

On the commencement of publication

The RECNA Resolved to Shift Conditions toward a World Free of Nuclear Weapons and to Bring Up Youth Leaders

UMEBAYASHI, Hiromichi

Director, Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA)



(Director Umebayashi)

Following a preparatory period of approximately two years, Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA), perhaps the first center in the world to deal exclusively with the issue of nuclear weapons abolition, was inaugurated on April 1, 2012.

The meeting of past history and the good fortune of the present provided the backdrop of RECNA's establishment. The predecessor of the present Nagasaki University School of Medicine stood at point-blank range when an atomic

bomb was dropped on August 9, 1945. Having inherited such a history, there has long been a desire to see the university contribute academically to efforts to bring about a world free of nuclear weapons. In October of 2006, a movement was initiated in the U.S. to transcend the theory of nuclear deterrence of the Cold War era, followed by the speech of the President Obama in Prague that gave birth to a new worldwide momentum for the elimination of nuclear arms. It was at this point in time, when history and the present were coming together, that discussions on the establishment of RECNA began in Nagasaki. Over the course of these discussions, RECNA took shape as an organization that would work toward the following three objectives:

- (1) To transmit knowledge and proposals that will contribute to nuclear weapons abolition, based upon academic studies and analysis.
- (2) To help contribute to the independent-thinking, cognitive ability and personal growth of students through using this process and the results obtained.
- (3) To function as a think tank to serve local citizens interested in abolishing nuclear weapons.

As a subject for research, nuclear weapons abolition is very specific theme that is highly rooted in actual practices and therefore characterized as a field, not only interdisciplinary in the academic sector but also sector-transcending. For example, nuclear deterrence theory that dominates nuclear weapons policy, has many facets and touches on fields such as political science, military studies, history, psychology and law. The people in positions of responsibility in these fields are not only academics, but also politicians, diplomats, journalists, activists and religious leaders who independently make intellectual contributions based upon their own thinking cultivated during activities in their sectors.

When looking at the characteristics of this type of research subject, we see that it is essential that a foundation of factual information be built up and expanded upon so as to provide a common ground. With that goal in mind, RECNA has set about creating a data base that will extend across a wide variety of fields related to nuclear abolition. This will include country-by-country listings for nuclear-weapon type (warheads and delivery systems), nuclear capability and policy for use, as well as content about amounts of weapons-

use fissile materials possessed, nuclear weapon-free zones (NWFZs), legal documents, resolutions at the United Nations General Assembly, non-governmental policy recommendations, documents created by local authorities, collections of quotations and the names and locations of publications aimed at the general readership.

In addition to maintaining this foundation of factual information, the primary tasks for RECNA will be the tracking of the ever-changing state of affairs regarding nuclear weapons, the continuous dispatch of information, and the grasping of the underlying dynamics of the situation. The observing and tracking of changes in the state of affairs will be necessary for advancing the findings of researchers and will also be of great significance for the capacity building of citizens' movements to abolish nuclear weapons. By knowing about the constant changes in the issue of nuclear weapons abolishment, it will be possible for citizens to become directly involved in this matter timely ways on a regular basis.

Specifically, RECNA will track and report on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference and its Preparatory Committee, the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament. This activity of tracking and reporting will be conducted in conjunction with the maintaining of the above-mentioned data base. In addition, this maintenance will also include the concurrent release of the past documents or factual information that are necessary to understand the new development.

While it is possible to consider the present state of affairs, to which the creation of RECNA is tied, as a trend in which the paradigm shifts away from nuclear deterrence to a world free of nuclear weapons, the mentality of the Cold War era remains firmly in place even in this age of multi-polarization. For the purpose of increasing the momentum of the new trend and shifting the current conditions, emphasis is being placed on three critical areas:

- (1) A nuclear weapons convention or a framework of separate instruments (as proposed by the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in 2008)
- (2) The establishment of new NWFZs or strengthening of existing zones (in the Middle East, Northeast Asia, the Arctic Circle and so on)
- (3) Nuclear disarmament efforts focused on international humanitarian laws

In all of these areas, the focus will be on which group of countries will step forward to take leadership roles. Fresh initiatives are needed if changes are to be made to the current state of affairs.

