



## Returning to my Starting Point - a greeting upon taking office

Michiru Nishida (Professor, RECNA)

I assumed my new position at RECNA on September 1. My elementary school days were spent in Fukuoka, and it was a field trip we took to Nagasaki that first sparked my wish to pursue a job involved in the abolition of nuclear weapons. A guide on the tour bus sang Genbaku Yurusumaji (We shall never forgive Atomic Bomb). That song stayed with me throughout my school days and, indeed, is still with me today. Back as a university student, maintaining the simple question of why Japan did not dare to leave the nuclear umbrella, I was somewhat critical of Japan's policy. I wanted to know the true background of the issue and eventually joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. There, for 25 years, I devoted almost all my time to the issue of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. While I learned that the work of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is centered on national security, I kept what I had felt in Nagasaki in mind and tried hard to get closer, even by a millimeter, to a world free of nuclear weapons within a framework of national security. I do not know how successful I was, but I did try my very best.

My connection to the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (RECNA) goes back to its very founding. And, from that time onward, I have frequently dropped by Nagasaki for periodic lectures in my role as a visiting associate professor. As far as possible I have taken these trips as opportunities to visit the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum or participate in peace memorial ceremonies or other such events, and have sought to re-examine my starting point so as not to forget that original sense of purpose. I was also involved with Nagasaki when I took up a post in the Delegation of Japan to the Confer-



Dr. Michiru Nishida

ence on Disarmament in Geneva. My favorite part of my job was meeting the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Peace Messengers each summer. Their straightforward earnestness has a way of purifying my spirit. One of these students was none other than Mr. Mitsuhiro Hayashida, now a RECNA colleague.

In this manner, I already have a variety of connections to Nagasaki and RECNA, and now I have the sobering feeling that I am at last returning to my starting point. Indeed, I am convinced that this is my calling. I intend to maximize all I have learned and experienced in my years at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and contribute in my own small way to the realization of a world free of nuclear weapons.

**R**ECNA and the Nagasaki National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims are appealing to members of the public to provide photographs of life in Nagasaki before the atomic bombing -- the people and their livelihoods, the city and its places. We first made this appeal in late July and will continue to collect photographs up to the end of this year. The photographs submitted will be digitized and used to create online educational materials and so on. This initiative is being conducted as a part of our two organizations' Passing Down the Reality of Atomic Bombing initiative, launched this April to put online and digitize material.

<https://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/recna/topics/28795> (in Japanese)

One month after the appeal was launched, we have already received photographs from several people. One photograph in particular appears to be a prewar view from the railway platform at Urakami Station. If it is confirmed to be so, it will serve as an invaluable record of how Urakami looked before the bombing.

The war ended 76 years ago, and as the hibakusha (atomic bombing survivors) grow older we're facing the challenge of how we will spread their stories when none remain to relate their tales in person. The tragedies at Hiroshima and Nagasaki were so horribly beyond imagination that it is difficult for the generations who have never known war to accept them as an issue relevant to them. Photographs of burned out ruins, transmitting the horror of the atomic bombings, move us because of the way they suggest the people who had lived there, their lives and livelihoods. For the modern generation who do not know much about daily life back then it is impossible to imagine that destruction. In order to relate to younger generations the fact that amid those burned out ruins there were once communities, people living their day-to-day lives,



Mr.Mitsuhiro Hayashida

some ingenuity is required in the way that this is expressed with an awareness of the continuity between before the bombing and the present day. The photographs collected as a result of this appeal will perform the role of a vital additional line that imbues people with the sense of an everydayness that remains unchanged throughout the passage of time.

For those of us living in this current diverse society, each with different everyday lives, it is important for us to record that people living 76 years ago also had their own varied daily routines. Many people are taking this COVID-19 crisis as an opportunity to clean out the attic, so to speak. In order that these precious documents that can express to later generations the varied daily life and ways of living of the time are not thrown away, we hope to make this appeal for photographs widely known.

I was born in Urakami. I first participated in the movement for nuclear weapon abolition in my final year at junior high school by participating in a drive to collect 10,000 petitions from high school students. Ten years have passed since that time, and ever since

I have been active in popular movements to ban nuclear weapons. What I have learned from the hibakusha through these activities and consider the single most important lesson is the point of view that the experience of the atomic bombing is not limited to the experience of “that day,” but extends through the entire lives of the hibakusha. To me, a “hibakusha” is not a category or label. A “hibakusha” is a real per-

son, an individual with a name and a life. What we hope to achieve through this digitization project is the creation of an archive of real testimony, an educational tool through which future generations can feel that they have met the hibakusha in person.

