

Strengthening Collaboration with Korean Research Institutions: Renewal of the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Institute for Peace and Unification Studies (IPUS)

Tatsujiro Suzuki (Director, RECNA)

On Wednesday, January 9, 2019, the Institute for Peace and Unification Studies (IPUS) at Seoul National University and RECNA held a signing ceremony of the renewed Memorandum of Cooperation and a press conference at RECNA. Professor Kyung Hoon Leem, Director of IPUS, and six other IPUS staff visited RECNA for the ceremony. Their fields of expertise ranged from political science, economics, agricultural economics, peace studies, constitutional studies and reflected the diversity of IPUS.

The original Memorandum of Cooperation between IPUS and RECNA, while based on the Agreement on Academic Cooperation between Seoul National University and Nagasaki University (concluded on July 16, 2007 and renewed on July 16, 2012), was signed by the two research institutions on February 1, 2014.

The catalyst for cooperation between the two research institutions was the participation by IPUS staff in the event “Developing a Comprehensive Approach to a Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone – Workshop II” held in June 2013 by RECNA at the Hanshin University in South Korea. Taking this opportunity, Professor Satoshi Hirose, RECNA Vice Director, and Professor Byungdug Jun visited IPUS in January 2014. As a result of an exchange of opinions on the creation of cooperative relations, a memorandum was concluded in February that year. In accordance with that, IPUS staff participated in “Developing a Comprehensive Approach to a Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone – Workshop



Signing Ceremony. Prof. Kyung Hoon Leem, Director of IPUS (left), and Prof. Tatsujiro Suzuki, Director of RECNA (right)

(Jan. 9, 2019, at RECNA, Photo by RECNA)



IPUS researchers and RECNA staff

(Jan. 9, 2019, at RECNA, Photo by RECNA)

III” held by RECNA in Tokyo in September 2014, while the Nagasaki Youth Delegation visited IPUS in April 2016 for exchanges of opinion. In this manner, exchanges had been taking place.

However, since then exchanges between the two research institutions came to a halt for a while. In

2018 sudden changes that occurred in the Korean peninsula situation triggered a review towards reactivating exchanges again. When RECNA staff visited the Seoul National University in November 2018, agreement was reached following an exchange of opinions with IPUS staff to renew the memorandum.

IPUS, an independent research institute established at the Seoul National University campus, is not affiliated to any particular college, the same as RECNA. IPUS has a Center for Unification Studies and also a Peace and Humanities Research Group. However, their research is not limited to unification issues or analyzing the political and economic situation in North Korea but also covers peace studies and confidence-building. IPUS does not have many experts on nuclear issues and therefore the cooperative relationship with RECNA is extremely significant for IPUS for research on the denuclearization issue, Director Leem said at the press conference. On the other hand, RECNA is lacking in expertise about the Korean Peninsula so the expertise of IPUS which covers many fields is extremely appealing from the perspective of researching denuclearization in northeast Asia.

After the signing ceremony and the press confer-

ence, Professor Sung Chull Kim, who is very knowledgeable about the situation in North Korea, gave a commentary for the journalists offering important information about the latest trends and future issues. In particular, he shared some important views including the ideas that instead of seeking a complete denuclearization, it is important to proceed with verifiable denuclearization, even partially; what is important is to achieve peace for the Korean peninsula, not only denuclearization, and that we should firstly be aware that Japan and South Korea share common goals. After the meeting, IPUS visitors paid a courtesy call to Nagasaki University President, Shigeru Kohno and held an exchange of opinions.

In conclusion, I would like to say that as is introduced in this newsletter, in addition to IPUS, RECNA will also redevelop cooperative relations with the Sejong Institute and Hanshin University, and strengthen our collaborative relations with the Nautilus Institute for Security and Sustainability and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in the United States. It is our intention to strengthen our ability to make policy proposals for the denuclearization of northeast Asia through the creation of a network of Japanese, Korean and American experts.

A New Collaboration with the Sejong Institute in South Korea

Fumihiko Yoshida (Vice Director, RECNA)

On November 29, 2018, a research team mainly composed of the staff from the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (RECNA) visited the Sejong Institute, one of the leading private research institutes in South Korea. Our team received a warm reception from Dr. Haksoon Paik, the Institute's president, and Dr. Myon Woo Lee, the vice president, with our main purpose to deepen our cooperative relations through research exchanges and policy proposals, in light of recent new movement in the situation regarding the denuclearization of North Korea.

The Sejong Institute was established in 1983. In

addition to research related to South Korean national security and inter-Korean unification, the institute conducts educational and training programs as well as research necessary for South Korea's international relations. Upon our arrival at the institute with its impressive architecture and located on the outskirts of Seoul, we were welcomed by Vice President Lee who is fluent in Japanese. He escorted us to President Paik's office.