As regards to RECNA, we are committed to bringing about changes in the policies of the government of Japan, where the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki took place. Unfortunately the government of Japan is generally considered to be passive on the issue of nuclear abolition while fervent on the issue of nuclear non-proliferation. This current state of affairs clearly arose as the result

of Japan's long-standing policy on security, under which it is assumed that the U.S. extended nuclear deterrence is essential for the security of the country. At RECNA we would like to attempt to change the present situation by proposing a new approach to a Northeast Asia NWFZ as a policy alternative to the extended nuclear deterrence.

The achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons is a pressing issue. As knowledge pertaining to nuclear weapons will never disappear, it will be essential to cultivate proactive young leaders in order to achieve and maintain such a world. RECNA hopes to contribute by making Nagasaki University a stronghold for the nurturing of such human resources. In order to do so, a dual approach, with fundamental knowledge being built up through lectures and training and proactive behavior being formed through interaction with the real world of local and international communities.

For RECNA to undertake these activities, the cooperation of people from many different fields will be indispensable. We sincerely ask for support in these endeavors.



(RECNA Office)

Joint hosting with PNND Japan of a report meeting for diet members

NAKAMURA, Keiko
Associate Professor, RECNA

I was assigned as a monitor from RECNA throughout the entirety of the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, held in Vienna International Center from April 30th to May 11th 2012. In addition, the director of the Center, Hiromichi Umebayashi, and Susumu Shirabe, Trustee of Nagasaki Univ., also visited Vienna, and over the Internet transmitted every single turn of events at the meetings to Japan, on an almost daily basis.

On May 17th RECNA jointly hosted with Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, Japan (PNND Japan) a report meeting on the Session. The meeting was held at the Second Members' Office Buildings of the House of Representatives in Tokyo. PNND is a worldwide network of parliamentarians with an interest in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, consisting of over 800 members in 80 countries across the globe. As of April 23rd 2012 the Japanese section of PNND enjoys the cross-party participation of 56 Diet members. A more detailed introduction to the activities of PNND Japan can be found in Japanese at the organization's website: <http://www.pnnd.jp/index.html>

The meeting started with some welcoming remarks by Taro Kono, a member of the House of Representatives and the president of PNND Japan, followed by the reading out of a message from Tomihisa Taue, the Mayor of Nagasaki City. Then, I presented my report on the Preparatory Committee, and Director Hiromichi Umebayashi, who is also serving as the PNND East Asian coordinator, described the international activities taken by PNND in Vienna. Hideo Hiraoka (a member of the House of Representatives, and an acting-president of PNND Japan and PNND Global Council member, currently PNND Co-president) reported on PNND Japan's works. The interest of all the participants was drawn by new developments such as the establishment of a working team to promote a

Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone through the will of Diet members affiliated to PNND Japan. The meeting finished with some closing remarks by the Trustee Shirabe.

The meeting was attended by 18 Diet members (five of whom were participating by proxy) from various political parties, and included a vigorous question and answer session touching upon issues such as the stance of the Japanese government and its international assessments. Moreover, as the meeting was open to the public, there were many participants including those from mass media organizations and citizens groups in the metropolitan area.

The leadership of Diet members is absolutely essential in order to ensure that government policy reflects the people's desire for nuclear disarmament. RECNA will continue to closely watch the activities of Diet members working on nuclear disarmament activities in Japan and overseas, and intends to provide whatever support it can provide.



(Vienna International Center)

The 2012 Nagasaki Peace Declaration

MINE, Mariko
Professor, RECNA

The Nagasaki Peace Declaration was read out again this year at the Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremony on August 9th. In addition to the original Japanese document, the Declaration has been translated into nine languages (English, Chinese, Korean, French, Russian, Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese and Dutch, please find the full text in each language through <http://www1.city.nagasaki.nagasaki.jp/peace/japanese/appeal/pdf/index.html>) and transmitted across the globe.