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## Between legacy and policy: Nuclear Legacy and Nuclear Policy Research Society

Hibiki Yamaguchi (RECNA Visiting Researcher)

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**R**ECNA established the Nuclear Legacy and Nuclear Policy Research Society in 2020.

The predecessor to this group, the Nagasaki Atomic Bombing and Postwar History Research Society, was dissolved upon the summing up of proceedings for a symposium entitled “What should our inheritance be? Findings from the study of Nagasaki's atomic bombing and postwar history”, held in February 2020. (The report is available at NAOSITE (Nagasaki University's academic output repository), and a related article can be referred to in our Newsletter, Vol. 8, No. 2).

Nagasaki Atomic Bombing and Postwar History Research Society has continued its research centering on activities by atomic bomb victims in Nagasaki and the effort to pass down records or memories of the atomic bombing. However, in the course of its research, quite naturally the question emerged of how much impact these social efforts were actually having on various government policies concerning nuclear weapons, or to phrase it more cuttingly, were they even contributing to the creation of policy measures aimed at a world free of nuclear weapons?

And so, at the symposium, it was proposed that we dissolve the Research Society and establish a Nuclear Legacy and Nuclear Policy Research Society in its place. The proposal was approved, and it was decided that research activities would be transferred to the new group in 2020. Here, we define “nuclear legacy” as the tangible and intangible scars and impacts of the

development, production, testing and utilization of nuclear weapons. The focus of research is on how the nuclear legacy mutually interacts with nuclear policies (policies and laws formulated or decided by the government related to the development, production, testing and utilization of nuclear weapons).

We held a public online workshop on March 2, 2021, as an opportunity to review interim progress with such efforts. Four reports were presented at this time: Japan-US popular opinion polls on nuclear weapons and nuclear policy (Hiroko Takahashi, Professor, Nara University); Exhibits at Hiroshima/Nagasaki and at the Imperial War Museum (UK) and Nuclear Policy (Satoshi Hirose, Professor, RECNA); Establishment of the Act on Medical Care for Atomic Bomb Survivors (1957) and Japan/US Nuclear/Nuclear Energy Policy (Hibiki Yamaguchi, Visiting Researcher, RECNA); and US/Japan Responses to the Manhattan Project National Historical Park Initiative (Tatsujiro Suzuki, Professor, RECNA).

The research society is currently discussing how to narrow down specific cases where interactions between nuclear legacy and nuclear policy are more visible.

# Project on Reducing the Risks of Nuclear Weapons Use in Northeast Asia (NU-NEA) - So that nuclear weapons are never used again -

Tatsujiro Suzuki (Vice director, RECNA)

It is said that the risk of nuclear war (a war in which an attack is made with the intent to cause a nuclear explosion, hereinafter referred to as “nuclear use”) is higher now than it has been at any other time since the end of the Cold War. There are conflicts, particularly in Northeast Asia, that could potentially trigger a nuclear war, so concerns are mounting. Japan and South Korea heavily rely on the “extended nuclear deterrence” provided by the United States. It is necessary to fully consider the risk that “nuclear deterrence” will end in failure. Here, to fully assess the risk of nuclear weapon use and to propose policies to lower that risk, we have initiated a Project on Reducing the Risks of Nuclear Weapons Use in Northeast Asia . The objective of this project is to deepen the understanding of the risks presented by the use of nuclear weapons so as to better assure that such weapons are never again used within this region. To meet this objective, we have to address questions such as the following.

**1) Under what circumstances would nuclear weapons be used (either intentionally or accidentally)? By what sort of process would such nuclear use escalate into a large-scale nuclear war?**

**2) What would be the impact of nuclear use (number of casualties; damage to infrastructure; environmental contamination; climate change etc.)?**

**3) What sort of policies would help to minimize the risk of nuclear weapon use within the region? Based on the findings of research to explore such questions, we will propose policies to reduce the risk of nuclear weapon use within the region.**

The project is to be conducted in conjunction with the Planetary Health Program at Nagasaki University.

Toward the attainment of this objective, this project is to be conducted over three years as three separate tasks.

## **1) Compilation of cases in which the nuclear deterrent could fail to function (Task 1):**

Here, we will compile a collection of cases in which nuclear weapons could be used within the region upon a failure of deterrent mechanisms. This compilation, which is to primarily focus on the Korean Peninsula, is to include a consideration of global and regional geopolitical concerns and the security environment. A fourth workshop of the Panel on Peace and Security of Northeast Asia (PSNA) is to convene online on October 8 and 9, 2021, and here an interim project report is to be made.

