

2015 NPT Review Conference NGO Workshop

**Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Contributes towards
Global Nuclear Zero:
Pursuing a shift of security policy on nuclear weapons**

**UN Headquarters in NY, Conference Room C
Thursday 30 April 2015, 3pm - 6pm**

Co-sponsorship

Blue Banner (Mongolia), Peace Boat (Japan), Peace Depot (Japan), Peace Network (ROK),
People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (ROK)

Cooperation

International Peace Bureau, Nautilus Institute, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation
and Disarmament, Religions for Peace, World Council of Churches

Programme

Moderators:

Mr Takao Takahara, Vice President of Peace Depot, Director of International Peace Research Institute Meiji Gakuin University and Ms Maria Kim, Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, Researcher of Peace Depot

Opening 15:00-15:05

Opening Remarks

Greetings 15:05-15:20

Mr Tomihisa Taue, Mayor of Nagasaki, National Council of Japan Nuclear Free Local Authorities

Mr Tsuneo Suzuki, Mayor of Fujisawa, National Council of Japan Nuclear Free Local Authorities

Mr Kazumi Matsui, Mayor of Hiroshima, Mayors for Peace

Presentations 15:20-16:40

Part I

Global and regional approaches to banning nuclear weapons

Mr Akira Kawasaki, Co-representative of Peace Boat, Co-chair of ICAN

Is Nuclear-free Northeast Asia Feasible

Ms Mihyeon Lee, Coordinator of PSPD

Role of Mongolia and its nuclear-weapon-free status

Mr Jargalsaikhan Enkhsaikhan, Director of Blue Banner

Why and How? - Japanese Civil Societies' Perspective

Mr Kazuhiko Tamaki, President of Peace Depot

Q and A

Part II

Ecumenical support for NEA-NWFZ

Mr Jonathan Frerichs, Programme Executive for Peace-building & Disarmament, WCC

World's Religious Communities and Nuclear Disarmament

Mr Kyoichi Sugino, Deputy Secretary General of Religions for Peace

Roles of Parliamentarians for a NEA-NWFZ

Ms Mikyung Lee, Co-chair of PNND ROK (video message)

Comments and Discussion 16:40-17:50

Comments

Mr Chris King

Head of the Strategic Planning Unit, UN Office for Disarmament Affairs

Delegates of the Six Party Talks Nations

Open Discussion with All Participants

Close 17:50-18:00

Publication of a Joint Statement on NEA-NWFZ

Closing Remarks

Profiles

Moderators:

Mr. Takao Takahara is a Professor of International Politics and Peace Research at Meiji Gakuin University, and currently the Director of International Peace Research Institute Meiji Gakuin University (PRIME). He is a Council member for the Peace Studies Association of Japan, and is on the International Advisory Board of the Peace History Society. He served as Council member of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs (2011-13). His recent writings include "Overcoming the Cold War Mindset: A Case for Promoting a Nuclear-Weapons Convention and a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone," Su Hoon Lee, ed., *NORTHEAST ASIA'S NUCLEAR CHALLENGES* (Seoul : Kyungnam University Press, 2013), pp.201-220.

Ms. Maria Kim currently majors in Advanced International Studies at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna. She worked at Peace Depot as a staff from 2012 to 2014 and has continuously engaged in as a researcher and coordinator. From 2009 to 2012, she worked as a coordinator for Korean NGOs Peace Network and Civil Peace Forum in Seoul, Korea. She is also a Northeast Asia Assistant Coordinator of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND). In 2014, her translated book <Nuclear Weapons Free Zone> was published in South Korea.

Speakers:

Mr. Akira Kawasaki is an Executive Committee member of the Tokyo-based NGO Peace Boat. He serves the International Steering Group of International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and Coordinating Committee of Abolition 2000. Since 2008, he has coordinated "Global Voyage for a Nuclear-Free World: Peace Boat Hibakusha Project" that the atomic-bomb survivors travel around the world to raise public awareness on nuclear danger. In 2009-2010, he served as an NGO Advisor to Co-Chairs of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND). In 2011-2012, under "Horizon 2012" project, he organised two civil-society meetings onboard Peace Boat on ways to create a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and All Other Weapons of Mass Destructions. He lectures at Keisen University and Rikkyo University, Tokyo, and frequently writes in Japanese newspapers and journals on peace and disarmament.

Ms. Mihyeon Lee is Coordinator of center for Peace and Disarmament at People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD), a NGO based in South Korea. PSPD has worked on democratization of security sector and monitored government's decision-making process to guarantee people's participation in that process. We are also a coordinator of Parliamentarians Network for Nuclear Disarmament in South Korea and a coordinator for Civil Peace Forum in Seoul, Korea.

Dr. Enkhsaikhan Jargalsaikhan is a Chairman of Blue Banner, Mongolian NGO devoted to raising awareness of nuclear threat and promoting Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status both in Mongolia and abroad. He

served as Mongolia's representative at the United Nations in New York and at the IAEA in Vienna. He has published numerous articles on nuclear security and non-proliferation issues.

Mr. Kazuhiko Tamaki is a President of Peace Depot. He has joined peace movement since the mid-1970s. He had worked hard to support and build solidarity with the South Korean people's struggle for democratization from 70s to 80s. In 1997, Tamaki took part in establishment of Peace Depot and since 2004 has been working as a co-editor and the editor in chief of the "Nuclear Weapon and Nuclear Test Monitor", biweekly newsletter issued by Peace Depot.

Mr. Jonathan Frerichs is a Programme Executive for peace-building and disarmament at the Geneva-based World Council of Churches, an association of 349 churches of various traditions in 140 countries. Professional experience includes advocacy, communication and academic work in a variety of humanitarian, development, media and educational organizations at the international, regional and national level.

Rev. Kyoichi Sugino is a Deputy Secretary General, Religions for Peace. He was appointed as Deputy Secretary General at the International Executive Committee meeting in Marrakesh, Morocco in November 2011. He coordinates Religions for Peace affiliated interreligious councils, women and youth networks in more than 90 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. He has been directly engaged in multi-religious diplomacy and track-II negotiations in Iraq, Sri Lanka, and other conflict zones. He also served as Policy Research Officer at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva. He is a member of the US State Department Working Group on Religion and Foreign Policy, a member of the Non-Official Group of Friends of Sri Lanka, as well as a trustee at the RK International New York Center for Engaged Buddhism.

Commenters:

Mr. Chris King joined the United Nations in January 2015 as the Chief of the Strategic Planning Unit in the Office of Disarmament Affairs. Prior to joining the UN, he served in the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, most recently as First Secretary in the Australian High Commission to India, from 2011-2014. He was the Acting Director of the Foreign Service's Arms Control Section, responsible for Australian disarmament and non-proliferation policy. He has represented Australia at the Conference on Disarmament, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations First Committee, the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. He has also acted as an advisor to former Australian Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd and as temporary Deputy Ambassador in the Australian Embassy in Iraq. From 2004 to 2006, Chris was an Advisor in the National Security Division of the Australian Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, providing advice on counter-terrorism, non-proliferation and intelligence policy. In 2007, he was a United Nations Disarmament Fellow.

Greeting

Statement by Mr. Tomihisa Taue

Mayor of Nagasaki, National Council of Japan Nuclear Free Local Authorities

Good afternoon. I am Tomihisa Taue, Mayor of the City of Nagasaki. Thank you for the opportunity to speak here today, on behalf of the citizens of Nagasaki and the National Council of Japan Nuclear Free Local Authorities.

I would like to express my deep respect for the dedicated efforts by those of you involved in working to realise lasting peace in Northeast Asia.

In the region of Northeast Asia, in which we live, tensions are increasing and the safety of residents is threatened by the DPRK's forced missile launches and nuclear testing. The DPRK nuclear issue is a threat not only to Northeast Asia but to the international community; it is a pressing challenge which must be resolved.

It is therefore highly meaningful that NGOs from Japan, Korea and Mongolia gather together at such a time to hold a forum on the creation of a Northeast Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone. I believe that such civil society initiatives heighten momentum for the creation of such a nuclear weapon free zone, and will form the foundations of lasting peace in the Northeast Asian region.

In the atomic bombed city Nagasaki we are also conducting various initiatives towards the establishment of a Northeast Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone. In the Peace Declaration I read at the peace memorial ceremony on August 9, we appeal for the need to create a Northeast Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone. The declaration is translated into ten languages and disseminated globally through our homepage and other means.

