



## Taking up my post—Reasoning from an atomic-bombed city

Fumihiko Yoshida (RECNA Vice Director)

I have recently become a professor at the Nagasaki University Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (RECNA). My father grew up in Nagasaki and I often had the opportunity to visit Nagasaki when I was a child but this will be my first time to actually live and work in Nagasaki. I'm looking forward to working with you.

After graduating from university, I worked at the Asahi Shimbun Company for a very long time. During my last 15 years at the company as an editorial writer, I wrote editorial articles on global issues including those on nuclear weapons. I was often asked what caused me to make the abolition of nuclear weapons my main theme in writing such articles. I wrote the following in a local magazine published by Asahi:

When I went to the teachers' room in junior high school, my social studies teacher was reading the newspaper. I don't remember exactly but the word nuclear was in the headline. When I asked my teacher about it, they said that the United States and the [former] Soviet Union were having talks about reducing nuclear weapons. What shocked me most was what the teacher explained to me after that.

“These two countries possess enough nuclear weapons to destroy the world many times over. Up until now they have just kept increasing their nuclear arsenals but finally they are making moves to talk about decreasing the arsenals instead. I don't know what will come of it but I'd like to believe that people aren't so stupid.”

Previous to that, I had known the facts of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki but when I heard my teacher talk, and realized that my future and indeed the future of all human beings could be destroyed the next day by the huge amount of nuclear weapons in existence... I clearly remember how anxious I felt then.

As an adult I learned a lot from the writings of the Japanese critic, Shuichi Kato. He reflected on the closing of the twentieth century as follows:

The purpose of the project to make an atomic bomb was to suppress Hitler in World War II. However, the project continued even after Germany surrendered. Upon completion, atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Not all of the details of that harrowing result could have been anticipated. Indeed, surely no one could have realized the fear of the nuclear weapons race that would continue afterwards...Scientific technology is a double-edged sword. No one knew what kind of monster would appear by rubbing Aladdin's lamp. The monster could save humankind or destroy it instead. This century we have gradually become even more conscious of this.

These heavy words still resonate deep within me. If humankind are not fools, then when will we be able to bury and be done with that monster we know of as nuclear weapons? What kind of Aladdin do we have to be and what should we do to what kind of lamp, in order to get closer to that goal? This challenge is immense: to get those people who think nuclear weapons will save humankind to correct their way of thinking. By relying on my conviction that the reasoning for this lies in this very place, a city that has experienced an atomic bombing, I will do my best to come up with a plan to meet this challenge. In closing, I ask for your help and cooperation with this too.

## Public Symposium: The Threat of Nuclear Terrorism in North East Asia

Tatsujiro Suzuki (RECNA Director)

On January 22, 2017, RECNA held a public symposium for the first time regarding nuclear terrorism aimed at nuclear power facilities. Directly before the symposium, the United States NGO, the Nautilus Institute, held a workshop that was cosponsored with RECNA. The workshop was ti-

tled “Reducing Risk of Nuclear Terrorism and Spent Fuel Vulnerability in East Asia” and was held at Nagasaki Onsen Yasuragi Ioujima over a two-day period. Bearing in mind the results of the workshop, a discussion about the threat of nuclear terrorism towards nuclear power facilities was held with Dr. Martha Crenshaw

shaw of Stanford University as the keynote speaker, and with a panel consisting of four members: Mr. Isao Itabashi, head of the Council for Public Policy's research center ; Dr. Yongsoo Hwang, Principal Researcher, Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute; Dr. Hui Zhang (Chinese), Senior Research Associate at the Harvard Kennedy School; and Dr. Peter Hayes of the Nautilus Institute. Dr. Crenshaw said that while deterrents against terrorism were necessary, it is difficult to completely prevent terrorism and emphasized that countermeasures for internal threats were vital. During the panel discussion, measures and issues relating to nuclear terrorism in each country were taken up. Throughout the entire discussion, it was emphasized that a threat of nuclear terrorism does exist and even if the possibility is negligible, if something did occur the damage would be tremendous. Therefore, sufficient countermeasures are absolutely necessary. Furthermore, in order to reduce risks and to prevent threats of nuclear terrorism in North East Asia, it was emphasized that international cooperation is vital. From RECNA's standpoint, not only the threat of nuclear weapons but also the issue of nuclear threats from nuclear power used for civilian purposes is also of major concern and RECNA intends to continue to take up the issue of nuclear terrorism in the future too, in order to reduce any risks. It is important that



Dr. Martha Crenshaw giving a Keynote Address at the Symposium in Nagasaki, 23 January 2017  
Photo by RECNA

RECNA plays an active role in reducing the threats by providing reliable information from an objective standpoint, beyond the perspective of being either for or against nuclear power generation

## Public Symposium: South Asia's Nuclear Danger

Tatsujiro Suzuki (RECNA Director)

**O**n February 2nd, in the School of Medicine's Pompe van Meerdervoort Hall, a special lecture titled "South Asia's Nuclear Danger" was given by Dr. Zia Mian, who is co-director of the Program on Science and Global Security at Princeton University in the United States. Dr. Mian is a physicist and is originally from Pakistan but holds British nationality. He has been researching nuclear issues at Princeton University for more than twenty years and is co-chair of the International Panel on Fissile Materials (IPFM).

