

Greetings upon Taking Office

Kazuko Hikawa (Vice director, RECNA)

I extend my warmest greetings to you. My name is Kazuko Hikawa, and I assumed my new role at RECNA in April 2024.

I retired from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) after having worked there for more than 24 years. Thereafter I was engaged in teaching and research at Osaka Jogakuin University until March 2024. During my tenure at MOFA, I was frequently posted overseas in cities such as Bonn, Berlin, Vienna, Washington, D.C. and Baghdad. In total I spent more than 16 years abroad. I had assumed that I would finally establish my residence in Osaka, but circumstances have conspired to situate me in Nagasaki instead. I am eager to collaborate with you all in this new capacity.

In August 2002, I was assigned to the Arms Control and Disarmament Division of the MOFA. Despite the subsequent changes in the divisions with which I was engaged, I was continuously involved in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation since that time. As you may recall, 2002 was the year in which Iran's clandestine nuclear activities were exposed by a rebel organization. Early the following year, in January 2003, North Korea announced its withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), while in March, the United States led an invasion of Iraq based on suspicions that Iraq was developing weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons.

More than 20 years has passed since then, yet neither the Iranian nuclear issue nor the North Korean nuclear issue has been resolved. Having been invaded by the U.S.-led international coalition, Iraq today



continues to struggle with internal conflicts. During the period between 2015 and 2017, which coincided with my posting in Baghdad, an average of 50 to 60 civilians were killed every week by improvised bombs or gunfire. Bombs have also been set off in marketplaces and department stores, killing more than 100 people at once. It is said that Iraqis, for whom death is extremely close to home, see peaceful and safe Japan not as a “foreign country” but as a “another planet.” Working in Iraq made me deeply appreciate the preciousness of both life and peace, while also becoming keenly aware of their fragility.

In light of my previous experiences, I intend to pursue further research with the objective of achieving a peaceful and sustainable world, one that is free of nuclear weapons.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entered into force in January 2021, but evaluations of it are split into two. Civil society and some states that are concerned about the humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons evaluate the TPNW as a first step towards their abolition, but the states that adopt security policies relying on nuclear weapons criticize it for ignoring the reality of the international security environment and claim that not a single nuclear weapon can be abolished.

The TPNW is grounded in the scientific evidence of the humanitarian consequences and risks of using nuclear weapons in the event of the failure of nuclear deterrence. It also attempts to challenge arguments for national security based on assumptions supporting nuclear deterrence. However, the debate between the philosophy of the TPNW and the philosophy of a security policy based on nuclear deterrence does not align well.

As to the reasons for this, the states supporting the TPNW observe that there is a fundamental disconnect between the arguments put forward by the nuclear-armed states and their allies and the arguments on which the TPNW is based. Thus, the states parties to, and signatories of, the TPNW are proceeding with discussions to compile a report about the problematic points in security relying on nuclear deterrence while seeking the opinions of experts, etc. This report will be submitted at the Third Meeting of the States Parties to the TPNW.

RECNA published a policy paper to contribute to the above discussions. Policy Paper No. 20, entitled “For a World Free of Nuclear Weapons: Discussions Toward the Third Meeting of the States Parties to the TPNW,” discusses (1) what challenges does the nuclear deterrence doctrine have within the traditional security framework? (Chapter 1), (2) what challenges does the TPNW have in aiming from the prohibition