This year marks 70 years since the atomic bombings. In Nagasaki the "International Children's Peace Forum" will be held in August, for children from around the world to deepen their exchange beyond language and cultural differences, and appeal for peace. Furthermore, the Pugwash Conference, an international meeting with the goals of renouncing all war and achieving nuclear weapons abolition, will be held in November. The City of Nagasaki will strengthen its activities to appeal for peace more than ever before, and make all efforts to further heighten momentum for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The National Council of Japan Nuclear Free Local Authorities, of which I am Chair, is also committed to efforts for the creation of a nuclear weapon free zone, believing it to be an effective method to break through the currently escalating situation in Northeast Asia. Specifically, the Council incorporates this into the resolution made at its annual General Assembly, and collaborates with NGOs to gather signatures of local municipal leaders to submit petitions to the Japanese Government. In addition, the National Council of Japan Nuclear Free Local Authorities submitted signatures from local municipal leaders throughout Japan

calling for the establishment of a Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone to the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the 3rd Preparatory Committee in April last year. We are also continually appealing for the necessity of establishing such a zone through creating informative pamphlets, holding lectures and so on.

Currently, 1,587 local municipalities, or 90% of Japan's total of 1,788, have made nuclear-free, peace declarations. As the Mayor of an atomic bombed city, and as Chair of the National Council of Japan Nuclear Free Local Authorities, I am working to broaden our circle of nuclear-free local authorities, and collaborate with civil society for the realization of a world free of nuclear weapons. I hope to continue to work with you all to combine our efforts for this purpose, and thank you in advance.

I sincerely hope that our discussions today and the initiatives of the participating NGOs from Japan, Korea and Mongolia will contribute to our goal of lasting peace in the Northeast Asian region.

Greeting

Statement by Mr. Tsuneo Suzuki

Mayor of Fujisawa, National Council of Japan Nuclear Free Local Authorities

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and gentlemen,

I express my sincere thanks to all of you and to the conference organisers who invited me to give a speech here today. I'm Tsuneo Suzuki, the Mayor of the city of Fujisawa in Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan.

I sincerely respect your positive activities toward realization of the permanent peace of northeast Asia. It is my great honor to attend this meeting as a vice chairman of "The National Council of Japan Nuclear Free Local Authorities." Fujisawa also belongs to the "The Conference of Mayors for Peace".

Fujisawa in Kanagawa Prefecture is located next to Tokyo which hosts the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020.

We have a very beautiful coastline that is known as the "Miami Beach of the East". The population is 420,000, and the city is blessed with mild climate and beautiful natural environment.

Fujisawa is one of the first cities in Japan to enact the declaration on "Promoting Abolition of Nuclear Weapons and World Peace", and we are acting together with our citizens to carry out many projects for peace.

Especially, we consider it important to tell the experience of atomic bombings to the next generation. Therefore, we send our students to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the bombed cities. During these trips, they attend the peace ceremonies, visit the bombed areas, and hear the experiences of the bombing directly from the survivors. Through these experiences, the students think about the "fear and cruelty of nuclear bombs", and the "preciousness of life." In this way, we have been widening the ring of peace.

This year is the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings. The generation that experienced the war and the bombings is growing old, and new generations are taking their place. With this change, I recognise the importance of reflecting on the meaning of peace, and value of sharing the preciousness of peace with all people.

Amidst the complicated and changing international affairs of our day, I think it is extremely effective for local governments to undertake various grass-roots level peace movements, and to unite their appeals to rouse international public opinion.

Recently, the sense of tension in northeastern Asia has increased with the threat of nuclear tests and missile launches from North Korea. As we work to create the foundation nuclear weapons free zone in northeast

Asia, I think we can accomplish this through the joint cooperation of NGOs, CSOs and many local governments. Not to forget the dire disasters of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we will share their thoughts, and as "a city that was not bombed" I express our strong intention to realise "the nuclear-free world" here. Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Greeting

Statement by Mr. Kazumi Matsui

Mayor of Hiroshima, Mayors for Peace

Good afternoon, everyone, and thank you for inviting me to this forum again. I am Matsui Kazumi, mayor of Hiroshima and president of Mayors for Peace.

Mayors for Peace, composed of 6,000 member cities in 158 countries and regions worldwide, in collaboration with the United Nations and like-minded NGOs, has been promoting the 2020 Vision, seeking to abolish nuclear weapons by 2020.

In this context, we highly praise your efforts in recognizing that the Northeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone is one of the important approaches towards realizing world peace. The Hiroshima Appeal, which was adopted at the Mayors for Peace General Conference last August, states that “Concrete policies, frameworks and confidence-building measures to promote international and regional peace and security must be put in place—in particular, in regions such as the Middle East, North East Asia and South Asia, where nuclear tensions are on the rise.” Furthermore, in the Peace Declaration that I delivered on August 6 last year, I appealed to the world that “for the peace and stability of our region, all countries involved must do more to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free North Korea in a Northeast Asia nuclear-weapon-free zone.”

Nuclear weapons used by the policy-makers of the time indiscriminately stole the lives of innocent people, permanently altering the lives of survivors, and stalking their minds and bodies to the end of their days. Such weapons are the ultimate inhumane weapons and an absolute evil. Even with their average age surpassing 78 years, the atomic bomb survivors, who know the hell of an atomic bombing, are still continuously fighting for abolition so that no future policy-makers will ever use such weapons again.

Even now, after a quarter of a century has passed since the end of the Cold War, there still exist more than 17,000 nuclear warheads around the world. We are still living under the risk of destruction through nuclear weapons. We cannot deny the great difficulty of our work towards realizing a world free from nuclear weapons. Let us look at the state of international community – while globalization continues to accelerate, a sense of belonging to the one human family has not yet been sufficiently developed. This combination tends to create fragmentation, distrust and misunderstanding. The persistence of conflict is the unfortunate reality of our world. Differences in race, nationality, language, and religion tend to cause misunderstandings and distrust, and amongst a situation where mutual distrust reigns, humans are tempted to threaten others in order to protect themselves, and rely on means of violence in order to gain an upper hand against others. The epitome of this is the absolute evil of nuclear weapons.

Mayors for Peace, with the aim of creating a peaceful world free from nuclear weapons and in recognition of these weapons' inhumanity, is campaigning for a nuclear weapons convention. In order to construct a basis for peace, we are working to spread the sense of belonging as members of the same human family to the wide international civil society on all levels, and striving for the realization of a society where differences are not the cause of disputes, but can be respected as a source of diversity that enriches human society. If the world works earnestly for the realization of this kind of society, we can break away from the system of "nuclear deterrence", which uses the threat of massive indiscriminate killings to preserve peace, finally making it possible to create a more humane security system. However, on the way to this goal, nuclear weapons should never be used again.

In a stage of transition, where nuclear weapons still exist, it is therefore essential to put in place policies, systems and confidence building measures to make sure that their use are not allowed, and to secure the road towards their abolition. As one of these systems, the establishment of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones can play an important role.

Furthermore, I would like to highlight one of the very important facts that have made the reconstruction of Hiroshima possible. It is the truth that Hiroshima has not been involved in any wars or armed conflicts throughout the 69 years following the atomic bombing. Efforts to create a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone echo this history of reconstruction and resonate deeply with unshakable humanitarian conviction of the atomic bomb survivors that "no one should ever again suffer as we have."

The City of Hiroshima and Mayors for Peace support the Northeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. I earnestly hope that the joint efforts by all the countries involved the United Nations, as well as concerned citizens and NGOs can accelerate the pace of achieving peace in Northeast Asia.

I would like to start by expressing my gratitude for your invitation to this workshop on the Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone following last year. My name is Matsui Kazumi, Mayor of the City of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace.

The Final Statement of the 2010 NPT Review Conference referred to the inhumanity of nuclear weapons for the first time. Ever since, through the efforts of sensible groups from civil society, following discussion at the international conference on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons held three times in the past, awareness of the inhumanity of nuclear weapons has been steadily deepening on the national level. In my understanding, the topic at the very heart of the issue is how to transform the currently heightening global opinion regarding the inhumanity of nuclear weapons into a concrete legal framework for their illegalization. While this legal framework is absolutely necessary for realizing nuclear weapons abolition, at the same time, we must also break free from the current security system of "nuclear deterrence", based on mutual distrust and threat, and create a more stable foundation of peace rooted in a feeling of brotherhood as fellow members of the human race.

From this point of view, Mayors for Peace supports the measures calling for turning Northeast Asia into a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone. At the General Conference of Mayors for Peace held two years ago in Hiroshima, the Hiroshima Appeal was adopted, calling on the United Nations and all the governments to establish policies and frameworks for confidence-building measures among nations to make sure that nuclear weapons will never be used again and to actively work on replacing the current security system of nuclear deterrence, which attempts to maintain peace through the threatened use of nuclear weapons, with one rooted in a shared sense of community as fellow members of one human family. This coincides well with the concept of the nuclear weapon free zone.

