

Greetings upon Taking Office

Jaroslav Krasny (Professor, RECNA)

Hello everyone. My name is Jaroslav Krasny, and I assumed the position of Professor at the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (RECNA), Nagasaki University, in April 2025.

I am originally from the Czech Republic. After graduating from the Security and Law Academy, a police-oriented high school, I worked in the Weapons of Mass Destruction Non-Proliferation Division of the Security Department at the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic. My frontline experience in safeguarding national security taught me the importance of peace, stability, and responsible international cooperation. Motivated by a desire to contribute to sustainable international peace, I later pursued academic research, continued my studies at Hiroshima University, and moved to Japan. Living in Japan for, in total, more than 15 years and studying international law as well as the tragic histories of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have greatly shaped my perspective as a researcher.

Most recently, I served as a Researcher at the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) in Geneva, focusing on weapons of mass destruction, especially national implementation measures for the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). Through continuous dialogue with diplomats, experts, and civil society, I gained a deeper understanding of both the complexity of international security and the possibilities that emerge through sincere cooperation. I still recall the sense of hope that came from seeing people with different positions and



values engage constructively toward shared goals.

As a father of two, I feel a strong responsibility to help leave a safer and more peaceful world for the next generation. Reflecting on the value of life and the fragility of peace reminds me daily of the importance of research that guides us toward the future. Being able to engage in education and research on peace, justice, and nuclear abolition in Nagasaki is an honor and a profound responsibility.

Drawing on my past experience, I am committed to contributing to a peaceful and sustainable world free of nuclear weapons through research, education, and public engagement. I sincerely look forward to learning, thinking, and building the future together with all of you. Thank you very much for your support.

From March 3 to 7, Vice Director and Professor Kimiaki Kawai, Professor Tatsujiro Suzuki, and Associate Professor Keiko Nakamura participated in the Third Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. This was the first time that RECNA researchers have attended a Meeting of States Parties in person. During their time at the UN Headquarters, they observed the proceedings and exchanged views with experts. They also prepared an analytical report on the meeting and produced Japanese translation of official documents. They were published on RECNA's TPNW Blog 2025, which is available at: <https://recnatpnw2025.wordpress.com>.

The TPNW stipulates that a "meeting to review the operation of the Treaty and the achievement of its objectives" (Review Conference) shall be held five years after the Treaty's entry into force (and every six years thereafter) (Article 8). Accordingly, this meeting was expected to serve as the final consultative forum prior to the first Review Conference, scheduled for November 30 to December 4, 2026, at the

United Nations Headquarters in New York. It aimed to build international momentum for advancing the treaty and prepare for the next steps.

In order to contribute to the discussions at this meeting, RECNA published a collection of papers titled "Toward a World Without Nuclear Weapons: Discussions for the Third Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW" (RECNA Policy Paper 20-E) in July 2024. This policy paper was officially registered as a meeting document with the symbol TPNW/MSP/2025/NGO/14. Deputy Director Kawai introduced its summary in his statement during Session 9 on March 7.

Vice Director Kawai also participated in the Third Preparatory Committee for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from April 28 to May 2. While there, he observed meetings on nuclear disarmament and authored an analytical report. The report was published on RECNA's NPT Blog 2025, which is available at: <https://recnanpt2025.wordpress.com>.



The meeting room of the Third Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW
(UN Headquarters, NY, Photo by RECNA)