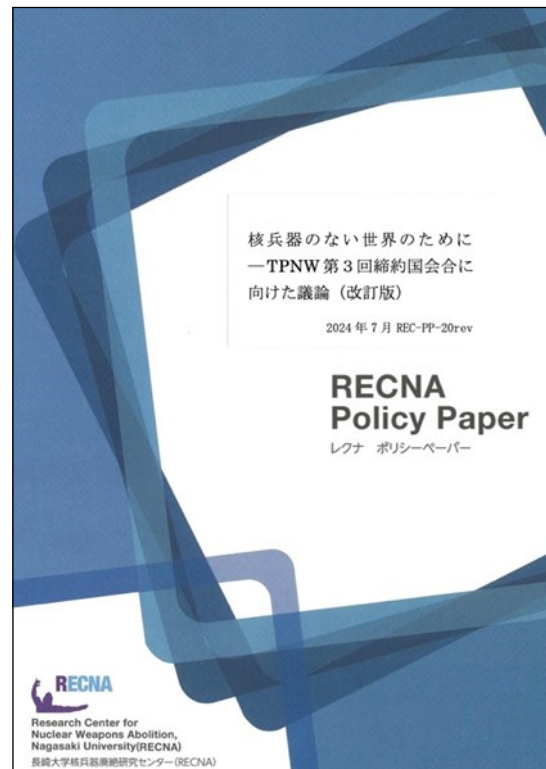
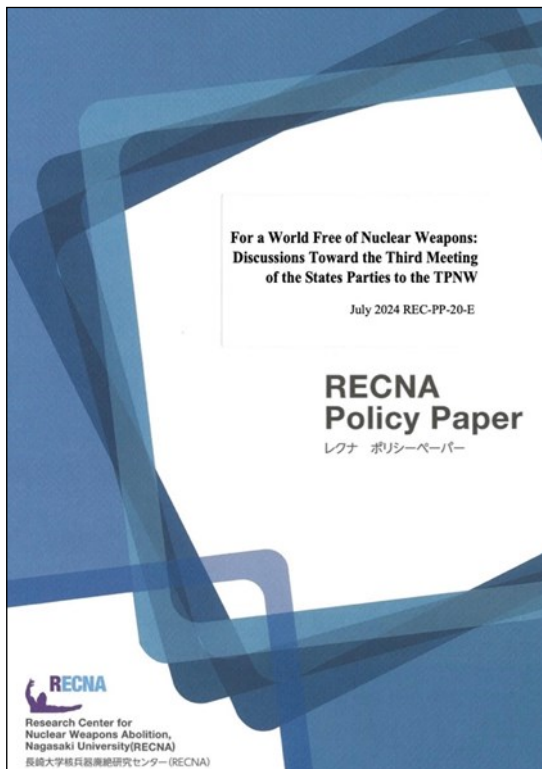
of nuclear weapons to their elimination? (Chapter 2), and (3) what needs to be considered for the transformation into a world free of nuclear weapons? (Chapter 3). The document consists of six papers based on these three questions.

The authors of the papers are Kimiaki Kawai (Nagasaki University), Tatsujiro Suzuki (Nagasaki University), Toshinori Yamada (Meiji University), Michiru Nishida (Nagasaki University) and Kazuko Hikawa (Nagasaki University). Kawai discusses the efficacy of an approach pursuing the prohibition of nuclear weapons as means of warfare from a consideration of the regulation of methods of warfare under International Humanitarian Law (First Paper); Suzuki discusses the importance of the risk analysis of nuclear deterrence and use of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) (Second Paper); Yamada discusses the seven matters requisite in securing the implementation of Articles 6 and 7 (victim assistance and environmental remediation) of the TPNW (Third Paper); Nishida discusses the issues (the peaceful use of nuclear energy, the regulatory deficiencies on the means of delivery of nuclear weapons, the weakness of the verification framework, the lack of an enforcement framework, etc.) included in the TPNW for the realization of abolishing nuclear weapons (Fourth Paper) and moves on to the logic (or illogic?) of Japan’s aversion to the TPNW and the charting of a path forward (Fifth Paper (Abstract)); and finally Hikawa discusses measures to overcome the division and confrontation that lie at the roots of a world reliant upon nuclear weapons (Sixth Paper).

While sharing the same approach and issue awareness of the TPNW, Policy Paper No.20 develops the discussions with a rigorous consciousness of the problems attached to this approach. An English language edition was simultaneously produced, and distributed to the national governments attending the session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT held

during July and August in Geneva and to other stakeholders. It is planned that the policy paper will be registered as a working paper at the Third Meeting of

the States Parties to the TPNW in March next year.