Many organizations and groups are carrying out a variety of activities towards nuclear weapons abolition, and on the national level as well, measures through a variety of different approaches are being taken. The important thing is that we respect each other and keep collaborating towards a common goal, which is of a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons, through complementary efforts.

Mayors for Peace currently consists of over 6,600 member cities from 160 countries/regions around the world, and even now, the rate of membership continues to accelerate. I ask everyone gathered here today to join powers and do all you can from your respective positions for a peaceful world without nuclear weapons through collaboration with Mayors for Peace. Thank you for your attention.

Speech

Global and regional approaches to banning nuclear weapons

Mr. Akira Kawasaki, Co-representative of Peace Boat, Co-chair of ICAN

Regarding the establishment of a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in Northeast Asia, for many years we have held similar side events during the NPT review process here in New York, as well as in Vienna and Geneva. Today, as we see the Humanitarian Initiative towards globally banning nuclear weapons gain an unprecedented momentum, let me share with you some thoughts about the relationship between the global approach and the regional approach toward nuclear disarmament.

As we are all aware, since the 2010 NPT Review Conference—which expressed deep concern for the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and took note of the proposal for a Nuclear Weapons Convention in relation to international humanitarian law—three international conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons have been held in Norway, Mexico and Austria. The number of states supporting the Joint Humanitarian Statement has grown to 160 as of today, since its initiation in 2012. The growing humanitarian initiative is changing the discourse over nuclear weapons, from a national-security centered one to a human-security and global-security oriented one.

The International Pledge, initiated by Austria to fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons has now been joined by almost 80 states. The New Agenda Coalition has proposed substantive discussions to be made at the Subsidiary Body of Main Committee 1, about legal approaches for the effective measures of the nuclear disarmament obligations under Article VI. All those developments show strong momentum toward starting a process to make a new international legal instrument to ban nuclear weapons this year – the year of the 70th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings.

Looking at Northeast Asian countries and countries engaged in the Six Party Talk process over nuclear issues on the Korean Peninsula, namely, Japan, China, ROK, DPRK, Mongolia, Russia and the US, none of them have expressed support for the Austrian Pledge. Only Mongolia and Japan have joined the Humanitarian Statement. This shows that recognition of the humanitarian aspect of nuclear weapons has not prevailed in the very region that suffered from the actual atomic bombings seventy years ago. Rather, national security and state survival have been at the center of nuclear debates in the region, including those for developing nuclear weapons as a means of self-defense, retaining nuclear-weapons-usable material and capability, and maintaining and even strengthening the nuclear umbrella, or extended nuclear deterrence.

The lack of reconciliation over past history, the non-existence of a peace system to replace the prolonged armistice regime on the Korean Peninsula, and the persistent failure to build a common regional security mechanism in the region against the Cold War remnants, have constituted obstacles to the suffering of Hiroshima and Nagasaki victims and survivors from being universally shared among the peoples in the

region. My organization Peace Boat has carried out many Global Voyages with more than a hundred Hibakusha to travel around the world to share their testimonies with peoples in the countries we visit. In the programs, what has struck me was not only the lack of knowledge and awareness of the issue in most of the countries, but also the persistent notion that it is the atomic bombing that freed people in the region from Japanese imperial rule. And even as of today, this notion has affected the people of neighboring countries of Japan in a way that prevents them from grasping the suffering of Hibakushas, and from identifying the issue as one of concern to themselves as well.

How can we overcome this? First and foremost, a broad initiative for reconciliation is needed under a strong political leadership. The 70th anniversary of the end of WWII this August is a remarkable opportunity for that sake.

Second, I would like to propose to have a Northeast Asian Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, as a regional follow-up to the past three international conferences. Such a conference can make clear cases regarding the unacceptable nature of the human suffering and environmental destruction of nuclear weapons, in a fact-based and objective manner, to convince both peoples and policy makers in the region. Just as the past three conferences covered simulation reports of nuclear weapon detonations in Norway, Mexico and Central Europe, a Northeast Asia humanitarian conference can facilitate discussions on what would happen in the case of any accidental or designed nuclear detonations – scenarios for cross-border horrifying effects. The risks should be calculated, and should also factor into account the possible escalation of a conventional arms exchange in light of the worrisome territorial disputes currently existing in the region, and the possibility of attacks against nuclear facilities in the countries of the region.

Banning nuclear weapons, whether globally or regionally, needs a clear notion that nuclear weapons are special and thus have to be distinguished from other weaponries. No matter how much States clamor for their own survival, legitimately, no case for nuclear weapons should be justified. To establish such a norm, the current humanitarian movement on a global scale should be effectively activated in the Northeast Asian regional context, making the topic extend beyond the narrative of Japan alone.

Finally, let me remind you that International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) recently published “Principles for a Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty” and is advocating for a treaty that would not only prohibit nuclear weapons and provide for their elimination, but that also provides positive obligations for parties in order to ensure the rights of victims and survivors of nuclear weapons. Such a human-rights based approach can also be considered in pursuing a NWFZ treaty in Northeast Asia.

Speech

Is Nuclear-free Northeast Asia Feasible

Ms. Mihyeon Lee, Coordinator of PSPD¹

This year marks 70th anniversary of the end of WWII. Also, this year marks 70th anniversary of liberation and division of the Korean peninsula. Due to the cold war after the WWII, the Korean peninsula experienced division as soon as it was liberated, and the division of the country became a beginning of a bigger tragedy. In 1950, the Korean War burst out, and unfortunately, unstable armistice system continues.

In 1990, the cold war system ended but relationship between two Koreas, US-North Korea, North Korea-Japan has not been fundamentally developed. Today, the divided Korean peninsula is a place where the highest number of arms is concentrated and the largest military exercise is conducted every year. Is Nuclear-free Northeast Asia feasible under this circumstance?

Can North Korea abandon its nuclear program?

When we talk about feasibility of nuclear-free Northeast Asia or the Korean peninsula, above all else, we need to identify whether North Korea will abandon its nuclear program or not. If any suggestion including 3+3 framework or other Comprehensive approach to the denuclearization of northeast Asia is not successful in making North Korea abandon its nuclear program, then it will be difficult to make nuclear-free Northeast Asia.

As the North Korean nuclear issue is prolonged, and the state's desire to hold nuclear power becomes clearer, some people doubt the possibility of the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. On 31 March 2013, North Korea proclaimed equal emphasis policy" for nuclear and economic development and maintains this position until today. Some say that North Korea succeed in miniaturize nuclear weapon and if North Korea put its utmost efforts on developing nuclear capability, then they might possess around 100 nuclear weapons by 2020. Skeptical views are expressed that North Korea did not plan to abandon nuclear program from the beginning and will not do so in the future. In 2012, North Korea officially redefined itself as "a nuclear state" by specifying the word in its constitution, and pushed ahead with the third nuclear test in February 2013. Both engagement polices, such as the Sunshine Policy, and strong arm policies, such as economic sanctions, and diplomatic and military pressure, have failed. As a result, some people think that there are no realistic solutions.

¹ People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD) is a NGO based in South Korea. PSPD has worked on democratization of security sector and monitored government's decision-making process to guarantee people's participation in that process. We are also a coordinator of Parliamentarians Network.

However, when we look at past 20 years of nuclear crisis, we have experiences where negotiation resulted in abandoning nuclear program, even though the process was very tough. Including 1992 Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, 1994 Geneva Agreed Framework, 2000 The U.S.-DPRK Joint Communiqué, and six-party talks and 9.19 Agreement in 2005, there have been several agreements that the U.S., South Korean and neighboring countries assured safety and economic benefits in return for North Korea freezing and/or destructing nuclear development programs. However, agreements were broken and North Korea has already conducted nuclear experiments for three times.

It has been a huge controversy who broke the agreement first. When we look back the history, we cannot blame North Korea only. Both South Korean and US governments argue that North Korea broke the agreement and developed nuclear capabilities, but there were cases when US broke the agreement first. George W. Bush administration's denial of DPRK Joint Communiqué Washington which was made during Clinton administration, US state department's new sanction on North Korea right after September 19 agreement which was a result of the Six party talk in 2005 are classic examples. In other words, the current crises are result of complied mistrust and interaction between two countries. One thing for sure from looking back at the 20 years' history of the Korean peninsula's nuclear related problems, North Korea is not the only actor responsible for the current situation but the current situation is a result of continuous conflicts between the US and South Korea, and North Korea.