After we gave an explanation of RECNA's history of building international networks for the denuclearization of Northeast Asia and making numerous policy proposals, President Paik responded by commenting that the state of affairs in the Korean Peninsula may

change dramatically as a result of the 2018 Inter-Korean Summit and the North Korea-United States Singapore Summit. He also said he thinks more effort is needed in research on denuclearization in Northeast Asia, an issue to which RECNA attaches a great deal of importance.

Following that, we received an explanation from Vice President Lee about the organizational structure of the Sejong Institute, research conducted by the institute and also its educational and training programs. The institute maintains the Center for Japanese Studies and the high degree of expert analysis continued by the Center was impressive. Finally, we participated in an exchange of opinions about the denuclearization of Northeast Asia with President Paik, Vice President Lee and others who are experts in the field of national security, North Korea issues and so on.

As a result of the conversations we had with President Paik during our visit and also exchanges of emails after our return to Japan, we have reached a basic agreement to hold a meeting of international experts in Seoul in the first half of FY2019, under the joint auspices of RECNA and the Sejong Institute, with the results of the discussions being dispatched to the world. RECNA intends to continue our exchanges with the National Seoul University, etc., but from the perspective of strengthening our ability to communicate within the international community, we feel that our new partnership with the Sejong Institute is a significant step. We hope to strengthen our cooperative relations so as to ensure that the meeting of experts slated for this year will prove fruitful.

Upon the conclusion of “Workshop III Building a world without nuclear weapons with future generations” of the 6th Nagasaki Global Citizens’ Assembly for Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

Hanako Mitsuoka (Youth Union for Peace)

“Injecting more of a feeling of excitement into peace activities”

The Youth Union for Peace is composed of about ten young members including university students, and we were in charge of the planning and operation of Workshop III of the Sixth Nagasaki Global Citizens’ Assembly for Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. As we pushed forward with preparations for the day of the workshop, our sentiments towards the motto grew stronger.

We feel that the issue of nuclear weapons is not simply for the cities that have experienced an atomic bombing but it is an issue for each and every one of us. So we conducted an attitude survey about the nuclear weapons issue with young people throughout Japan. We received 1,187 responses from which we found that although approximately 80% of the respondents had an interest in the nuclear weapons issue, those with experience in actual activities was



Youth Union for Peace

(Nov. 17, 2018, at Nagasaki City Peace Hall, Photo by Nagasaki Global Citizens’ Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons)

only 20%. In addition, we found out that young people had negative images of the phrases “abolition of nuclear weapons” and “peace activities.” The reason was that they felt issues concerning nuclear weapons had nothing to do with them as individuals and they had an innate wish to not have anything to do with politics. They felt that if they participated in such

activities, their impression amongst those around them may be tarnished. These were the frank opinions of the young people who responded to our survey.

From these results, we realized that we need to get rid of the image of peace activities as being stiff and formal, and difficult to take part in. Peace activities are something anyone can get involved in, and they should be conducted with a feeling of excitement about having an opportunity to change the future. Of course, it is still necessary to be enthusiastic about peace activities and treat them seriously, but if the concept of them as a minority activity continues, people will not realize these are issues that each of us should be concerned about, and they will end up as something only certain people are involved in. It is therefore important to create an environment where dialog with a variety of people is possible, which is why we revealed the survey results and set up a time for discussion at the workshop.

People who met for the first time at the workshop sat around tables and shared their opinions, had discussions about their feelings about peace and about



Workshop III Panel discussion
(Nov. 17, 2018, at Nagasaki City Peace Hall, Photo by Youth Union for Peace)

how to overcome issues before us. We felt that we had been able to discover the importance of dialog and also the possibilities that the younger generation possess.

It is not just activities with a major impact that are necessary for peace; the actions and attitudes of each person leads to peace. With this awareness, we hope to involve many more young people together in our activities.

What is the role of RECNA in the gap between the ideal and the reality of the recent Korean Peninsula situation ?

Byungdug Jun (Faculty of Education, Nagasaki University)

The Panel on Peace and Security in Northeast Asia (PSNA), which is sponsored by RECNA, is an important framework to appeal for the abolition of nuclear weapons in this region. In recent years, as nuclear tests by North Korea and subsequent activity has a profound impact on the situation in Northeast Asia, the activities of and role played by PSNA which carries the aspirations of Nagasaki, the last place to have experience an atomic bombing during wartime, is extremely significant. The participation of those who are experts about the situation in the Korean Peninsula, including North Korea, will be needed from now on at this panel.

Institute for Peace and Unification Studies (IPUS) at Seoul National University, Center for Peace and

Public Integrity (CPPI) at Hanshin University, Korea Institute for National Unification (KINU), Database Center for North Korea Human Rights (NKDB), Korean National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA), and the Sejong Institute (SI); these institutions that I was able to visit and where I could take part in discussions are our important partner institutions in Korea when considering peace and security in Northeast Asia. I would like to summarize my impressions gained during my visit this time.