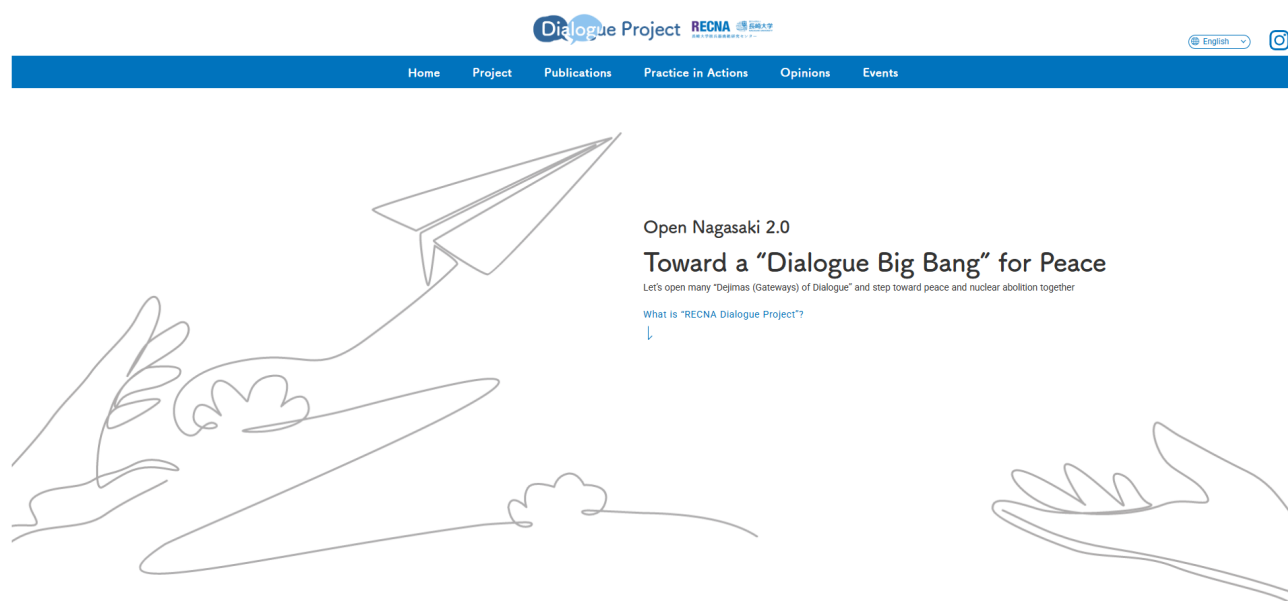
As we mark the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings and the end of World War II this year, RECNA has launched research and educational initiatives centered on the core concept of "dialogue." Discussions have been held with the Vatican City State and universities directly affiliated with the Holy See to establish themes for joint research and events, such as "Dialogue-Based Disarmament." The annual theme for the public lectures hosted by the PCU Nagasaki Council for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (PCU-NC) was also set as "Building Peace Through Dialogue," with the lecture content carefully curated to reflect this theme.

A new website was launched in April 2025. The name of the website is "*Open Nagasaki 2.0: Towards a 'Dialogue Big Bang' for Peace*". Its mission statement declares: "If the antithesis of war and violence is not peace but dialogue, then we must initiate and expand dialogue, widen the circle of empathy, and dispel the misconception that conflicts can be resolved through war or violence." "To catalyze this Dialogue Big Bang for Peace, Nagasaki must open

diverse gateways to dialogue for peace (a 'Dejima of Dialogue'), connect with dialogue partners domestically and internationally, and advance network building (= '*Open Nagasaki 2.0*')."

Every illustration on this site is drawn in a single continuous line. The reason for this deliberate choice is explained as follows: "Each illustration possesses the power to connect us to countless dialogues linked by a single line, and to the stories born from them. We selected these illustrations for this site, imbued with the wish that dialogue would expand—from points to lines, and from lines to planes." An English version of the site was launched in August, and efforts are ongoing to further enrich its content.

Three new individuals have joined RECNA as visiting researchers for the Dialogue Project. They are Mari Maeda (freelance announcer), Chinami Hirabayashi (elementary school teacher), and Kokoro Nishiyama (Nagasaki University graduate student). All three are already actively contributing to the site through writing and network development.



Dialogue project Website (<https://recna-taiwa.com/en/>)

The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), located in Geneva, Switzerland, was established based on a 1980 United Nations General Assembly resolution. It is a specialized agency operating under the United Nations Secretary-General, conducting independent academic research with the aim of supporting policy discussions on disarmament, arms control, and international security. It plays a role in providing evidence-based policy recommendations and analysis for confidence-building in the fields of disarmament and security, where intergovernmental negotiations alone are often insufficient.

RECNA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with UNIDIR on September 23, 2024, concerning academic exchange and research cooperation, and officially launched joint research and other activities starting this fiscal year. UNIDIR Director Robin Geiss, who visited Japan, was invited as a lecturer for this year's first Citizens' Lecture on Nuclear Weapons Abolition, "The Importance of Dialogue in Peace and Disarmament" (held May 21, organized by PCU-NC)^{*1}. Furthermore, taking advantage of Director Geiss's visit to Nagasaki, we held extensive discussions on the future direction of joint research between UNIDIR and RECNA. Building on this, we invited two UNIDIR

researchers to a joint workshop held in Nagasaki in September by RECNA and the Institute for Peace and Unification Studies (IPUS) at Seoul National University. This allowed them to deepen their understanding of RECNA's research activities and discuss the practical implementation of joint research.