New approach for Peace and Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula

South Korea and the US ask North Korea to make first move while asking China to join imposing sanctions on and pressuring North Korea. On the other hand, North Korea proclaimed itself as a nuclear state and insists that they are not going to join any negotiation under the condition of abandoning its nuclear program. China makes its clear position on not permitting North Korean nuclear program but at the same time, acknowledges importance of reopening a dialogue. However, future of the Six-party talks which has not convened since December 2008 is not that bright. While the Six-party talks are not happening, North Korea reinforced its nuclear program and it becomes harder to negotiate with North Korea. Even so, both South Korea and US governments continue to reinforce sanctions on North Korea, establish Missile Defense system, increase frequency of joint military exercises, and increase defense budget under the justification of deterring North Korea. It becomes more difficult to solve North Korean nuclear issue.

The reason why nuclear crisis on the Korean peninsula continues is not only North Korea cannot make strategic decision, but also both South Korea and US government maintain North Korean policies based on inertia recognition and prejudice. Regardless whether North Korea is recognized as nuclear state or not, it is required to have a new approach to solve North Korean nuclear problem. Once paradigm on North Korean policy is changed, North Korean nuclear issue can be solved for sure.

However in recent years, South Korea and the US clearly demonstrate its tendency to rely on imposing sanction and pressure, and increasing arms, instead of solving problems by dialogue. Before and after the third nuclear test by North Korea, South Korean and US governments continuously reinforced their ability on conventional strike, missile defense capability, and nuclear umbrella using US strategic nuclear weapons, under the justification of 'reinforcing deterrence against North Korea. Most of all, both governments even adopted 'active deterrence strategy' which allows preemptive attack when they acquire sign of North Korea using its nuclear weapon, and accelerate establishing Kill Chain for this. In addition, under the justification of responding North Korean missile threat, both governments increased its Missile Defense cooperation such as THAAD. This creates additional tension and conflicts with other countries including China.

However, even though one increases arms and adopts provocative a measure of retaliation, nuclear crisis on the Korean peninsula will not be solved, As intelligence agencies in the US repeatedly analyzed, the reason why North Korea try to possess its nuclear weapon is to use it as a method of negotiation or to offset its inferiority to military power of US-South Korea alliance. Even when excluding US forces in Korea, South Korea already spends around 37 billion USD as military spending which is similar to total GDP of North Korea. Based on our past experiences, imbalance military spending makes North Korean government more focuses on cheap and destructive weapons, and asymmetric preemptive attack methods.

The effects of restriction and sanctions are also questionable. Looking back at the last 20 years, restriction and sanctions have always been influencing on strengthening North Korean military rather than weakening the system. North Korea extended their nuclear power in state of oppression and sanctions rather than in state of negotiation and dialogue. On the other hand, when North Korean nuclear program was ceased, it was always dialogue season. Negotiation and dialogue at least delayed North Korea from developing nuclear weapons, but hostile neglect or strategic patience only provide North Korea an opportunity to increase its nuclear capabilities and develop its missile rocket system.

Of course, the South Korean and the US government officials are also trying to conduct dialogue with the North. The Obama administration and the Park Geun-Hye administration are saying that the door to dialogue is always open only if the North Korea expresses its sincere will to denuclearize. However, it is not appropriate to have denuclearization as a precondition for a dialogue when it is a goal that should be achieved through dialogue. This stance can only be interpreted as an intention to continue the deadlock rather than seriously trying to resolve the North Korean nuclear problems.

As a matter of fact, among the countries in six party talks, North Korea is not the only country that does not show sincerity on denuclearization. We can say that all countries related to the six-party talks, namely the US, Russia, Japan, China, and South Korea, are not showing their sincerity in dealing with denuclearization since they have no intention to terminate military strategies relying on nuclear deterrent forces. Especially, it is difficult to solve the problem by South Korea-US alliance and Japan-US alliance, which are incomparably

stronger than North Korea in terms of conventional forces, just forcing North Korea to give up nuclear deterrent forces while they themselves maintain it. To make North Korea that conducted three nuclear experiments despite the various blockades, we need new suggestions.

Along the same context, we need to find a peaceful and cooperative solution of East-North Asia nuclear conflicts and militarization like the following.

First of all, understanding the Korean peninsula's nuclear conflict as a product of the unstable South-North division and the cease-fire system and approaching with an intention to contribute to the construction of a peaceful system in the Korean peninsula is necessary. Connected interpretation and thinking of North Korean termination of nuclear weaponry, construction of the peace system, and improvements in North-US, North-Japan relationships is needed. According to Joint Statement of 19 September 2005, the six parties will establish a special executive group that deals with peace and security. Also they have set an agreement for directly related countries to negotiate on the Korean peninsula's permanent peace system through a separate forum. This agreement will be constructively used in resolving the nuclear problems and conflicts in the Korean peninsula.

Secondly, we need to understand that the Korean peninsula's nuclear conflict is a part of nuclear conflicts that happen throughout East Asia and globally, and we need to find an inclusive solution to end nuclear threats in the Korean peninsula, in East Asia and in the world. 'The UN joint agreement on nuclear weaponry's inhumanity and its abolishment' which have been once again, continuing from last year, adopted by 155 UN member states is an important foothold pursuing the denuclearization of an international scale. These efforts should continue and lead to an international agreement promising on the complete denuclearization. More on to this, efforts to decrease the danger of radiation exposure from nuclear power plants is necessary. The most effective action that will terminate the mutual nuclear threat is the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia. To persuade the North Korea to give up their nuclear technology, South Korea needs to give up or sequentially reduce their nuclear umbrella that is dependent on the US army's nuclear power. Here, the neighboring nations' cooperation is necessary. In return for the South and the North giving up nuclear umbrellas and nuclear weapons, Japan should also give up their nuclear umbrella and nuclear powers including China, the US, and Russia should promise the exclusion of preemptive fire of nuclear attacks against each other and nuclear weaponry usage against non-nuclear power nations. This is the only practical and effective way to make the North give up their nuclear technologies and reduce nuclear threats within Northeast Asian regions.

Thirdly, we need to stop the militarization of the East Asian ocean and reconstitute the region of ever long conflict and dispute to the region of cooperation and reciprocity. Military alliance and armed demonstrations are never an effective solution to resolve conflicts. Especially the adoption of an offensive missile defense system and the strengthening of South Korea-US-Japan military alliance only stimulate the

extreme military tension and the vicious cycle of arms races. East Asian territory dominium disputes, being a sensitive issue closely in touch with the historical tragedies of the near past, won't be resolved but only will be worsened through armed demonstrations. It is obvious that the advanced bases that are recently being placed around the East Asian regions won't actually contribute to the perpetual peace of the region. A hard but possible solution is to construct an East Asia joint security cooperation system that will come up with a reciprocal resolution to territorial/resources disputes and economical and political conflicts. Also, multi-angled conversation, interaction, and cooperation from the government, regional governments, researchers, civic groups, and companies should be expanded to understand each other and to search for a reciprocal resolution to the issue. Japanese pacific constitution, a fortification for East Asian peace, should be protected. Neighboring nations should reduce policies depending on military power and treat each other with recognition to peace, reciprocity, and cooperation which is the basic principle of the each country's constitution.

Conclusion

In the Korean peninsula and neighboring countries, governments' policies to reinforce its military strategies are based on nuclear deterrence against humanities' universal and sensible urge of nuclear free world. While the Six-party talks which were to resolve nuclear crisis on the Korean peninsula has been ceased for six years, North Korea enforced nuclear tests for three times and other countries' dependence on nuclear deterrence has increased. It is ironic that Japan who was a victim of A-bomb and Korea have been forced to live under stronger nuclear umbrella under the justification to respond nuclear threats from outside.

If we want to make nuclear free Northeast Asia, not only North Korean government abandons its nuclear program, but also all countries in the region should abandon their hostile military polices and blind trust on nuclear deterrence. As the final document of 2000 NPT review conference recommended 'diminishing the role of nuclear weapons in security policies'. Having said that, not only North Korea, but also South Korea and Japan who are both under the nuclear umbrella should be independent from nuclear weapons.

