living creatures apart from human beings, various environments, and people referred to as minorities, etc., from various perspectives. I hereby pledge to share my learning with as many people as possible and to join those who are aiming to create a truly peaceful world.

Tatsuhito Kaji

2nd year, School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences, Nagasaki University

My name is Tatsuhito Kaji and I am a second-year student at the Nagasaki University's School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences. I was born in Osaka prefecture and I moved to Nagasaki when I entered university. I like the words, "Miracles don't happen by doing nothing, we have to make miracles happen." Miracles will only happen if you do something to make them happen. Results are generated by constant action. Because of people around the world continuing to move forward, even in small ways, the TPNW, which was said to be impossible, has come into effect. Some people argue that the treaty is meaningless because it has not been ratified by the nuclear weapon states, but at least the entry into force of the treaty makes it much more difficult for countries to use nuclear weapons. Even though they may be small steps and small actions, from now on, I would like to do my part to realize the abolition of nuclear weapons through the activities of the Nagasaki Youth Delegation.

Kazuha Suehiro

1st year, School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences, Nagasaki University

My name is Kazuha Suehiro and I am a first-year student at Nagasaki University's School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences. I grew up in Hiroshima and came to Nagasaki when I entered university. As a member of the Nagasaki Youth Delegation, I want to learn about nuclear issues from various angles through fieldwork and study groups and prepare for the NPT Review Conference. I want to actively communicate what I learn through our activities and what should be conveyed to the public through visiting lectures, social media, etc., and also create opportunities for people to think about nuclear issues.

Chinami Hirabayashi

4th year, Faculty of Education, Nagasaki University

My name is Chinami Hirabayashi and I am a fourth-year student at Nagasaki University's Faculty of Education. I grew up in Nagasaki prefecture where I was taught peace education. Through my university life, I have learned that peace education, which I had taken for granted, is not the norm, and that there is a huge gap in knowledge about the atomic bombs dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima, even within Japan. As a member of the Nagasaki Youth Delegation, I will work to make as many people as possible consider the importance of nuclear weapons abolition as a matter for them personally. I ask for your encouragement and support.

Noa Yasumoto

2nd year, Faculty of International Cultural Studies, Kwassui Women's University

My name is Noa Yasumoto and I am a second-year student at Kwassui Women's University. My grandparents are hibakusha and I am a third generation atomic-bombing survivor. I was a member of the Peace Study Club in my high school. Although I was interested in peace activities and nuclear issues, I found it difficult to initiate communications myself and I remained rather passive about sending out messages regarding these issues. Now that I am a member of the Youth Delegation, I would like to take the first step toward a nuclear-free world by being responsible, collaborating with fellow members with a common motive and diversity of thought, and communicating on my own initiative.

Sakura Yamamoto

1st year, School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences, Nagasaki University

My name is Sakura Yamamoto and I am a member of the Eleventh Nagasaki Youth Delegation. I decided to join the Youth Delegation because the military invasion of Ukraine by Russia made me keenly aware of the importance of confronting nuclear and other war issues. Because I have been indifferent to nuclear weapons and war until now, I intend to work harder than others to deepen my knowledge and to think about what I can do as a young person during the year, while facing nuclear issues from multiple perspectives. I ask for your support and encouragement.



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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