

OUR MISSION



Director of RECNA
Fumihiko Yoshida

The Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA), was established in April 2012, and I am the third director since RECNA's launch. Over the period since 2012, against the background of a strong will to "Let Nagasaki be the last," and encouraged and empowered by this ideal, RECNA has grown to become a center of research and education focusing on the abolition of nuclear weapons that cannot be found anywhere else in the world. We will continue to involve ourselves in the following three points with a true sense of mission.

First, we will continue to be a research and education center that can make a difference in our fluctuating world order. We hope to make RECNA an organization distinguished both in Japan and overseas, the sort of organization about which people will judge the veracity of things by saying "because RECNA is the source" or "because the RECNA researchers say so." In order to achieve this goal, we will exert great effort in investigations, research and policy recommendations that contribute to the "Nagasaki Process" – which aims to denuclearize Northeast Asia – and the creation of a security framework that does not rely on nuclear deterrence.

Second, we will make exhaustive efforts to foster human resources at the atomic bombing site. Nagasaki University's Graduate School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences will continue to foster human resources with sophisticated specialist ability, and the School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences as well as the Nagasaki Youth Delegation will continue to foster young people who place an emphasis on having a wide perspective and being independent. Whether it is the publication of the content of research or the turning out of human resources, RECNA's starting point is one and the same. We will place an emphasis on problem-solving skills that transcend the walls between humanities and natural science and between the academic and the practical.

Third, we have a vital mission as a "think tank for citizens" situated on an atomic bombing site. It is unlikely that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons would ever have come into existence without the global civil society activities in which the hibakusha took the lead. RECNA will, as a Nagasaki-based research institute, sort the information and materials useful to nuclear weapons abolition, and strive to enable the free access of interested citizens to these resources. What should be done in order to ensure the voices of the NGOs from the atomic bombing sites reverberate around the world more clearly? Thinking long and hard, while placing a great value upon for dialog and the exchange of opinions. These are the missions of RECNA. I hope that we can place our trust in you for your ongoing kind support.

ACCESS

Nagasaki University Bunkyo Campus

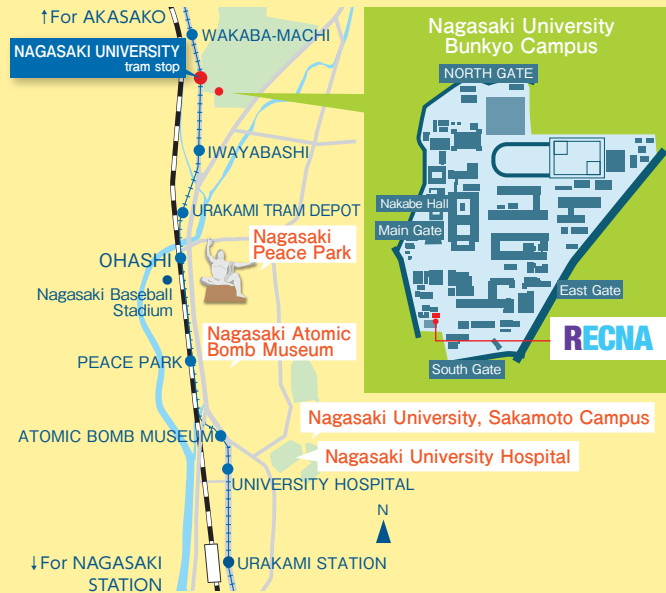
From JR Nagasaki Station

Get on a tram at the tram stop NAGASAKI STATION (for the destination AKASAKO) and get off at NAGASAKI UNIVERSITY.



From Nagasaki Airport

Get on a highway bus(ken-ei) at the airport (#4 spot) (for Nagasaki via SHOWA-MACHI/URAKAMI), and get off at CHODAI HIGASHI-MON-MAE bus stop.



REsearch Center for
Nuclear Weapons Abolition,
Nagasaki University (RECNA)

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RECNA's Activities

1. Investigations, Research and Policy Proposals

RECNA is a think tank unique in the world, focusing on the abolition of nuclear weapons. Looking towards the realization of a security without reliance on nuclear weapons, we will continue to research related themes and publicize information in order to make specific policy proposals to both the Japanese government and international community.

