

RECNA Study Meeting Report “Human Values and the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons”

Kazuko Hikawa (Vice director, RECNA)

In September 2024, at the Summit of the Future hosted by the United Nations (UN) an outcome document entitled “Pact for the Future” was adopted. The Pact for the Future indicates the actions that should be taken in order to cope with various problems faced by the world including the nuclear weapons issue. However, no recommendations were proposed with regard to the essential problem facing international society, namely how we are to overcome the divisions and conflicts that are rendering cooperation impossible.

What should we do to overcome these divisions and conflicts, and make cooperation feasible? In order to consider this matter, on December 22, 2024, RECNA welcomed Mr. Christian Felber, the initiator of an Economy for the Common Good (ECG), and held a hybrid format RECNA study meeting entitled “Human values and the abolition of nuclear weapons.”

The concept of the Economy for the Common Good is to seek to resolve problems such as inequality, environmental destruction and human rights abuses, by replacing the pursuit of profit as the objective of economic activity with the human dignity and other human values originally treasured by humans. Mr. Felber argues that by pursuing human values within society through the Economy for the Common Good it will be possible to overcome divisions and conflicts.

The study meeting was joined by RECNA Advisor Mitsuru Kurosawa, one of Japan’s leading researchers in international disarmament law who raises the importance of the security of humanity and human security, Mr. Felber, and RECNA Vice Director and Professor Kazuko Hikawa. With regard to the relationship between human values and the abolition of nuclear weapons they debated using Immanuel Kant’s “Perpetual Peace” as the starting point, and having considered the abolition of nuclear weapons along with the participants, they examined the signifi-



Scene of RECNA Study Meeting
(22 December 2024, at RECNA, Photo by RECNA)

cance of concentrating on human values. It is planned that the details of the study meeting will be published

in a future RECNA policy paper.

Publication of the RECNA Book “Designing a World without Nuclear Weapons”

Fumihiko Yoshida (Director, RECNA)

In December 2024 the Waseda University Press published a RECNA book entitled “Designing a World without Nuclear Weapons: A Realistic Process from the Perspectives of International Politics, Nuclear Non-proliferation and International Law,” authored and edited by Fumihiko Yoshida, Seiji Endo, Heigo Sato and Akira Mayama. The book is a result of a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (B) on the subject of Compatibility of Security and Nuclear Disarmament (Principal Investigator: Fumihiko Yoshida, FY2021-2023). It was authored and edited by Fumihiko Yoshida, Seiji Endo, Heigo Sato and Akira Mayama and authored by Maika Nakano, Wakana Mukai, Michiru Nishida, Yoshihiro Makino, Yuko Koito, Junko Horibe, Kazuko Hikawa and Kimiaki Kawai.

The publication outline on the Waseda University Press website describes it as a book that “Through the bringing together of expert knowledge seeks to find a new breakthrough in the debate surrounding nuclear disarmament and security, and makes 15 proposals to achieve a world in which there are no nuclear weapons but security remains undamaged.” The book is furthermore introduced with this excerpt from the text of Chapter 5: “The important point is to squarely face the fact that nuclear deterrence is only ‘stable’



Image from the Waseda University Press website page

under ‘a specific environment,’ and to ensure the starting point and ending point of how we think about the future is the basic perception that choosing to rely over the long run on nuclear deterrence does not guarantee national or personal security.” The Waseda University Press website can be viewed here: <https://www.waseda-up.co.jp/economics/post-885.html> (in Japanese)

Kick-off Symposium for Nagasaki University’s Research Center for Global Risk (CGR)

Kazuko Hikawa (Vice director, RECNA)

The Kick-off Symposium for Nagasaki University’s Research Center for Global Risk (CGR), which was newly established in June 2024 at Nagasaki University, was held on December 21, 2024 at the Bunkyo Sky Hall, Nagasaki University. A lively discussion took place from varied and inter-disciplinary perspectives across the humanities and sciences re-

garding global risks in planetary health, with around 70 participants attending in person at the symposium and a further around 50 attending online. The role of the chief moderator was performed by Professor Michiru Nishida, of RECNA and CGR.