As a result, there are now firm plans to hold an international workshop in Geneva in January 2026 titled "Risk at the Intersections: The Nuclear Impacts of Emerging Technologies" (tentative title), for which preparations are underway. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), which has a memorandum of understanding with RECNA, is expected to co-host the event.

^{*1} Videos from the public lecture series can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1hEiak89ao>



First Citizens' Lecture on Nuclear Weapons Abolition
(May 21, 2025 at BENEX Nagasaki Brick Hall, Photo by PCU-NC)

To convey the global status of nuclear weapons in an accessible manner for the general public, the PCU Nagasaki Council for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (PCU-NC) and RECNA have updated the "[World's Nuclear Warhead Data](#)" annually since 2013. The content comprises four elements: a web database explaining the nuclear arsenals of nine countries, posters and explanatory leaflets based on this database, and a digital commentary addressing frequently asked questions. The posters and leaflets have been distributed to public elementary and junior high schools in Nagasaki Prefecture, as well as to educational institutions and libraries nationwide.

Last year, the poster design underwent a major overhaul. Previously, it represented each country's "total number of nuclear warheads" by type using icons. The new design focuses on the increasing trend in "deployable nuclear warheads," aiming to show more clearly the reality of ongoing nuclear arms expansion. "Deployable nuclear warheads" refers to the total number of nuclear warheads minus those awaiting decommissioning or dismantlement. In other words, it represents the sum of warheads currently deployed and those stored in readiness for deployment.

Of course, the "total number of nuclear warheads" remains crucial information. However, focusing solely on its increase or decrease carries the risk of the situation being misinterpreted. Much of the reduction in total numbers consists of aging, decommissioned warheads held by the US and Russia; their decrease does not necessarily mean a substantive reduction in nuclear forces. Indeed, since the poster's release in 2013, the total number of nuclear warheads has decreased by about 30%, yet the global security environment has deteriorated, and nuclear risks have increased.

Meanwhile, the number of deployable nuclear warheads reached a total of 9,615 across nine countries



as of June 2025, showing a continuous upward trend since 2018. February 2018 marked the expiration date for the implementation of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) between the U.S. and Russia. This fact, coupled with the treaty's scheduled expiration in 2026, underscores the urgent need to establish a new framework for arms control and disarmament.

The poster displays each country's "deployable nuclear warheads" along with the numerical changes and rate of change from 2018 to 2025. North Korea showed the highest rate of increase, followed by China, India, and Pakistan. While it goes without saying that the U.S. and Russia still account for over 80% of "deployable nuclear warheads" and bear a special responsibility for nuclear disarmament, the share of the remaining seven countries has also expanded from 12% in 2018 to 17% in 2025, a trend that requires attention.

A single poster has limitations in what it can con-

vey. Notably, it does not show "qualitative" aspects of arms buildups. While the U.S. and Russia have slightly reduced their "deployable nuclear warheads," they are simultaneously investing enormous budgets in modernizing their nuclear arsenals. Such details are left to explanatory leaflets and digital commen-

tary. The digital commentary, introduced last year, is compatible with smartphones and tablets, and is expected to be used as educational material by a wide range of people, from elementary and junior high school students to adults.

Commemorating the 80th anniversary of the end of the war and the atomic bombings: International Human Resource Development Project

Kazuko Hikawa (Vice director, RECNA)

The PCU Nagasaki Council for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (PCU-NC) launched the international human resource development project "[Assembling Peace Through Dialogue](#)" in April commemorating the 80th anniversary of the end of the war and the atomic bombings, in collaboration with the British think tank "British American Security Information Council (BASIC^{*1})". This project brings together young people from overseas and Nagasaki to conduct researches centered on the theme: "What responsibilities must each generation fulfill to protect humanity and the Earth from risks, including nuclear weapons?" The findings will be compiled into a report, with a presentation session scheduled for March

next year in Nagasaki.