## **2) Impact assessment (simulation modeling) of nuclear weapon use (Task 2):**

Based on the compilation of cases prepared as Task 1 and by means of a simulation model, we are to quantitatively assess their respective impacts. more specifically, number of casualties; damage to/ destruction of infrastructure; environmental contamination; and climate change. It is possible that the impact assessment of some of these aspects (e.g., climate change) will extend into the third year.

## **3) Policy proposal for reducing the risk of nuclear weapon use (Task 3):**

Based on the findings of the first and second years, we are to reassess nuclear policies for the region and propose policies to minimize the risk of nuclear war.

The project is to be administered under the leadership of RECNA, the Nautilus Institute for Security and Sustainability and the Asia-Pacific Leadership Network (APLN), which are together to establish a steering committee, and is to be conducted in cooperation with the PSNA. The steering committee is in charge of the overall management of the project.

Interim findings are to be publicly presented at the end of each fiscal year via task-specific reports, inter-

im reports or other such means. Furthermore, issues identified within the project are to be published **each fiscal year via specialist-prepared working papers.**

We plan to publish project reports and working papers in J-PAND, the Journal for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament.

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## A Determined Step Toward a New Era: the 2021 Nagasaki Peace Declaration

Satoshi Hirose (Vice director, RECNA)

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Following on from last year, this year's Nagasaki Peace Declaration also started with a quotation from a hibakusha (atomic bomb survivor). It was taken from the memoir of Father Toumei Ozaki, who passed away this April, a piece of text that can be described as “a scream.” Rather than directly describing the catastrophe of the atomic bombing, it expresses a strong determination to demand a “world free of nuclear weapons,” through which it is an opening that profoundly states the horror of those weapons.

The text of the 2021 Declaration is even more resolved in its call for “the abolition of nuclear weapons” than the declarations of previous years. The backdrop to this derives from three major changes to the state of affairs. The first is of course the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Through the establishment of an international treaty that specifically aims to make a reality of a world free of nuclear weapons—the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons—concrete goals towards the abolition of nuclear weapons have been set out, and it has become possible to appeal for clear action to the leaders of nations including Japan itself.

Secondly, the Declaration mentions how, amid the worldwide crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, a situation has arisen in which we have all been forced to realize that our tranquil daily lives are in fact quite brittle, and that once a global crisis occurs the fact is that nobody is unaffected. Nuclear weapons are even more of a threat than COVID-19. If a nuclear war breaks out, no one will remain unaffected. Indeed, it is possible that no one will remain at all. Living side by side with such a threat is certainly not living in safety and security. The COVID-19 pandemic should be regarded as an opportunity to think about this in a



The Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has entered into force. A new global rule to prohibit to use, possess or install any nuclear weapons" A signboard at Nagasaki City Hall (Photo by RECNA)

realistic manner.

Thirdly the Declaration mentions the fact that we are approaching an era in which there will no longer be any surviving hibakusha. The people who can retell from first-hand experience the horrors of the atomic bombing are inevitably ageing, and their number in continual decline. What has to be done in order that Nagasaki can keep playing its role as the “the last place to suffer an atomic bombing?” This is the question that the next generations need to make a serious attempt to tackle.

The generations that have experienced the common threat to humanity that the COVID-19 pandemic represents have been provided with a foothold by the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. This

year's Declaration made one feel a strong sense that even in a society in which there are no longer any people who have experienced the terror of the atomic bombing and can recount that terror to others, the younger generations must continue to pin their hopes on the abolition of nuclear weapons and take new steps towards this goal.

The 2021 Nagasaki Peace Declaration

[https://www.city.nagasaki.lg.jp/heiwa/3070000/307100/p036998\\_d/fil/2021english.pdf](https://www.city.nagasaki.lg.jp/heiwa/3070000/307100/p036998_d/fil/2021english.pdf)

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## Youth Delegates Meet with Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu and Ms. Natsuki Yasuda

Fumihiko Yoshida (Director, RECNA)

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**E**ach year, not only many citizens but also distinguished visitors come to Nagasaki around August 9. Some visitors drop by the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (RECNA), and we frequently see them at other venues to exchange opinions. The anniversary of the atomic bombing is, of course, a day to reaffirm our wish for and commitment to peace and the abolishment of nuclear weapons, but it is also an important day that provides us with a forum and time to create connections between people.