In his lecture, Dr. Mian talked about how both India and Pakistan are increasing their nuclear weapons program at a rapid pace. Using detailed data, Dr. Mian explained that there is a strong likelihood that if a conflict broke out between the two countries, it could easily escalate into a nuclear war. He also explained that despite a United Nations Security Council resolution prohibiting aid to help either country develop nuclear weapons when nuclear tests were held in 1998, countries including the United States, France, Russia and also Japan, proceeded to provide help in the field of nuclear power for the sake of business, leading to the loss of an opportunity to stop the development of nuclear weapons by both countries.

When a member of the audience asked if there was no way out of the problem, Dr. Mian gave the scheduled commencement of negotiations for a Nuclear Weapons Convention as the only bright topic to be seen. He said that if this were successful then it may trigger a way out of the problem. The audience of fifty members, which included high school and university students, listened



Dr. Zia Mian giving a Keynote Address at the Symposium in Nagasaki, 2 February 2017  
Photo by RECNA

intently to his lecture. Dr. Mian also gave a closed-door lecture titled "Nuclear Policies under the Trump Administration" at the RECNA Research Seminar while in Tokyo he held two lectures not open to the public titled "Nuclear Disarmament and Non-proliferation Education in the United States" and "Nuclear Policies under the Trump Administration."

Dr. Mian came to Japan at the invitation of RECNA and stayed in Japan until February 4th, including the two meetings he attended in Tokyo.

## Nagasaki Youth Delegation : Members of the Fifth Nagasaki Youth Delegation are Chosen

The Nagasaki Youth Delegation, which is sponsored by the PCU-Nagasaki Council for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (PCU-NC), marks its fifth year and nine people have been chosen to be the members of the Fifth Nagasaki Youth Delegation. They are listed below. The new members are slated to visit Vienna, Austria, in May for the First Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Around that time, the new members will also carry out activities necessary for sending messages from Nagasaki towards the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Kei Katayama, 2nd year student, Faculty of Education, Nagasaki University

This year marks 72 years since the atomic bombing and I feel that it is vital for the younger generation to play an active part now. As a member of the Fifth Youth Delegation, I hope to continue the Peace Caravan (which was initiated by the Fourth Youth Delegation). I would like to express my gratitude for this precious opportunity given to me. I intend to be very active during my time as a Youth Delegation member.

Yuka Kitazato, 2nd year student, School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences, Nagasaki University

As someone who has heard survivors speak of the atomic bombing, I consider their words to be very important. While focusing upon the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons, and critically studying the global situation regarding nuclear arms, I intend to decide upon what kind of approach I will take towards this issue myself.

Tamaki Sakai, 1st year student, Department of Comparative Culture, Faculty of Humanities, Nagasaki Junshin Catholic University

So far, I have studied about peace and atomic bombs, and nuclear weapons at Shiroyama Elementary School and at Fuchi Junior High School. I became interested in participating in the Youth Delegation because I want to make use of what I have learnt so far together with my experiences to convey thoughts about peace and nuclear weapons to future generations from Nagasaki.

I especially want to convey broadly and deeply what I gain from the Youth Delegation to those of the same generation as me.

Susumu Tateishi, 3rd year student, Faculty of Global Communication, University of Nagasaki

I'm from Miyazaki prefecture and I became interested in nuclear issues through volunteer activities for peace which I began after I came to Nagasaki to go to university. Through the activities I intend to find some way of



Members of the Fifth Nagasaki Youth Delegation,  
10 January 2017  
Photo by RECNA

solving the nuclear issue by employing two perspectives: the reality of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings; and a practical approach.

Asuka Nishigaki, 2nd year student, School of Medicine, Nagasaki University

I applied to join the Youth Delegation in order to think rigorously about World War II, the atomic bombings and nuclear weapons from several neutral viewpoints, and in the hope that I would find a certain degree of answers to the questions in my mind. I would like to make the most of this opportunity and learn as much as I can.

Risa Nomura, 1st year student, School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences, Nagasaki University

I was born and grew up in Okinawa and from when I was a child, I received education about peace and was taught about the cruelty of war. I hope to learn more through the Nagasaki Youth Delegation activities so that I myself will be able to communicate what I have learned to society at large. I want to help create a peaceful world by ridding the world of war and nuclear weapons.

Atsumi Fukui, 1st year student, School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences, Nagasaki University

I am very happy that I can make a contribution to peace and disarmament as a member of the Nagasaki Youth Delegation. Through the delegation's activities, I hope to deepen my understanding and knowledge about nuclear weapons and peace. I intend to share what I have gained through meetings with experts and government

officials involved in these issues, at places where peace education is carried out in Japan.