While PCU-NC has previously organized the Nagasaki Youth Delegation as a human resource development project targeting young people without prior knowledge of nuclear disarmament issues, this project specifically targets young professionals with existing experience in activities or research related to nuclear disarmament and international affairs.

Participants include eight young people residing in Nagasaki (students from the School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences, Faculty of Economics, Faculty of Environmental Science, School of Medicine, and Graduate School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences at Nagasaki University) and nine se-



Scene from the press conference held in July.

(July 29, 2025 at RECNA, Photo by PCU-NC)

lected from the EVN^{*2} programme of the UK think tank BASIC^{*1} (youth from Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Lebanon, Zimbabwe, Mexico, Canada, the U.S., and Russia). Divided into three working groups, they conducted online research meetings and were tasked with completing a draft report by the end of December. The themes for the three working groups are: (1) Emerging Technologies and Nuclear Weapons, (2) The Role of Nagasaki as a City That Experienced Nuclear Bombing, and (3) Climate Change and Nuclear Weapons. Despite the online format, enthusiastic efforts are underway to complete the draft report by the end of December.

^{*1} About BASIC

BASIC is an independent, non-profit think tank based in the UK. Since its establishment in 1987, BASIC has leveraged its network and expertise to

promote dialogue and exchange between opposing nations and individuals, earning high global recognition. BASIC's mission is "to safeguard humanity and Earth's ecosystem from nuclear risks and interconnected security threats, for generations to come." It has implemented programmes titled Strategic Dialogues, Inclusive International Security, Nuclear Responsibilities, and Risk Reduction.

^{*2} What is the EVN?

The EVN (the Emerging Voices Network) is one of BASIC's programmes. It is a global digital network of young researchers worldwide with potential expertise on nuclear weapons issues. The project builds a network enabling sustained dialogue among young researchers and promoting collaborative problem-solving. Since 2020, the EVN has fostered networking through events, publications, and outreach activities. It has approximately 350 members.

The Thirteenth Nagasaki Youth Delegation Activity Report

Kazuko Hikawa (Vice Director, RECNA)

On August 31, the 13th Nagasaki Youth Delegation completed their approximately nine-month term.

At the report meeting held on August 27 at the Sky Hall on Nagasaki University's Bunkyo Campus, they gave a comprehensive report not only on the content of the "9090-minute" meetings held during their term but also on the various activities undertaken as the Nagasaki Youth Delegation. The session is also available on [YouTube](#), so we encourage you to take a look and see how fulfilling these months were for them in their roles as the 13th Nagasaki Youth Delegation members. From last December to the end of August this year, they shared struggles and ideas together, and I am truly delighted that they were able to reach this final report session.

The 13th Delegation members are the "Miracle Six." Selected from the six applicants, each possessed unique personalities and leveraged their respective strengths. Even when disagreements arose, they lis-

tened to each other, respected each other's positions, and cooperated to make the New York trip a success. They exemplified true teamwork. Furthermore, after returning from New York, they actively shared what they learned through their activities by participating in outreach lectures and various events. Their words weren't regurgitated opinions or common platitudes; they were their own thoughts and lessons, expressed in their own words. This authenticity gave their messages power and moved many people. Though their term as the Nagasaki Youth Delegation has ended, I hope they will continue to engage with nuclear weapons issues in meaningful ways.

[The Journey of the 13th Nagasaki Youth Delegation]

November 20, 2024: Appointment Ceremony & Press Conference

December – April 2025: Activities including study sessions, training (including preparation for participation in the Third Session of the Preparatory Commit-

tee for the 2026 NPT Review Conference), and meetings

Late April – Early May: Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 NPT Review Conference (New York), Instagram and blog posts from the field

May – End of August: Sharing activities as youth through outreach lectures, holding activity report sessions, preparing activity reports

August 9: Attendance at the Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremony

August 31: End of the 13th Nagasaki Youth Delegation members' term

***Other Activities:**

Participation in Citizens' Lectures on Nuclear Weapons Abolition

Participation in events organized by the PCU Nagasaki Council for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (PCU-NC), RECNA, Nagasaki Prefecture, Nagasaki City, etc.



Commemorative photo after the activity report meeting on August 27
(August 27, 2025, Bunkyo Sky Hall, Nagasaki Univ., Photo by PCU-NC)

RECNA Newsletter

長崎大学核兵器廃絶研究センター

Volume 14, No. 1 September, 2025

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