In the morning presentation on “Global Risks and Intelligence,” RECNA Associate Professor Keiko Nakamura took the rostrum as one of the panelists,

and contributed to the debate by linking through the horizontal axis of “intelligence” themes that at first appear to differ including Africa and conflicts, handing down the atomic bombing experiences, disasters and local communities, and legislation regarding plants and seeds and biodiversity. In the afternoon, a discussion was held with simultaneous translation between English and Japanese, and Session 1 on “Global Risks Threatening Planetary Health” started with Nagasaki University President Takeshi Nagayasu’s introduction to Nagasaki University’s university-wide initiatives towards “planetary health,” while Session 2 was on the theme of the “Pursuit of Value in the Age of Polycrisis.” In Session 1 Professor Paul Shrivastava, Co-President of the Club of Rome and Pennsylvania State University professor, and Dr. Sawako Shirahase, Senior Vice-Rector of the United Nations University delivered the keynote addresses, while in Session 2 the keynote address was delivered by Mr. Christopher Felber, the author and initiator of the Economy for the Common Good. Faculty from the CGR appeared as panelists at both sessions. In session 2, RECNA Vice-Director and Professor Kazuko Hikawa served as the moderator and contrib-

uted to the debate.

A detailed report and videos filmed on the day have been posted on the CGR website, so please take a look here: <https://cgr.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/en/1654/>

Kick-off Symposium of Nagasaki University Research Center for Global Risk (CGR)

DATE: 2024.12.21 **TIME: 10:00~17:30**
VENUE: Bunkyo Sky Hall
FORMAT: In person/on ZOOM

Pre-session: Global Risks and Intelligence
 10:00-12:00
 Moderator: Akihiro Iwashita, Professor, Director of CGR

Opening: Takeshi Nagayasu
 13:30-14:00
 President of Nagasaki University

Session 1: Global Risks Threatening Planetary Health: What Should We Do?
 14:00-15:30
 Moderator: Fumiko Kasuga, Professor at School of Tropical Medicine and Global Health, Vice Director of CGR

Session 2: The Pursuit of Value in the Age of Polycrisis
 15:45-17:15
 Moderator: Kazuko Hikawa, Professor, Vice Director of Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition and CGR

Closing: Akihiro Iwashita
 17:15-17:30
 Professor, Director of Research Center for Global Risk

Find more information at the link below
<https://www.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/ja/event/event1667.html>

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Strengthening Collaboration with SIPRI and UNIDIR; Academic Exchange Agreements (Memorandum of Understanding) Signed

Fumihiko Yoshida (Director, RECNA)

Nagasaki University has signed academic exchange agreements with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), both of which have high international reputations in the fields of nuclear disarmament, peace and security. The lead university department in both agreements is RECNA, with the Research Center for Global Risk (CGR) serving as a participatory department.

SIPRI Director Dan Smith visited Nagasaki University on December 2, 2024 and attended the signing ceremony with the university’s President Takeshi Nagayasu. On the same day, Director Smith deliv-

ered an address on the theme of “The nuclear challenge today and tomorrow: Approaching eight decades since nuclear weapons were used in war” at the 5th 2024 Citizens’ Lecture (special lecture) hosted by the PCU-Nagasaki Council. He pointed out the issues regarding the ways for nuclear disarmament in the midst of a bleak security environment, and his address was listened to not only by those at the venue but by online participants. Since the beginning of 2025 the members of the Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (B) project on Security Shifts and New Strategic Stability in the Age of Emerging Technologies: A Study on Responses through Arms Control Restructuring (Principal Investigator: Fumihiko Yoshida, FY2024-2026) have been interacting online with SIPRI researchers, and after the presentation a

Q&A session was held.

The agreement with UNIDIR was completed on September 23, 2024, and future themes for joint research are now under examination. UNIDIR Director

Robin Geiss will deliver an address on the theme of “The Importance of Dialog in Peace and Disarmament” at the 1st 2025 Citizens’ Lecture hosted by the PCU-Nagasaki Council on May 21, 2025.