Hanako Mitsuoka, 3rd year student, Faculty of Education, Nagasaki University

Regarding whether it is better to have nuclear weapons or not, I definitely think it is better not to have nuclear weapons. I don't possess much knowledge about this yet but after finding out about any differences in peace education between Nagasaki and my hometown of Saga, and also about efforts towards a world without nuclear weapons, I now hope to be of some help. I'll do my best to expand the possibilities for peace and disarmament from the viewpoint of education.

Yuri Yamada, Nagasaki Citizen

My grandfather told me about his experiences of the atomic bombing and I applied to join the Youth Delegation in the hope that I could do something, however small, to help realize world peace. My dream is to become a classical singer and I would like to incorporate the experiences of those who suffered the atomic bombing into lyrics for songs to convey the misery that the use of nuclear weapons cause, as well as how important peace is.

## Dispatches from Nagasaki No.19

### The 26<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues: Reactions from Nagasaki

Satoshi Hirose (RECNA Vice Director)

On December 12th and 13th, 2016, the 26th United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues was held in Nagasaki. It marked the third time that United Nations Conferences on Disarmament Issues have been held in Nagasaki. The conference was attended by Kim Won-soo, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs as well as approximately 30 overseas guests from more than 20 countries. Attendees from within Japan numbered more than one hundred including approximately 70 students from local high schools.

The purpose of this Conference is not for diplomatic negotiations but to provide a forum for foreign diplomats, government officials, and United Nations officials, as well as researchers and representatives of NGOs to engage in frank and open discussion on disarmament issues. However, many foreign diplomats and government officials attended this conference and some sessions seemed like a continuation of diplomatic meetings. At sessions regarding the current situation of nuclear disarmament negotiations and sessions regarding NPT, government officials from the United States and Russia were highly critical of the commencement of negotiations at the United Nations towards a nuclear weapons convention. In other sessions which handled regional issues, participants from Arab countries and participants from Israel fiercely opposed each other over the Middle East's denuclearization. Such scenes as these, which have been repeated dozens of times at United Nations meetings, the NPT Review Conferences, the Conference on Disarmament, and so on, were repeated again in Nagasaki.

Nagasaki citizens who were listening to the proceedings seemed to be quite shocked by such scenes. Of course, up until now the citizens of Nagasaki have had many opportunities to listen to opinions expressed by foreign experts on nuclear disarmament at the many international conferences held in Nagasaki regarding nuclear disarmament, including those conferences held by REC-

NA. However, nearly all occasions were from the standpoint of actively promoting nuclear disarmament. This time many Nagasaki citizens expressed confusion after having been bombarded by views expressed by government officials from various countries favoring policies based on a realistic theory that gives priority to security from nuclear deterrents rather than the abolition of nuclear weapons. At this conference was Yoshiro Yamawaki, a survivor of the atomic bombing who spoke in English to the conference participants about his experiences. Mr. Yamawaki candidly expressed his doubts about the outcome of the conference, telling the Nagasaki Shimbun that: "The clash of opinion between nuclear powers, such as the United States and Russia, and non-nuclear powers, such as Austria, was very noticeable at this conference. What exactly were the outcomes of the conference this time? Was it a conference for each country to assert their own standpoint? The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Fumio Kishida, said in a video message that 'reminding everyone of the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons should be the starting point,' but was this really the outcome of the conference? I very much doubt it." (December 19, 2016). It appeared that many of those who were in the audience at the conference shared similar feelings of doubt and skepticism about the contents of the conference. Of course, the purpose of this conference is only to have an exchange of opinions and not to meet any kind of accord. Even so, the discussions actually conducted at the conference poured cold water on the fervent hopes of the citizens of Nagasaki for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

However, when pondering as to whether holding this United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues was a negative thing for Nagasaki, most likely it was a positive thing. One person who was in the audience said that

in regard to the assertions of participants from countries promoting nuclear deterrents, they felt the need to be even greater for the abolition of nuclear weapons to be accomplished with the power of civil society. A Nagasaki high school student who was in the audience remarked that aside from the content of the conference, they were very impressed by Japanese participants who could carry out a discussion in English on a level footing with foreign participants. The student also said that the dignified manner in which Dr. Masao Tomonaga, Visiting Professor at RECNA and also Honorary Director of the Japanese Red Cross Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Hospital, gave a presentation in English about Nagasaki was stylish and deeply impressive. Takashi Yuguchi, principal of Kwassui Senior High School, listened in the audience together with his students. He said that by being in the audience at the conference, his students were able to see Japanese people who fulfil active roles in international society, and this has provided them with a concrete goal to aim for. Mr. Yuguchi said he hoped that this experience would provide some motivation for the students to work hard in their studies, especially English studies.

To be honest, most of those in the audience at the conference held this time in Nagasaki were dissatisfied with the content. However, one favorable outcome was that some present renewed their resolve toward nuclear disarmament by seeing for themselves the real state of the international community regarding the issue. It is to be hoped that the experience of being in the audience of the conference proved to be a good stimulus for the younger generation.