Fortunately, Japanese government participated in international joint statement on humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, which was different from their position in 2013. On the other hand, South Korean government still defers its participation with passive attitude. The South Korean government says that they "agree with international concerns on humanitarian impact of nuclear weapon, but the statement might link to total abolition of nuclear weapon in the immediate future and absolute and unconditional no use of nuclear weapon. While collectively considering our security situation, we are not joining the statement". It is ironic that they agree with disastrous consequences of nuclear weapon while disagree with unconditional no use of nuclear weapon. It itself is inhumane attitude that South Korean government which represents its people who have lived under the threats of nuclear weapon in the last 70 years cannot agree with no use of nuclear weapon. By using this opportunity, we strongly urge not only South Korea but also all countries to join this joint statement.

This 2015 NPT review conference is a great opportunity where we can put a break on nuclear threats and arms race which are intensified in the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia. If international society is not able to end armistice system which accelerates nuclear threats on the Korean peninsula and if international society cannot make Japan and South Korean governments independent from nuclear deterrence, then it will be more difficult for us to make nuclear free Northeast Asia. Based on this, we expect international peace movement will stand in solidarity with us so that we can make year 2015 as a year that solves nuclear crisis on the Korean peninsula, establishes nuclear free Northeast Asia, and fundamental abolition of nuclear weapons.

Speech

Role of Mongolia and its nuclear-weapon-free status

Dr. Jargalsaikhan Enkhsaikhan, Director of Blue Banner

First of all I would like to underline Blue Banner's honor and pleasure to co-organize this event on the issue of NEA-NWFZ as an NGO workshop at the 2015 NPT Review conference. In the past two years the co-sponsors were able to raise awareness of the participants of NPT PrepComs of the reasons and the importance of establishing a NEA-NWFZ, and what has been done so far to promote the idea and the concept. As it has been mentioned before and reflected in the background note prepared for this meeting, in 2013 the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters has recommended to the Secretary General to consider an appropriate action for establishing a NEA-NWFZ. Angela Kane has underlined the importance of the issue last week when she addressed the Third Conference on Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia. Also in the fall of 2013 Mongolia's President Elbegdorj has expressed Mongolia's readiness to promote informal meetings on the issue.

Bearing in mind the over-all situation in the region, which is far from normal, as well as the forthcoming 70-th anniversaries of the end of World War II, the use of nuclear weapons in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Blue Banner believes that it is high time that the issue of NEA-NWFZ be discussed both in the region as well as internationally since that would contribute to promoting the atmosphere of trust and joint search for ways to address the issue that would only contribute to non-proliferation. I believe that the holding of three conferences on the humanitarian aspects and the Austrian pledge, that enjoys ever widening support, provides a good political background to address the issue of NEA-NWFZ as a regional non-proliferation and confidence building measure.

Though the issue of NEA-NWFZ has not been put officially on the agenda of the General Assembly or the NPT, the idea of establishing such a zone has a long history, going back even to the second half of the 1950s and 1960s. With the end of the cold war in general in early 1990s, unofficially several proposals have been made, including on limited NEA-NWFZ, 3+3 proposal and its up-dated version in the form of a six-party treaty, in which the main parties would be the intra-zonal non-nuclear weapon states and the three neighbouring nuclear-weapon states. In case there would be one treaty including all these six states, it could be expanded to include Mongolia, which borders on the two other states parties to the treaty. This shows that the participants of the process are open-minded in their general approach. The academic and unofficial discussion of these proposals evoked much interest in the region.

Another, more broader, more comprehensive approach to the NEA-NWFZ is being considered by some think-tanks and NGOs that would bear in mind the stalled Six Party Talks and the need to address the main issues that could hamper mutual understanding and agreement on different, yet interrelated issues. This approach is spearheaded by the Nautilus institute and includes RECNA, Korean institutes and Mongolia's

Blue Banner. The comprehensive approach includes the following key elements: termination of the state of war; creating a permanent council on security; mutual declaration of no hostile intent; provision of assistances for nuclear and other energy; termination of sanctions/response to violations of the treaty; and establishment of NEA-NWFZ. The comprehensive approach is at this stage still work in progress, about which a separate side-event is scheduled for May 8. I hope that all of you would be able to attend.

Blue Banner has been active in promoting the idea of a NEA-NWFZ. Thus last November it organized a regional meeting of GPPAC (Global Partnership to Prevent Armed Conflict) and discussed practical issues connected with the launching of an unofficial NEA-NWFZ process. Blue Banner is also participating in Mongolia's efforts to promote a regional dialogue on Northeast Asian security as an important element in addressing the issues of regional security.

Based on the views expressed, in March an unofficial meeting on energy issues was discussed in Ulaanbaatar. The meeting demonstrated that each state in the region has its own vision and ideas regarding this issue, and that there is a need to understand and bear in mind the views of others if progress is to be made on the issues.

With regard to Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status, the Government of Mongolia has circulated a memorandum on the issue as an official document of this Review conference (doc. NPT/Conf.2015/8). The document faithfully describes the measures taken by Mongolia since 2010 to promote its status, as a result of which in 2012 the P5 and Mongolia have signed parallel declarations on the issue. The P5 went beyond welcoming Mongolia's initiative and its efforts to further promote it. Thus in the signed joint declaration the P5 expressed their intent to respect the status and not to contribute to any act that would violate it. We believe that after signing the joint declaration the P5 would not object that the General Assembly at last formally welcome Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status.

As for the Blue Banner, in the past two years it has organized national and regional round-table discussions to raise awareness of the general public of the still lingering nuclear threat, the importance for the people and the Government of Mongolia to support humanitarian aspects of nuclear weapons, the need to support the Austrian initiative and how to promote further Mongolia's status. In March-April of this year Blue Banner was invited to participate in the review of the implementation of Mongolia's law on its status. During the consideration of the issue it proposed that the Parliament adopt a statement in support of the Austrian pledge during its spring session.

In conclusion I would like to express the hope that the participants of this workshop would share their views on how best to promote NEA-NWFZ. Like other NEA NGOs, Blue Banner is prepared to work with the interested organization or persons on this important issue.

Speech

Why and How? - Japanese Civil Societies' Perspective

Mr. Kazuhiko Tamaki, President of Peace Depot

Let me recall, first of all, the Action Plan 1 of the final document, 2010 NPT Review Conference, which says "All States parties commit to pursue policies that are fully compatible with the Treaty and the objective of achieving a world without nuclear weapons." Unfortunately, this commitment is hardly ever implemented at this time. Especially in the Northeast Asia region, nuclear confrontation and new dimension of proliferation are still prevailing. There is no doubt that denuclearization of this region in legally binding manner is one of the keys to the realization of "a world without nuclear weapons." —That is the establishment of a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone.

It has been almost twenty years since Dr. Hiromichi Umebayashi of Peace Depot proposed a concept of Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone having "3 plus 3 structure" in 1996, which would include parties of on-going "Six-party Talk" as parties of the treaty.

Since then, the proposal has received substantial endorsements. It should be specially noted that the endorsers include 546 mayors in Japan up to now. We owe this achievement to endeavor of, and kind assistance by both Mayor Kazumi Matsui of Hiroshima and Mayor Tomihisa Taue of Nagasaki. On April 28, 2014, the two Mayors submitted the petition for Nuclear Weapon Free Zone with signatures of more than 500 mayors to UNODA. Similar petitions have been submitted to the Government of Japan, or GOJ, three times.

We are planning to expand such support for the Zone among all the 1700 local governments and/or their councils in Japan. Of 1700 local authorities, some 1500 authorities, or about 90% of them, have declared themselves as "local nuclear weapon free zone" in 1980's or earlier. Calls for Nuclear Weapon Free Zone from the local authorities, I believe, will be one of the most promising driving forces to push Japan to go forward to the Zone.

In addition, approaches to Japanese and Korean Parliamentarians and their international network are still underway while facing relatively difficult political situations.

In April 2013, new scene of expansion of support to the Zone has been opened. Then, we were able to have Japan-South Korea Workshop with participation of World Council of Church (WCC). Resolution adopted at the WCC Assembly in Busan, November 2013, included languages of "denuclearization of Northeast Asia." Further, Religions for Peace (RFP) along with WCC, has been a cooperating organization of a series of workshops. Such cooperation with religionists and their organizations are providing us of great opportunities for promoting regional and world-wide support for the Zone.

Civil societies' support for the Nuclear Weapon Free Zone has been growing steadily in this way. Nevertheless there has been no initiative originating from regional state governments. The reason for this would be two major regional states, Japan and South Korea, are sustaining the policy of relying on "extended nuclear deterrence" or "nuclear umbrella" of the United States. On the other hand, North Korea, or DPRK, is seeking nuclear force to cope with "threats of US military force", both conventional and nuclear, and to protect its state regime. Therefore, state-originated initiative could have been hardly emerged without addressing to such an international structure.