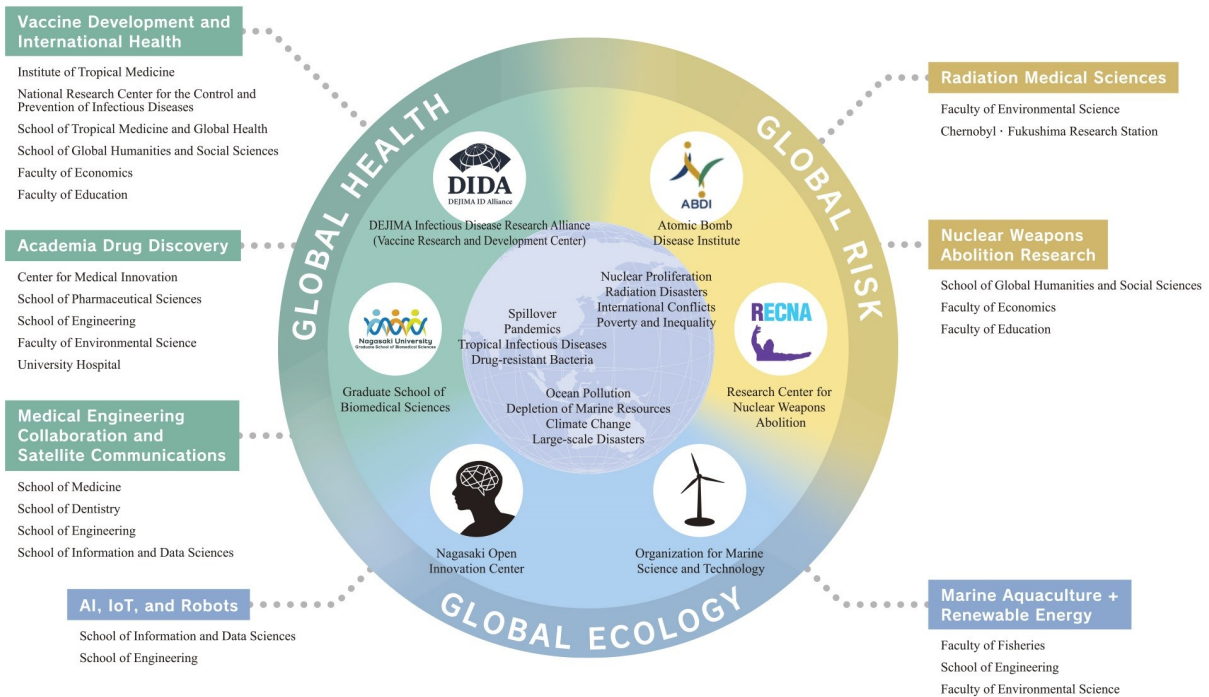
Establishment of the Research Center for Global Risk

Kazuko Hikawa (Vice director, RECNA)

On June 1, 2024 the Nagasaki University Research Center for Global Risk was established. It is a new institute for transdisciplinary research into global risks that could have an impact upon the existence of the human race such as the risk of the use of nuclear weapons, global environmental destruction, pandemics and so on. Professor Kazuko Hikawa from RECNA has been appointed as Vice Director, and Michiru Nishida, who concurrently serves as a professor in both the School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences and RECNA, also serves as Vice Director.

Nagasaki University has declared that it will contribute to the realization of planetary health, by bringing together and creating knowledge in a transdisciplinary manner towards the resolution of the diverse and interconnected problems faced by humankind and the planet. The newly established Research Cen-

ter for Global Risk will, in order to achieve these goals, maximize the achievements of Nagasaki University in the fields of peace education and research on nuclear weapons abolition, disaster and radiation medical sciences, and research on tropical medicine and infectious diseases. Furthermore, it will promote research and education that contribute to the three fields of global health, global risks, and global ecology. In addition, through collaboration in the humanities and the sciences, the Center will implement international collaborations and joint research, make various recommendations to international society. It is further envisaged that the Center will become a forum for transdisciplinary research creation that also conducts the fostering of next-generation researchers, experts with policy-formulating skills and leaders in international society.