This year's Declaration has three special features, and I will explain them with the relevant quotations from the text below.

The first is a inclusion of a phrase about the 'inhumanity of nuclear weapons.' The Declaration states: that: 'In May 2012, the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference was held in Vienna. At the session, representatives of many countries cited the inhumanity of nuclear weapons, and a Joint Statement on the Humanitarian Dimension of Nuclear Disarmament was presented on behalf of sixteen countries.' This is a reflection of the international trend that seeks to examine the legal issues inherent in nuclear weapons from a new angle, and can be described as a mention of the new possibilities in the road towards abolishing nuclear weapons.

The second feature is a mention about the initiative of ‘a Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone,’ regarding which the text explains: ‘... this year efforts are being made to organize a meeting to discuss the creation of a Middle East Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone. To date, we have repeatedly called on the Japanese government to work toward the creation of a Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone.’ Against the background of a situation in Northeast Asia that cannot currently be described as good, this part of the text is a plea for direct initiatives to be taken by Japan towards nuclear weapons in Northeast Asia, the most immediate problem from the perspective of this country. It raises the issue that we have to think about what is expected from Japan in a global sense now.

The third feature is the explanation of the establishment of RECNA, which is incorporated into the text as below. ‘In April 2012, the long-awaited Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (RECNA) was established at Nagasaki University. RECNA is expected to serve as a hub for networking and disseminating information and proposals pertinent to the abolition of nuclear weapons. With the establishment of RECNA, we here in Nagasaki are determined more than ever to further our work to fulfill the mission tasked to us as an atomic bombed city.’ This section of the text is obviously a reminder to those of us on the staff of RECNA about the considerable expectations and responsibilities we shoulder.

Three people from RECNA participated in the committee that drafted the text of this year’s Peace Declaration: Hiromichi Umebayashi, the Center’s director; Masao Tomonaga, a visiting professor; and Hideo Tsuchiyama, the Center’s adviser. The view that already a ‘RECNA flavor’ can be detected in the text of this year’s Declaration has been voiced in some quarters and I honestly believe that the Declaration was a message to the world that suited the current state of affairs we find ourselves in. And at the same time I feel that it is also a presentation of the issues that RECNA must now go on to tackle in a practical manner.



(Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremony)

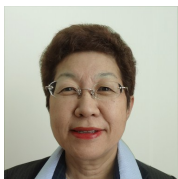
Staff of RECNA



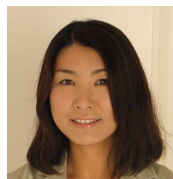
UMEBAYASHI, Hiromichi
Director, Professor
Ph.D in Engineering
Peace activist and researcher, founder of NGO
“Peace Depot”



HIROSE, Satoshi
Vice Director, Professor
Former Legal Adviser to the Japanese Delegation
to the Conference on Disarmament in Genève



MINE, Mariko
Professor
An extensive career as a researcher at Atomic
Bomb Disease Institute, Graduate School of Bio-
medical Science, Nagasaki University



NAKAMURA, Keiko
Associate Professor
Former Secretary-General of “Peace Depot”



Himeno, Jun'ichi
Professor (part-time)
Ph.D in Economics
Director of the University Library



Jun, Byungdug
Professor (part-time)
Faculty of Education
Conducting research on peace education



TOMONAGA, Masao
(Visiting Professor)
Director of the Japanese Red Cross Nagasaki
Genbaku Hospital



TOHGE, Kenji
(Visiting Professor)
Editorial Writer of the Nagasaki Shimbun



NISHIDA, Mitsuru
(Visiting Associate Professor)



TSUCHIYAMA, Hideo
(Advisor)
Former President of Nagasaki University



KUROSAWA, Mitsuru
(Advisor)
Professor of Oosakajogakuin University
President of Japan Association of Disarma-
ment Studies



Volume 1, No. 1 December 31, 2012

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@ml.nagasaki-u.ac.jp
<http://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/en-top/> © RECNA