In this regard, I would like to point out a remarkable work by Nagasaki University Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, or RECNA. That is the proposal issued on April 7 titled "A Comprehensive Approach to a Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone." Full text and summary are available at;www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/recna/asia.

Having been inspired by the 2011 proposal by Dr. Morton Halperin, U.S., RECNA proposes in this publication a starting of negotiation on a Framework Agreement which includes provisions for the "termination of the Korean War", "Mutual non-aggression", "Equal rights to access all forms of energy", and so on. And Nuclear Weapon Free Zone would be the core element of this Framework Agreement. Details of the proposal will be revealed at the Open Forum, "Proposal to Actualise a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Northeast Asia" to be held on Friday, May 8, at Trusteeship Council Chamber.

I would like to turn to the current political context of Japan. In July 1, 2014, GOJ issued the "Cabinet Decision on Development of Seamless Security Legislation to Ensure Japan's Survival and Protect its People". In this decision, GOJ has made clear that the military role of Japan in the alliance with the U.S. will be expanded substantially both in scope and manner. In this document, GOJ frequently refers to the words, "Proactive Contribution to Peace." Regrettably, few of realistic diplomatic efforts are referred to in this context.

To our view, taking initiatives toward Northeast Nuclear Weapon Free Zone will indeed be a "Proactive Contribution to Peace", which GOJ can begin at the present time and situation of the region. Rising voices of civil societies' for the Nuclear Weapon Free Zone will be, at the same time, proposing GOJ to seek for diplomatic alternatives which may possibly substitute military roles.

In conclusion, though Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone is not a goal to be achieved easily, but it is possible and feasible. Civil societies of Japan, in solidarity with those of ROK, shall lead the process to achieve this goal together.

Presentation

Ecumenical support for NEA-NWFZ

Mr. Jonathan Frerichs, Programme Executive for Peace-building and Disarmament, WCC

The focus of this year's workshop -- how a NWFZ in Northeast Asia contributes to a nuclear-weapon-free world -- is very much in harmony with World Council of Churches advocacy. As a worldwide association of some 350 churches in 140 countries we are especially interested in regional peace as a path to global peace. The term "ecumenical", which we use often, means "the whole inhabited earth". For us it signifies different peoples from different regions engaged together for peace, justice and service to the common good.

As noted at last year's workshop, the global assembly of the World Council of Churches in Busan, South Korea, in 2013 has helped to anchor ecumenical analysis, policy and action on nuclear weapons and nuclear-free zones in the context of Northeast Asia. Our understanding is that security is a collective, human-centred pursuit.

There is a long history of ecumenical and inter-religious engagement for peace and reunification of the Korean Peninsula. Our goal is a "truly Demilitarized Zone" in Korea which -- with international cooperation -- could transform the peninsula into a zone of that is more at peace. This is the geography of a NWFZ as well.

Shortly after last year's NPT PrepCom, church leaders from North and South Korea came to Geneva for an international consultation on peace, reconciliation and reunification. New relationships were begun. Doors were re-opened. A key follow-up step also took place -- a WCC visit to the Korean Christian Federation in Pyongyang. These are steps needed for an NWFZ as well.

A new policy begun at Busan Assembly was finished and adopted in July last year. The opening paragraphs speak for themselves:

Towards a Nuclear-free World -- "The 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches met in a region where nuclear explosions, accidents and threats have taken a heavy toll. Northeast Asia is the only place on earth where nuclear weapons have been used in warfare. During the Cold War more than 1,000 nuclear bombs were tested in adjoining areas of the Pacific and Asia. Today all states in the region either possess nuclear weapons or depend on the US nuclear arsenal. The 100-plus nuclear power plants in East Asia and the many more planned are signs of economic prowess but also reminders of the Fukushima tragedy. South Korea has the highest geographic concentration of nuclear power plants in the world.

"Living in proximity to nuclear power plants and in the target zones of opposing nuclear forces, people of conscience and courage in Northeast Asia are raising serious questions about the military and economic path of their societies. Before and after the Busan Assembly, ecumenical and inter-religious conferences in

Japan, Korea, USA and Europe have called variously for replacing nuclear power in the region as a step toward sustainable development, and eliminating nuclear weapons as a step toward peace.

“Nuclear weapons cannot indeed be reconciled with real peace. They inflict unspeakable suffering with blast, heat and radiation. They wreak destruction which cannot be bound by space or time. Their power is indiscriminate and their effects cannot be matched by any other device. As long as nuclear weapons exist, they pose a threat to humanity.”

Along with this new policy document, we also adopted policy on Article Nine of the Japanese constitution. Such are the issues that may be addressed for an NWFZ as well.

In August 2014 we put the new policies to work. An ecumenical delegation led by a WCC Co-President from South Korea, Rev Dr CHANG Sang, and including a Buddhist leader, met the Chief Cabinet Secretary of the Japanese government. They presented the Article Nine statement and the new WCC Statement Towards a Nuclear-Free World [quoted above].

The Chief Cabinet Secretary engaged in an exchange of views. He thanked the churches of Japan and the WCC for assistance in the aftermath of the Fukushima disaster. He said that significant changes in global conditions had brought the Japanese government to consider the right of collective self-defence within the framework of Article Nine, and that self-defence would only be exercised in a limited way.

The policy paper shared with the cabinet secretary expressed grave concern at the Japanese government’s initiative to reinterpret or change Article Nine. The WCC warned that to weaken this constitutional prohibition would undermine regional security. It called for the Japanese government to respect both the letter and the spirit of Article 9. It urged the government of Japan to live up to its “Peace Constitution” by building non-military collective security agreements with all neighbouring states in Northeast Asia. These are parameters for an NEA-NWFZ as well.

The next step came in December 2014. The WCC general secretary gave a keynote address the 4th Global Inter-Religious Conference on Article Nine of the Japanese Constitution, in Tokyo. As a global association of Christians, the WCC is especially appreciative on issues of peace and reconciliation Northeast Asia to join our hearts and minds with different faiths and different cultures.

The general secretary called Article Nine “A Pillar for Peace in Northeast Asia and Beyond”. He raised concerns that link adherence to Article Nine with prospects for a NEA-NWFZ.

If today’s workshop is about how such a zone contributes to global nuclear zero, we must also consider how Article Nine contributes to a NEA-NWFZ. Why have so many contentious historical and territorial issues remained unresolved in Northeast Asia? Doesn’t Article Nine oblige Japan to settle disputes with the tools

of peace rather than resorting to the use force? Doesn't the United Nations Charter oblige Japan, its neighbours and the United States in the same way?

Good-faith implementation of Article Nine is a uniquely important catalyst for healing the scars of war in Northeast Asia. It should be seen as an essential part of the groundwork for a NWFZ.

The general secretary's message to the conference, to media, and to the government in Japan was that Article Nine must be reaffirmed, not reinterpreted. Article Nine must be repositioned in the centre of Japan's international relations, not relegated to the margins of national politics. Article Nine is a model for the future, not a relic from the past. Article Nine has contributed to the image of post-war Japan as a peace-loving nation. It has become a diplomatic asset for Japan. It helps build relationships with neighbouring states. One could say that the good-faith pursuit of Article Nine is a pre-requisite for a regional NWFZ.

Trends in Northeast Asia would certainly indicate that robust government action for peace-building and collective security is greatly needed. Nation by nation, the picture is troubling. There are extensive and expensive programs to build-up military capacities. The United States' "pivot" to Asia is a troubling long-term shift in the global deployment of military forces. National profiles in Northeast Asia are taking on a more military character. We are witnessing a relaxation of arms export controls, the same old pattern of joint military exercises and new pressure to join one-sided schemes of self-defence.

The humanitarian initiative against nuclear weapons demonstrates that the pathways to shared human security are different. It needs to become a global factor that creates regional opportunities for change. Our goal must be that every state in the region is confronted -- firmly, respectfully, and repeatedly -- with the need to close the legal gap that persists around the terrible and lawless weapons which were first used there.

The humanitarian path to a regional NWFZ is for the states of Northeast Asia to find their places on these graphs. [Show & explain PowerPoint slides.] Their turn is coming. Japan and Republic of Korea are in the small and shrinking minority that find themselves an unsustainable position. They must know that they have an open invitation to join the large and growing majority. For now, there are reports that the nuclear umbrella states – nuclear-dependent states – are coming under pressure to not join the pledge. What is the message in this? Being under the nuclear umbrella means accepting that it is not right to ban the most destructive of all Weapons of Mass Destruction? That it is right that other people may have to be annihilated by them? That you as an umbrella state must accept nuclear annihilation for your own people?

The catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons are certainly helping to clarify the consequences of national strategic choices.

This is a fitting conclusion. Our member churches have pledged: “To work together to strengthen international human rights and humanitarian law, to hold governments responsible for ensuring treaty protections, to work to eliminate weapons of mass destruction and to join other communities of faith and people of goodwill to reduce national military capacities and delegitimize the institution of war.” (Statement on the Way of Just Peace, WCC Assembly, Busan, 11/2013).

These positions which many people would share are accompanied by words of faith: “We believe that humanity is called to live in ways that protect life instead of putting it at risk – neither living fearfully, defended by nuclear weapons, nor living wastefully, dependent on nuclear energy.

“We must refuse to accept that the mass destruction of other peoples can be a legitimate form of protection for ourselves. God sets before us life and death, blessings and curses. God implores us, ‘Now choose life’, so that we and our children may live.” (Towards a Nuclear-free World, WCC Central Committee, Geneva 7/2014).

Presentation

World's Religious Communities and Nuclear Disarmament

Rev. Kyoichi Sugino, Deputy Secretary General of Religions for Peace

(Separate file attached)

Video Message

Roles of Parliamentarians for a NEA-NWFZ

MP Mikyung Lee, Co-chair of PNND ROK

Warm greetings from Seoul, South Korea,

I am sorry that I cannot attend this important meeting in person, but glad that I can send my video message to you all who are now attending the 2015 NPT review conference in New York.

This year marks 70th year since A-bomb dropped on human beings for the first time in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is expected that loud calls for settling peace on the Korean peninsula and establishing nuclear free zone in Northeast Asia would be made internationally.

The main threat to peace and security in Northeast Asia is North Korean nuclear issue. Without solving this, not only North and South Korean relations but also US, China, Russia and Japan cannot have future-oriented discussion.

In addition to North Korean nuclear issue, there are other causes of threat to peace in Northeast Asia. It is Northeast Asian countries' tendency to move towards military power country and growing conflicts. Therefore, while we are looking for solutions to North Korean nuclear issue, we also need to make common efforts to jointly lessen military tension among Northeast Asian countries.

National Assembly of the Republic of Korea adopted "Resolution on National Integration for Peace and Reunification of the Korean Peninsula", jointly by both ruling and opposition parties. In the resolution, we promised to put our efforts to build trust through exchange and cooperation between North and South Korea, and establish nuclear free zone on the Korean peninsula. We, members of National Assembly, urged both Korean governments to push forward confidence building measures.

Also, 'Special Committee for inter-Korean relations and exchanges and cooperation development' under the National Assembly of Republic of Korea, has a keen interest than ever on relationship between two Koreas and establishing nuclear free zone in Northeast Asia.

Last year, on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons(26 September), 52 members of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, including myself, joined a statement supporting the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. In the statement, we expressed our grave concerns on threats caused by spread of nuclear weapons, and pointed out that any use of nuclear weapons would cause catastrophic consequences to human health, society and the environment, and would violate international humanitarian law.

However, denuclearization and establishing nuclear free zone in Northeast Asia cannot be done only by government authorities. We need wider and more diverse exchange and actions with international peace groups, denuclearization activists, expert groups and national assemblies.

Cooperation and exchange among National Assemblies in each country, including PNND, should be more invigorated. I believe that it is crucial to expand these kinds of efforts. This is a given challenge to all of us who attend this workshop.

2010 NPT Review Conference final document supported and called for the Six-Party talks but it has never happened in the last 5 years. I hope 2015 NPT Review Conference will be an opportunity to reconvene dialogue and negotiation between North and South Korea, and to establish nuclear weapon free zone in Northeast Asia.

Lastly, I wish all the best to today's workshop and express my sincere appreciation to all of you for your devotion and tireless efforts to make nuclear free world. I thank you.

Comment

Statement by Mr. Chris King

Chief, Strategic Policy Unit, United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs

I'd like to extend my thanks to Peace Depot, Peace Network, Peace Boat, People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy and Blue Banner for organising this workshop and for inviting me to speak today.

In an international climate where progress on nuclear disarmament remains glacial at best, nuclear weapon-free zones remain a practical and concrete mechanism for strengthening the global non-proliferation regime based on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) – they are intrinsically linked to the Treaty through Article VII – and advancing the cause of nuclear disarmament.

Nuclear-weapon-free zones have now grown to the point that they cover around 56 percent of the Earth's surface, including virtually the entire Southern hemisphere, and are comprised of 115 States – or 60 percent of the United Nations' membership.

Nuclear weapon-free zones provide tangible security benefits to member states, first through the security assurances provided by nuclear weapon States and second as verifiable and enforceable confidence-building measures that assure member states that their neighbours are not pursuing nuclear weapon capabilities.

Nuclear weapon-free zones outlaw nuclear weapons within specified regions and, most importantly, represent agreement by those regions to reject nuclear weapons and the existential threat they pose.

Although not perfect, nuclear weapon-free zones often have conditions that go beyond the NPT – such as the requirement for the International Atomic Energy Agency's Additional Protocol in the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone in Central Asia. Many of these regions were also victims of nuclear testing and the treaties establishing nuclear weapon-free zones provide a means to ensure future generations will not suffer the same fate.

Above all, nuclear weapon-free zones are important building blocks for the elimination of nuclear weapons. Every State that joins a nuclear-weapon-free zone brings us one step closer to a world free of these devastating weapons.

Northeast Asia is one of the world's most important economic and strategic hubs. It is home to the second, third and eleventh largest economies in the world and responsible for some 4.5 trillion dollars in annual trade. It is a key engine for global economic growth.

From an international security perspective, it is also home to some of the most precarious geopolitical flashpoints in the world, including territorial disputes.

Finally, it is a region that is very much in the shadow of nuclear weapons. It is surrounded by nuclear-weapon States, contains one State that remains in defiance of the international community through its dangerous and destabilising nuclear and missile programmes, several States that could cross the nuclear threshold if provoked, and, finally, is the only region in which nuclear weapons have been used in conflict.

For all of these reasons – for our collective security and prosperity – it makes eminent sense that Northeast Asia becomes a nuclear weapon-free zone.

The United Nations has always been a staunch supporter of nuclear weapon-free zones agreed by States of the region. The guidelines on nuclear weapon-free zones prepared by the United Nations Disarmament Commission in 1999 specifically task the UN with providing assistance to States that have reached consensus on establishing a zone.

Through the Secretary General’s Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, the UN has acted as a platform to further discussions on a Northeast Asian nuclear weapon-free zone and the Secretary General has urged States in the region to consider appropriate action to establish a zone, “including by promoting a more active role for the regional forums in encouraging transparency and confidence-building among the countries of the region.”

Ultimately, it must be the States of the region that decide what a nuclear weapon-free zone will look like. However, in my opinion, regional States might wish to consider the following.

First, although States have multiple templates in the other zones to choose from it is important recognise that nuclear weapon-free zones are not uniform – they have evolved with the development of each Treaty.

Consequently, regional States should develop a zone that best accommodates the unique features of Northeast Asia. This could, for example, include a flexible approach to entry into force and initial membership.

Second, I would encourage regional States to impose the strictest verification and compliance measures available. Any rollback of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea’s nuclear programme will require, at a minimum, the Additional Protocol, but probably more robust verification mechanisms.

Third, the removal of extended nuclear deterrence from the Northeast Asian security equation would provide an important confidence-building measure, as well as boost the nuclear weapon-free zone’s contribution to nuclear disarmament.

In this context, ensuring robust security assurances from nuclear weapon States would be essential to provide the conditions under which States feel comfortable abandoning the “nuclear umbrella”. Obviously,

including nuclear weapon States throughout the process of negotiating a nuclear weapon-free zone could facilitate this.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the organisations represented here today for the excellent job they have done in laying the ground for a Northeast Asian nuclear weapon-free zone, including through the articulation of useful and pragmatic proposals for the constitution of such a zone, the linkage between regional peace and security and a nuclear weapon-free zone, and next steps that should be taken.

Realising a Northeast Asian nuclear weapon-free zone will, above all else, require trust and political will among the States of the region. I hope your efforts will act as catalyst to achieve this.

Statement

Joint Statement for the Creation of a Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone

It is approaching 70 years since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and yet humankind still does not possess a legally binding framework to ban the worst man-made inhumane weapons. Believing that it would contribute greatly to global efforts for a nuclear free world, our group of NGOs from Japan, Korea and Mongolia has since 2003 continued to hold workshops at the NPT Review Conferences and in other settings to call for a Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (NEA-NWFZ). In Northeast Asia, initiatives calling for such a zone are being undertaken by various sectors of society, including local municipalities, religious community, national parliamentarians and more. For example, in Japan, 546 heads of local municipalities have signed a petition in support of a NEA-NWFZ as at March 2015.