Director Dan Smith and President Takeshi Nagayasu shake hands after the signing ceremony
(2 December 2024, at Nagasaki University, Photo by RECNA)

FY 2024 Citizen’ Lectures on Nuclear Weapons Abolition

Kimiaki Kawai (Vice director, RECNA)

During FY2024 RECNA and the PCU Nagasaki Council for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (PCU-NC) jointly hosted the Nagasaki Citizens’ Lectures on Nuclear Weapons Abolition a total of five times, four times at the Nagasaki City Atomic Bomb Museum and once at the Nagasaki National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims, with the combined participation of 650 people. With online streaming becoming commonplace, there were participants not only from within Nagasaki Prefecture but across Japan and overseas. At the first lecture, RECNA Director Fumihiko Yoshida and Professor Fumiko Kasuga of the Nagasaki University School of Tropical Medicine and Global Health/Interfaculty Initiative in Planetary Health took the rostrum to argue about the theme of “Planetary health

and nuclear weapons abolition – for the sake of the Earth and humans.” At the second lecture RECNA Professor Tatsujiro Suzuki and Associate Professor Keiko Nakamura debated the theme of “Ongoing nuclear proliferation – interpreting the RECNA nuclear warhead poster.” At the third lecture RECNA Visiting Professor and editorial writer at Kyodo News, Masakatsu Ota, Professor Michiru Nishida of the School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences, and RECNA Vice Director and Professor Kazuko Hikawa debated on the theme of “The approaching US presidential election – considering the direction of nuclear disarmament.” At the fourth lecture, RECNA Vice Director and Professor Kazuko Hikawa and Associate Professor Keiko Nakamura held a discussion on the theme of “Nuclear disarmament seen from a gender perspective,” facilitated by RECNA

Vice Director and Professor Kimiaki Kawai. At the fifth lecture, Director Dan Smith of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) was invited, and he gave a lecture on the theme of “The

nuclear challenge today and tomorrow: Approaching eight decades since nuclear weapons were used in war”



The 4th lecture, at which nuclear disarmament was discussed from a gender perspective for the first time (30 November 2024, at Nagasaki National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims, Photo by PCU-NC)

The 13th Nagasaki Youth Delegation Members Begin Their Activities

Kazuko Hikawa (Vice director, RECNA)

On November 20, 2024, the appointment ceremony of the members of the 13th Nagasaki Youth Delegation took place in the first-floor conference room at RECNA. Since the schedule of the Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference has been put back to its pre-Covid period of April to May, the Thirteenth Delegation members were only given the much shorter time of about five months to prepare before going to New York. Therefore, December to January was positioned as a period of intensive training to enable the members to absorb the basic knowledge about the NPT, with concentrated study meetings held once a week. Based upon what they had learned by the end of January, during February and March the members planned and conducted study lectures including those with external speakers,

and research activities in both Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Since entering March this year, based on their activities up to and including February the members have been working hard on preparations such as plans for a side event to be held in New York and making appointments with people.

Scenes of the study meeting on December 27 were filmed by national broadcaster NHK and aired on the News Watch 9 program on January 8. As a result of this television exposure, on March 7 two of the 13th Delegation members were invited to appear on the Minna no Kaigi (“Everyone’s Conference”) program jointly produced by NHK Hiroshima and NHK Nagasaki, earning an opportunity to debate with university students from Hiroshima, youngsters from Kazakhstan and Ukrainian stakeholders. The program featured footage of the online exchange meeting held

between the 13th Delegation members and university students from Atlanta in the USA, and introduced the thoughts of the American students who had heard the word “hibakusha” for the first time as a result of the exchange meeting.

A meeting of the 13th Delegation members was held on March 17. Although it was originally planned that there would be a discussion of the side events in New York, it became a meeting reflecting on the Hiroshima research trip (from March 7 to March 9). At the meeting, which went on for 90 minutes, many encouraging comments were heard such as “It’s important to properly get the message across in words,” “I want us to grow not just as individuals but as a group,” “this meeting is an important step towards what comes next,” and “Let’s make our New York

mission a success.”

Study themes taught in December and January

1st session (December 16): “What is the NPT?”

2nd session (December 27): “What is the NPT process?”

3rd session (January 14): “The war in Ukraine” and “Radiology”

4th session (January 21): “Nihon Hidankyo’s winning of the Nobel Peace Prize” and “Handing down memories”

5th session (January 28): “Why can’t we get rid of nuclear weapons eighty years after the end of WWII?”



Member on the 13th Nagasaki Youth Delegation
(20 November 2024, at RECNA, Photo by PCU-NC)

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