Nagasaki Youth Delegation Visits Geneva

The Twelfth Nagasaki Youth Delegation

The six members of the Twelfth Nagasaki Youth Delegation visited Geneva July 22–26, 2024, for the purpose of attending the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Over the five days of activities, we were able to learn much through discussions with representatives and specialists from various countries aimed at abolishing nuclear weapons and realizing peace. (One delegation member attended the Summit of the Future held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on September 22-23, 2024.)

Amidst the solemn atmosphere of the United Nations, we attended the Opening Session on July 22. We understood presentations by other countries about the nuclear threat and nuclear disarmament, and also listened to Japan’s message. That afternoon, we heard a lecture presented by Ms. Michiko Kodama from the Nihon Hidankyo (Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations) on survivors’ experiences of the atomic bombing, which included the phrase “Hibakusha are hibakusha until they die,” and shared her strong desire for the abolition of nuclear weapons. We also learned about nuclear disarmament from various perspectives through meetings with Ms. Melissa Parke, Executive Director of the International

Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), and members of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW).

On July 24, we held a side event entitled “Bring Your Piece of Peace for Dialogue—With Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibition @UNOG—” where we collected attendees’ “Thoughts on Peace” and asked them to write these on t-shirts. Mr. Shiro Suzuki, Mayor of Nagasaki; Ms. Melissa Parke, Executive Director of ICAN; and Ms. Yuko Baba, Vice-Governor of Nagasaki Prefecture were invited as guest speakers, and attendees shared “pieces of peace” transcending their positions and backgrounds.

During our stay in Geneva, we also met with various specialists. In our meeting with Dr. Robin Geiss, Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), Ambassador Thomas Goebel of Germany, and Ambassador Mxolisi Nkosi of South Africa, we discussed nuclear disarmament and the role of the international community. In particular, from the history of South Africa—which has successfully abolished nuclear weapons—we learned about the importance of leadership aimed towards peace. In our discussion with Ms. Tomiko Ichikawa, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament, we were struck by the words: “True peace

is a world without fear.” This experience provided us the opportunity to think deeply about the essence of peace.

On July 25, the final day of the session, we visited the ICAN headquarters and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), where we learned about the frontlines of humanitarian aid, such as support for reuniting families torn apart by war or conflict.

Though these meetings and discussions, we realized that dialog and exchange are essential for the realization of peace. The knowledge and experience gained through this visit to Geneva will be a tremendous asset to our activities moving forward. After returning home to Japan, we intend to continue to disseminate thoughts on peace and take action towards realizing a world free of nuclear weapons. The Twelfth Nagasaki Youth Delegation will continue to take on challenges.



Members of the 12th Nagasaki Youth Delegation:

Koshiro Egawa / Faculty of Engineering, Nagasaki Univ.
Maho Kaneko / School of Medicine, Nagasaki Univ. (*Dispatched to New York)
Sakura Kawabe / Graduate School of Engineering, Nagasaki Univ.
Mayo Kobayashi / School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences, Nagasaki Univ.

Chinami Hirabayashi / Graduate School of Education, Nagasaki Univ.
Kimiko Hirose / Graduate School of Engineering, Nagasaki Univ.
Tomoha Fukuura / Faculty of Engineering, Nagasaki Univ.

Redesigning of the World’s Nuclear Warhead Data Poster

Keiko Nakamura (Associate Professor, RECNA)

In order to more accurately and understandably convey to people the current situation in the world as nuclear arsenals are expanding, PCU Nagasaki Council for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (PCU-NC) and RECNA this year significantly redesigned the World’s Nuclear Warheads Data poster that has been published every year since 2013.