This year, RECNA invited Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and Ms. Natsuki Yasuda, a photojournalist, to meet the members of the Ninth Nagasaki Youth Delegation (NYD) at our office, where a discussions was held. Ms. Nakamitsu was in town to deliver the address at the Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremony as a representative of UN Secretary-General António Guterres, and Ms. Yasuda to cover the Peace Memorial Ceremony. They both took time out of their busy schedules to talk with our student delegates and answer their questions for more than two hours.

The students had varied questions for them. One student asked Ms. Nakamitsu what she does when she “runs up against a wall.” As I recall, Ms. Nakamitsu replied, “Actually, I run into a wall, either a big wall or a small wall, nearly every day.” She continued: “The most important thing is to listen carefully to what someone with a different opinion is trying to tell you. And the second is to keep a strong determination

to attain your goal.”

Ms. Yasuda talked of her experiences reporting in towns or regions ravaged by strife. Showing photographs, she told them that in Iraq, which has come through the devastation of war, there is a road called “Hiroshima Street.” “It would be good if interaction between Iraq and Nagasaki flourishes, and maybe a road is named “Nagasaki Street,” she commented. It became apparent that Ms. Nakamitsu, who has long-served in dangerous regions as a member of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, is a figure greatly admired by Ms. Yasuda, and the two guests themselves found a great deal to talk about.

It is our hope that the students who experience participating in the Nagasaki Youth Delegation will go on to become involved, one way or another, in peace initiatives, so what a precious and almost sumptuous couple of hours we spent that afternoon, in the company of two such splendid role models!



The 9th Nagasaki Youth Delegation Members with Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs (Photo by RECNA)



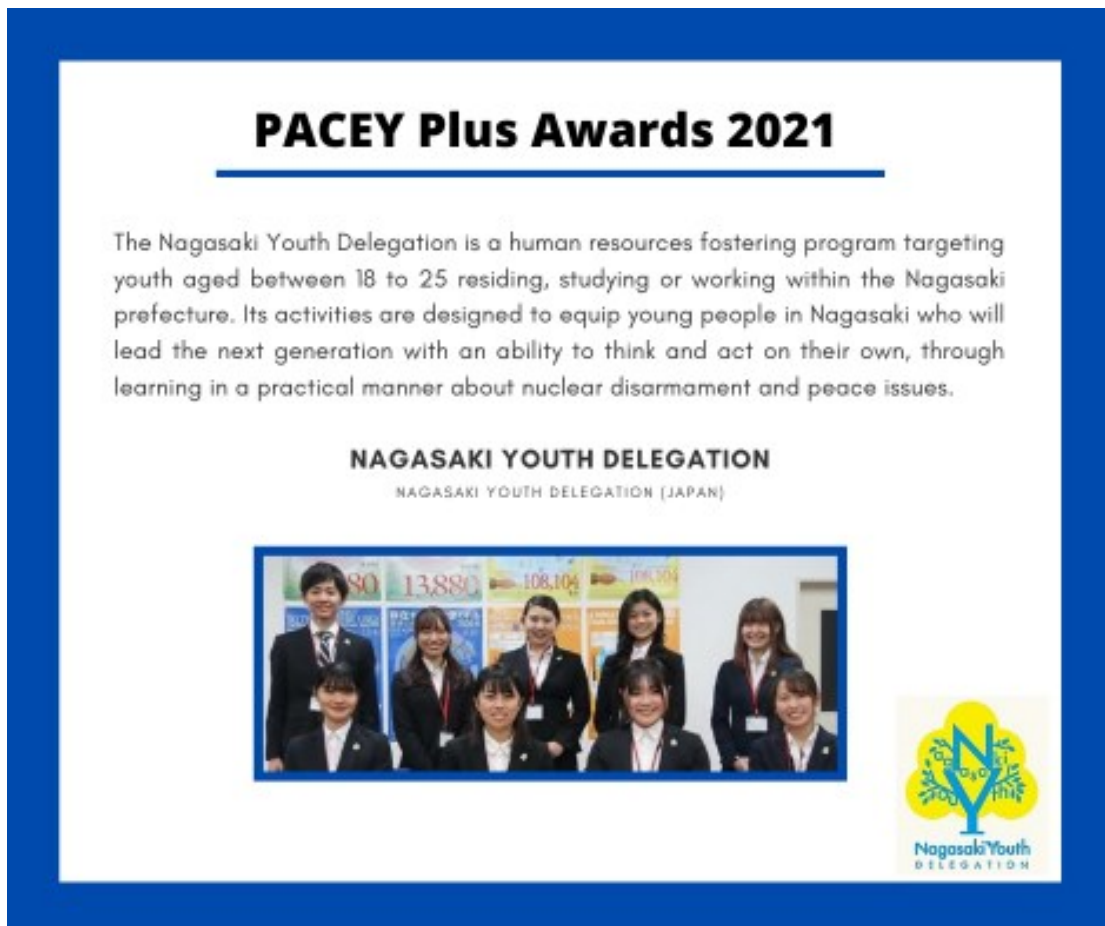
The 9th Nagasaki Youth Delegation Members with Ms. Natsuki Yasuda, a Photojournalist (Photo by RECNA)