Based on this, NGOs from Japan, Korea and Mongolia, in cooperation with international peace groups, held the workshop “Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Contributes towards Global Nuclear Zero” at the UN Headquarters in New York during the 9th NPT Review Conference. Here, we aimed to directly deliver the dedicated conviction of civil society to the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs and delegations of various countries. To this end, we reported on the various initiatives of experts, local municipalities, the religious community, national parliamentarians and NGOs in the region, and discussed the importance of a comprehensive approach including the promotion of a NEA-NWFZ and a treaty to end the Korean War.

In order to realise a nuclear weapon free world, all countries have the responsibility to pursue a shift to security policies which do not rely on nuclear weapons, Mongolia’s policy of nuclear-weapon-free status being one such example. A NEA-NWFZ provides this path for Japan, Korea and related countries in Northeast Asia. This is an effective means to break through the severe situation in Northeast Asia and work for lasting peace in the region. In July 2013, the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters made the ground-breaking recommendation that “the Secretary General should also consider appropriate action for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in North-East Asia.” Furthermore, at the UN High Level Meeting on nuclear disarmament in September 2013, Mongolia's President Elbegdorj declared that as a country with first-hand experience in ensuring security primarily by political and diplomatic means, Mongolia is prepared, on an informal basis, to work with the countries of Northeast Asia to see if and how a nuclear-weapon-free zone could be established in the region.

We strongly appeal to the UNODA to take concrete steps according to the Advisory Board's recommendations for “appropriate action for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in North-East Asia,” and for the member states of the Six Party Talks and related governments to cooperate in these efforts. We strongly support such moves, and will work to build international public opinion and cooperate.

We also call upon politicians involved in national and local politics, civil society and individuals around the world to support a NEA-NWFZ, and to join efforts for its realisation.

April 30, 2015

New York, USA

Organisers of the NGO Workshop “Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Contributes towards Global Nuclear Zero: Pursuing a shift of security policy on nuclear weapons”

Blue Banner

Nautilus Institute

Peace Boat

Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation
and Disarmament

Peace Depot

Religions for Peace

Peace Network

People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy

World Council of Churches

International Peace Bureau

References

You can download this booklet at www.peacedepot.org/e-news/2015NPTWS.pdf

2014 Forum www.peacedepot.org/e-news/2014NPTforum.pdf

2013 Workshop www.peacedepot.org/e-news/2013NPTWS.pdf

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4/30/2015

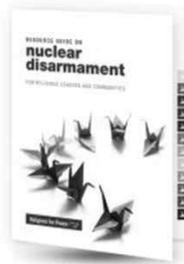
Religions for Peace 

World's Religious Communities and Nuclear Disarmament

Kyoichi Sugino
Deputy Secretary General, *Religions for Peace* International

Global Multi-religious Solidarity for a Nuclear Weapons Free World

Resource Guide on Nuclear Disarmament for Religious Leaders and Communities: The Official Launch at the UN



H.E. Laura Chinchilla Miranda, President of Costa Rica, Dr. William F. Vendley, Secretary General, *Religions for Peace* and Ambassador Eduardo Ulibarri at the Launch (*United Nations*, 25 September 2013)



“Resource Guide on Nuclear Disarmament for Religious Leaders and Communities” is a welcome step forward on the road to a nuclear weapon-free world.”

— Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations



“There is no moral justification for nuclear weapons and people of faith the world over cannot but reject them, including their possession and the threat of their use, as an affront against God and creation.”
— Honorable Ela Gandhi, Founder, Gandhi Development Trust; Granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi



“There is a growing convergence of ethical and religious perspectives on nuclear arms as a threat to humanity and life on earth. The use of weapons of mass destruction violates the understanding of God as the Creator of the universe and of all human beings.”
—Bishop Gunnar Stålsett, Bishop Emeritus of Oslo, and Member, Nobel Peace Prize Committee, Norway, and *R/P* International Executive Committee Member



“The use of nuclear weapons and even their possession is not consistent with our religious values, moral principles, and the humanitarian law. We pray for us and for all humanity to find the wisdom and courage to banish for all time these instruments of destruction.”
— Honorable Mehrézia Labidi-Maiza, Member of Parliament, Republic of Tunisia, and Coordinator, *Religions for Peace* Global Women of Faith Network

“As people of faith we understand that all of creation is a precious and sacred gift to us and succeeding generations. We acknowledge the sacred duty to nurture and preserve it, and we know of no greater desecration of God’s creation than to assault it, or even threaten it, with the almost limitless destructive power of nuclear weapons.”
—H. E. Sheikh Shaban Mubajje, Grand Mufti, Uganda Muslim Supreme Council, and Co-Moderator, African Council of Religious Leaders-*R/P*



“Nuclear weapons threaten to destroy what is most precious—human life and the ecosystem on which all life depends. The prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons is, we believe, a deeply spiritual imperative.”
— H. E. John Cardinal Onaiyekan, Archbishop of Abuja, Nigeria, and Co-Moderator, African Council of Religious Leaders-*R/P*



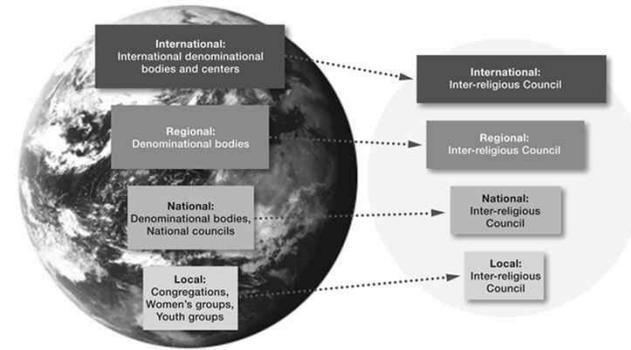
“From its founding in 1970, *Religions for Peace* has consistently been working to eliminate nuclear weapons. Their prohibition and elimination is a deeply spiritual imperative.”
— Ven. Gijun Sugitani, Chair, *R/P* International Standing Committee on Disarmament and Security

The Religions for Peace 9th World Assembly Vienna, Austria | November 20-22, 2013



Engaging Religious Communities at Multiple Levels Simultaneously

How to effectively mobilize the world's religious communities

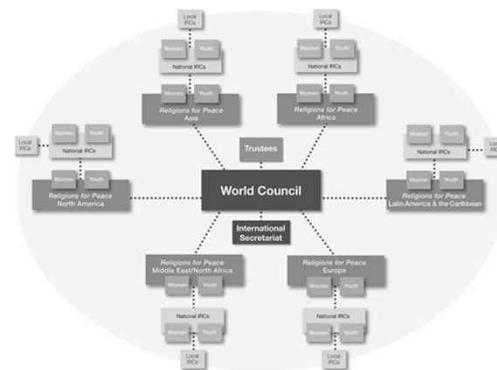


Religions for Peace

Methods and Mechanisms (An Example of Conflict Transformation)

	Education & Conscientization			Advocacy	Mediation	Reconciliation & Social Reconstruction
	AGENTS					
Believers						
Temples/Mosques/Churches						
Local Women/Youth Groups						
Districts of Temples/Mosques/Churches						
National Women/Youth Groups						
National Council of Imams						
National Denominations						
National Councils						
Regional Religious Associations						
International Religious Bodies/Associations						

Religions for Peace Global Network: Structural Map



Religions for Peace



Engaging National, Regional and Global Interfaith Youth Networks

RfP Arms Down Campaign: E-Advocacy

Arms Down! Campaign

- 4,000+ Likes on Facebook
- 41 comments and 632 average visits per week

Arms Down!

2,850,576 Signatures Collected

Goal 1
Eliminate nuclear weapons

Goal 2
Stop the proliferation and misuse of conventional weapons

Goal 3
Reduce 10% of military expenditures to address the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015

Learn About Arms Down! Watch the Video

Arms Down! Video English

Religions for Peace

4/30/2015



**Convening National Interreligious Councils in
China, ROK, DPRK, Japan, US and Russia**



Multi-religious Consultations-China, Korea, Japan, US and Russia



Multi-religious Talks - China, South Korea, Japan, US and Russia - (August 2006, 2013)



Korea, Japan and China (August 2013)



September 2011



June 2012

The Way Forward

Strategic Partnership between Parliamentarians and Religious Leaders

Partnership between Parliamentarians and Religious Communities (April 21, 2015)