Until now, these posters used icons to show the number of nuclear warheads in existence by country of ownership and type, with the total number of nuclear warheads for the nine countries displayed in large print. Lining up the posters for the past 11 years, we can see there has been a decrease in the total number of nuclear warheads, from 17,300 in 2013 to 12,520 in 2023.

However, considering the current world situation wherein conflicts between countries are intensifying and the risk of the use of nuclear weapons is increasing, it has become difficult to accurately represent the “current situation of the world” in a single poster showing continuously decreasing total numbers. A large proportion of the reduced number of warheads comprise the United States and Russian “retired or to-be-dismantled warheads”—that is to say, warheads that were made during the Cold War and have deteriorated, and so the reduction in the number of nuclear warheads does not simply mean a reduction in nuclear capabilities. There are also cases in which the number of warheads decreased through the integration of different types of nuclear weapons carried out as a part of “nuclear modernization,” in other words, “qualitative expansion of nuclear arsenal.”

We therefore focused on the concept of “deployable nuclear warheads,” which indicates the number of warheads when the number of “retired or to-be-dismantled warheads” is subtracted from the total number—that is to say, the total of the “number of nuclear warheads that are operationally deployed and ready to be used at any time” and the “number of nuclear warheads stored in preparation for deployment” added together. Looking at the change in the number of deployable nuclear warheads from 2013 to

2024, the number of warheads decreased from 10,200 in 2013 to 9,583 in 2024, so the reduced number was only 617. Furthermore, since 2018, the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) implementation deadline, the United States and Russia have clearly begun increasing their nuclear warhead stockpiles. By highlighting the number of “deployable nuclear warheads,” the new World’s Nuclear Warheads Data posters show the actual world situation regarding nuclear weapons at a glance.

In addition, while previous posters displayed information on the number of warheads possessed by each country for single fiscal years, it was difficult to ascertain “trends” for each country. For this reason, the new-edition poster clearly shows “trends” for each country by displaying increases/decreases in their deployable nuclear warheads from 2018 to 2024 as “Number of warheads” and “Rate of increase/decrease.”

Naturally there are limits to the information that can be displayed on a single poster. As mentioned above, the poster does not show “qualitative” military expansion. For example, of the nine countries with nuclear warheads, the United States is the only one where the number of deployable nuclear warheads is declining, but at the same time this country



<https://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/recna/en-topics/46433>

is also pouring a huge budget into advancing the modernization program. With the United States and Russia in the lead, all of the countries are accelerating development of new types of nuclear weapons and missiles using cutting-edge technology.

We have therefore also updated our explanatory leaflet this year in order to supplement the information provided on the poster and promote deeper understanding of the world situation with regard to

nuclear weapons. We have also created a digital commentary in a Q&A format for frequently asked questions related to nuclear warheads. The digital commentary can be viewed on both smartphones and tablets and is expected to be used as a learning tool in various settings by people of all ages, from elementary school students to adults.

The 3rd Essay Contest on a “Nuclear Weapons Free Future”

Tatsujiro Suzuki (Professor, RECNA)

On Saturday September 21, 2024, RECNA hosted an award ceremony for the third essay contest on a “Nuclear Weapons Free Future.”

This contest began in 2022 as one of the events to commemorate RECNA’s tenth anniversary. The purpose of this essay contest is to bring to the attention of the younger generation how important the issue of nuclear weapons is, as well as to build their capacities so that they can contribute to the realization of a peaceful international society. Continuing on from last year, the event was supported by Nagasaki Shimbun as well as Nagasaki Prefecture, Nagasaki City, Television Nagasaki Co., Ltd. (KTN), Nagasaki Broadcasting Company (NBC), Nagasaki Culture Telecasting Corporation (NCC), NHK Nagasaki Station, and Nagasaki International Television Broadcasting, Inc. (NIB). Funds from donations received by RECNA were used for the operation of this event.