First of all, great expectations are held of RECNA. Many institutions in Korea study peace and security but generally the focus is on the unification of the Korean Peninsula. Especially, I feel that this has become even stronger under the current Korean administration. However, researchers at the universities and

national institutes which I visited and took part in discussions showed understanding toward the Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (NEA-NWFZ) which RECNA is proposing, and there were many comments recognizing the necessity of the establishment of this zone. In South Korea, RECNA activities have achieved a certain amount of success and expectations appear to be high.

Secondly, there needs to be some kind of stratagem that can bridge the gap between ideals and reality. A comment from a participant I met at the meeting at KNDA left a deep impression on me. The gist of the comment was, with regard to the possibility of the

denuclearization of North Korea, a topic that is often discussed lately in international conferences, there is no answer to the questions of “Can they be trusted?” and “Is there any credibility?” The reason is because denuclearization is the ideal but concerns about trust and credibility are the reality; however, if North Korea feels there are any benefits to be had by denuclearization, then they would certainly precede down that path. For my part, I believe that reality is oriented towards benefit. I hope that RECNA will be able to come up with a stratagem that creates benefits as a subject for discussion by the panel, while also pursuing the ideal.

Dispatches from Nagasaki No.27

The notice of withdrawal from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty – Statement from an atomic-bombed city

Satoshi Hirose (Vice director, RECNA)

The announcement by the United States of its notification to Russia to withdraw from the INF Treaty has naturally attracted much criticism in the atomic-bombed city of Nagasaki. RECNA has already declared the decision by the United States as “an absolute act of folly”¹⁾ and there has also been a succession of protests from atomic bomb survivors’ organizations, peace activity groups, and local governments in Japan. Dr. Masao Tomonaga, chairman of the Nagasaki Global Citizens’ Assembly for Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, expressed his fears in comments such as “I feel as though the world is reverting back to the Cold War era, or even before that” and “the United States is playing around with the power of nuclear weapons.” Mr. Toyochi Ihara, president of the Society of Hibakusha Certificate Holders of Nagasaki Prefecture, also echoed this saying, “The move by these two countries (the United States and Russia) goes against the movement to eliminate nuclear weapons and all the hard work thus far will have been in vain” (Asahi Shimbun, February 3, 2019). Mr. Koichi Kawano, chairman of the Liaison Council of Hibakusha, Nagasaki Peace Movement Center, commented “Just when the opportunity is mounting

to eliminate nuclear weapons after so much effort, the boat is being rocked.” Mr. Takeshi Yamakawa, representative of the Nagasaki Citizens Association for Protesting U.S. Nuclear Testing expressed strong concerns in his comment “Not only between the two great nuclear powers, this will have a bad influence on the nuclear weapons situation globally and create an atmosphere opposing the elimination of nuclear weapons” (Nagasaki Shimbun, February 2, 2019).

Although having showed wholehearted approval of the Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) by the Trump Administration,²⁾ the Japanese government responded quickly to the notification of the US’s withdrawal from the INF Treaty with a comment from Foreign Minister Taro Kono at a press conference on February 1. While showing consideration for the position of the United States, Mr. Kono said that “the situation ... is not desirable for the world.”³⁾ Furthermore, in another press conference held on February 5, Mr. Kono said, “Japan will actively urge for expansion of the INF Treaty to countries that already possess such missiles as well as countries that are developing them”⁴⁾ bearing in mind that President Trump mentioned a new treaty to control intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

In regard to the stance shown by the Japanese government, Mr. Yamakawa said, “Japan should take the lead in protesting to the United States and play an intermediary role in preventing its withdrawal from the treaty” (Nagasaki Shimbun, February 2, 2019). In response to a remark on February 4 by Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga that he understands the decision by the United States to withdraw from the treaty, Chairman Ihara voiced severe criticism saying that as a country that suffered such a terrible experience [in the atomic bombing], Japan should guide nuclear powers towards nuclear disarmament and that therefore, Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga’s remark was completely wrong (Nishinippon Shimbun February 6, 2019). Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue commented that it was “entirely unacceptable” and also that as the collapse of the treaty may possibly have an impact on Northeast Asia, and he urged the Japanese government to persuade the United States and Russia to stay in the treaty. (Asahi Shimbun, February 3, 2019)

The mayors of Nagasaki and Hiroshima visited the embassies in Tokyo of the United States and Russia on February 12 to lodge a direct appeal that the INF Treaty be kept. Also, the main atomic bomb survivors organizations in Nagasaki created a written request dated February 5 which they jointly signed and sent to President Trump urging him to retract the US decision to withdraw from the INF Treaty. Movement is underway in the atomic-bombed cities to directly persuade the United States and Russia to keep the INF Treaty.

1) <http://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/recna/en-recnaseye/no8-en>

2) http://naosite.lb.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/dspace/bitstream/10069/38147/1/RECNA_ENL6_4.pdf

3) https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/kaiken/kaiken4e_000600.html

4) https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/kaiken/kaiken4e_000601.html



Volume 7, No. 4 March, 2019

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