**W**e the nine members of the ninth Nagasaki Youth Delegation—Akito Ariyoshi, Honoka Ozono, Yui Kawajiri, Nao Suzuki, Kaede Nakamura, Yuka Fujita, Hikaru Miyamoto, Ayane Murakami, and Miyu Yamaguchi—have actively served in this capacity over a period of nine months.

This year, as last, the outbreak of COVID-19 has compelled us to substantially curtail/revise the activities we had planned. We were unable to travel overseas, and our activities in Japan did not go entirely as we would have liked. We did, however, try to make the best of a bad situation by taking this as an opportunity to expand our web-based activities, collect data on a nationwide basis and otherwise innovate as best we could. Based on all of the activities that the Naga-

saki Youth Delegation has thus far built up, we participated in the competition for Beyond Europe/global project of the Peace and Climate action of European Youth (PACEY) Plus Award. Though we didn't win the award, we were selected as one of the three finalists for the category and were able to deliver a meaningful message to the world.

At our study groups, we felt that we were able to more deeply explore the complexly intertwined issues pertaining to nuclear weapons. There are no clear answers, and we all learned that the perspectives we should study are expanding diversely while at the same time we're feeling deeply the need to carry on learning throughout our lives. The nuclear weapons problem – the more you study it the harder to understand it becomes. In order to establish our own evidence-based opinions we all felt that we wanted to



Online presentation by the 9th Nagasaki Youth Delegation for the 2021 PACEY AWARD

(From the HP of the Basel Peace Office)



continue learning and taking action.

During a study tour in Nagasaki and Hiroshima we had the opportunity to visit many sites, including the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, Peace Parks, and the remnants of an elementary school damaged in the atomic bombing. We were once again struck by the realization that people lived here, people just like us. We talked to a newspaper reporter, who told us of activities to gather and preserve photographs and first-hand accounts of the era. We could envision people, real people, people who had loved ones. We reaffirmed the importance of our work in learning about these people, thinking about them, and telling their stories to others.

Based on our training and experience with study groups and tours, we gave visiting lectures to students, mainly at elementary, junior high and high schools. We tried to avoid taking an approach in which we just lectured them, instead giving students ample opportunity to tell us what they themselves think. In this way we tried to provide an opportunity for the students to encounter Peace Education as a lesson from the past, and as an active learning session for each one of them to extend the lessons they had learned and generate ideas for the future.

In addition, we conducted a survey on the attitudes of 18- to 25-year olds throughout Japan about the Peace Education they received in elementary school. We found that there are regional differences in the frequency and content of such education (please refer to our website for a detailed report). Someday, the last of the atomic bombing survivors will pass away, and there will come a generation that has never heard war experiences directly from people who were there at the time. We were struck once more by the need to rethink how we can pass on this wartime history to our children.

We have learned much through both hosting and organizing online events. In particular, at a workshop entitled “An Undying Wish: Abolish Nuclear Weapons” held last June, we were able to exchange opin-

ions with not only young people of the same generation, but also people of all ages and nationalities.

Through our activities, we once again came to feel the importance of interpersonal bonds. Our strength as individuals may well be not much. But as the saying “We may have little power, but we are not powerless” suggests, we all felt that even a little power can flourish into a force with tremendous influence if it is linked together with comrades who share the same sentiments.

For information on the activities of the Ninth Nagasaki Youth Delegation please visit our website at <https://www.pcu-nc.jp/en/nagasaki-youth-delegation/>.



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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

E-mail. [recna\\_staff@m.nagasaki-u.ac.jp](mailto:recna_staff@m.nagasaki-u.ac.jp)

<http://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/en-top/>

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