Each year the essay contest poses a timely question as the theme. As this year is a year of elections, with the US presidential election and others in major countries, we set the question “What would you now urge to the leaders of the nations depending on nuclear weapons?” As we did last year, the call for essays was divided into the two age groups of youths aged 16-19 (Under-20) and youths aged 20-29 (Under-30).

As a result, 51 entries were received. Of those, 12

entries were in the Under-20 division while 39 were in the Under-30 division. Entries from overseas numbered nine and applicants were spread throughout the world. Present addresses of the applicants included the nuclear-armed states of the United States, France, and India, as well as Indonesia, Nigeria, the Philippines, New Zealand, Taiwan among others. After a rigorous screening process by the selection committee chaired by Akutagawa Award-winning author Yuichi Seirai, one Grand Prize winner and one Second Prize winner in the Under-20 and Under-30 divisions respectively, were selected. The winners are as follows.

Under-20

Grand Prize: Riki Ishiyama (Berkshire School (the United States), 17 years old)

Second Prize: Tomoko Ogawa (Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, 18 years old)

Under-30

Grand Prize: Atsuhito Nishiyama (company employee, 27 years old)

Second Prize: Saki Okamoto (Faculty of Engineering, The University of Tokyo, 24 years old)

Mr. Nishiyama attended the awards ceremony in person, while Mr. Ishiyama and Ms. Ogawa attended online. The prizewinners were each presented with a certificate and plaque by the chair, Mr. Seirai. The essays by the two Grand Prize winners were pub-

lished in full by the Nagasaki Shimbun on the following day, the 22nd. (A provisional Japanese translation was provided for the essay originally written in English.) Together with the full texts of the four award winners' essays, RECNA's website also fea-

tures essays by the finalists who gave RECNA their permission.

(<https://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/recna/c-event/47078>)



Group photo of the award ceremony attendees

Two New Visiting Professors Take Up Their Posts

Fumihiko Yoshida (Director, RECNA)

On September 1, two new experts took up the posts of RECNA Visiting Professors. The two new members already have a considerable track record of research, and as well as expectations for their future contributions to the progress of RECNA we are confident that they will provide us with new perspectives. The following is an outline of their careers. Links are also provided to webpages detailing their hitherto work, etc.

Takashi Sekiyama

After graduating from the School of Law, Waseda University, Sekiyama worked at the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and then from April 2019 as an associate professor at the

Graduate School of Advanced Integrated Studies in Human Survivability, Kyoto University, becoming a professor there in July 2024. His fields of expertise are international political economy, international environmental politics, and Asian-Pacific research (Japan, China, the US, India, etc.). He has a Master in International and Public Affairs from the Faculty of Social Sciences, the University of Hong Kong; a Master of Liberal Arts from the Harvard Kenneth C. Griffin Graduate School of Arts and Sciences ; a PhD in Law from the School of International Studies, Peking University; and a PhD in International Studies from Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, The University of Tokyo. His detailed research achievements can be referred to [here](#).

Jaroslav Krasny

After graduating from the College of Asia Pacific Studies, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Krasny earned his Master of Science from the Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation, Hiroshima University in 2014, and acquired his PhD in 2022. In the same year he attended the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights and obtained a Master of Advanced Studies (MAS). His fields of expertise are the various problems surrounding International Humanitarian Law and weapons of mass destruction.

After serving as a Higher Executive Officer at the Department of Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, Section of the Internal Security, Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, and as a research associate at the Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation, Hiroshima University, he has since 2023 been a researcher at the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (Weapons of Mass Destruction Programme). His detailed research achievements can be referred to [here](#).

Announcements

“World’s Nuclear Warheads Data” 2024 and “World’s Fissile Material Data” 2024 by RECNA are now available from the URLs on the right.

“World’s Nuclear Warheads Data” 2024

<https://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/recna/en-topics/46433>

“World’s Fissile Material Data” 2024

<https://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/recna/en-topics/46431>



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