▪ Contributions to Realizing the Denuclearization of Northeast Asia

The denuclearization of the Korean peninsula is becoming a diplomatic issue. The question is how we can link this in with the denuclearization of all of Northeast Asia, including Japan. In order to improve the security environment in the region and contribute to the realization of the Nagasaki Process to create a Northeast Asia Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone (NEA-NWFZ) that will tie in with worldwide nuclear disarmament efforts, the Panel on Peace and Security of Northeast Asia (PSNA) was established in 2016. Researchers from South Korea, the United States, China, Russia, Australia, Mongolia and other nations participate in PSNA. RECNA collaborates with South Korean and US institutions and presents concrete policy proposals.

▪ Expert Analysis for Moving Away from Nuclear Deterrence

In December 2017, Nagasaki University launched a journal called Journal for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament (J-PAND), which is edited by RECNA and published by the British publisher of Taylor & Francis. The main purpose of the journal is to promote the encouragement of peace and nuclear disarmament through research into both theory and policy. Another vital objective of the journal is to reflect, in expert discussions towards the abolition of nuclear weapons, all the views of non-nuclear states not reliant on nuclear deterrence (particularly those in nuclear weapon-free zones). The RECNA books and RECNA policy papers continue to be published, and the Center is performing the role of an international base for research and publicity towards the realization of a world free of nuclear weapons.



2. Education and Development of Human Resources

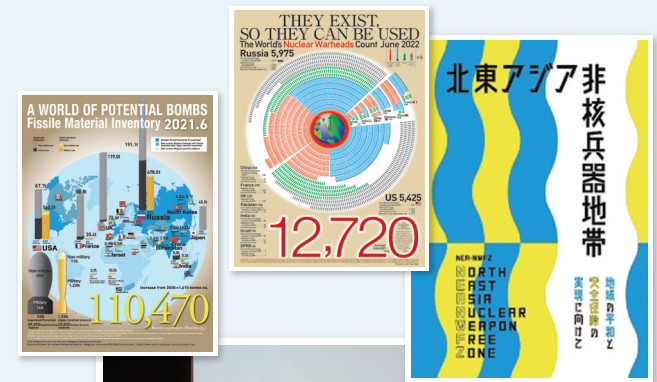
While the hibakusha become increasingly aged, the development of young people who can take on the responsibility of the next generation is becoming ever more important. It is vital that there are young people who can express in their own words the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and the risks of relying on nuclear deterrence. Using all sorts of opportunities, RECNA is involved in the development of many young people, mainly university students and graduate students.

▪ Promotion of Nuclear Disarmament and Non-proliferation Education

In the School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences of Nagasaki University, we are developing systematic curriculum to study nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation from the first year to the fourth year. In addition, as a part of liberal arts education, we provide introductory classes on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation which are open to all students and offered both in English and Japanese. The Graduate School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences started master's program on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in 2018, followed by the doctoral program established in 2020, aiming to equip students with a high degree of specialization and sensitivity concerning the atomic bomb sites.

▪ Activities Support of Nagasaki Youth Delegation

In October 2012, the PCU Nagasaki Council for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (PCU-NC) was established, chaired by Dr. Susumu Shirabe. It is a council for the abolition of nuclear weapons comprised of the three parties of Nagasaki Prefecture, Nagasaki City and Nagasaki University. One of its programs is the Nagasaki Youth Delegation Project, in which promising young people are selected and trained in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation with special program including activities such as lectures by experts, interviews with A-bomb survivors, field works as participation to international conferences dealing with nuclear issues, organizing seminars and compilation of reports. RECNA is collaborating with the Council and is involved in every aspect of the project's planning and management.



3. Publicizing Information to Civil Society

RECNA's roles as a "think tank for citizens" responding to the concept of "Let Nagasaki be the last" are wide and varied. Of particular importance among them is sorting and analyzing Japanese and overseas information and materials useful in the abolition of nuclear weapons, and publicizing this information so that concerned citizens can freely access it, widen their knowledge and deepen their understanding of issues.

▪ Creation of Citizen Database

RECNA is creating a database that will provide the United Nations documents, a variety of documents and literature on various governments' policies, nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in both English and Japanese. Each year, RECNA produces large posters and leaflets detailing data on nuclear warheads and fissile material around the world. These are not only posted on the RECNA website but also distributed to Japanese and overseas research and educational institutions.

▪ Think Tank for Atomic Bombing Site

In collaboration with PCU-NC, RECNA regularly holds public lectures for citizens, sometimes hosts special seminars for citizens to which specialists (mainly from overseas) are invited, as well as many other projects aimed at the citizens of Nagasaki.