

United Nations Regional Workshop for East and Southeast Asia

“Strengthening the Capacity of the Media in Advocating and Promoting Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific”

UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific



Summary Report

Beijing, 20 – 21 January 2011



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This report summarizes the discussions of the workshop. Participants neither reviewed nor approved this report. Therefore, it should not be assumed that every participant subscribes to all of its observations and conclusions.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND KEY POINTS

From 20 to 21 January 2011 the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) conducted a workshop for East and Southeast Asia titled “Strengthening the Capacity of the Media in Advocating and Promoting Peace and Disarmament” with the financial support from the Government of the People’s Republic of China and in close cooperation with the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association. This meeting was the first of a series of three sub-regional workshops on the topic of disarmament and media in Asia and the Pacific. It will be followed by two workshops covering South and Central Asia, as well as the Pacific.

To raise awareness of the important role of the media in promoting peace and disarmament and to enhance cooperation on this issue among media professionals, disarmament experts, governments and international organizations, the UNRCPD brought together senior journalists from 11 countries in the region, and disarmament experts from governments, civil society and academic institutes as well as international organizations, including the United Nations and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO).

The workshop proved to be a timely and significant effort to promote peace and disarmament in East and Southeast Asia. It enhanced the knowledge of media participants on disarmament as well as the awareness of disarmament experts on the media’s perspective and work as well as its constraints in reporting disarmament related issues. Furthermore, it helped pave the way for increased collaboration between the media and disarmament communities. The very positive feedback from the media participants proves that there is a real need for continuing this exchange and to held similar workshops in other sub-regions and potentially beyond. The UNRCPD is very grateful to the Government of the People’s Republic of China that has supported this workshop.

Key points

- The UN and other disarmament-related organizations and the media should enhance collaboration to increase media coverage of disarmament issues.
- Media mostly depend on government sources for their reporting on disarmament related topics. Independent disarmament experts, including those from NGOs can help the media diversify its sources of information by providing them with easily available and fact-based information.
- Capacity building workshops for the media are very helpful to comprehensively promote the media’s understanding of disarmament issues.
- Journalist need to be provided with a good argument by disarmament experts to convince supervisors at the newsroom that a particular story is relevant and worth to be published or broadcasted.
- The media can institutionalize disarmament advocates in the media cycle by creating a special team for covering disarmament topics.
- Disarmament experts should avoid using many jargons and understand the laymen’s mentality when they advocate disarmament issues.
- Journalists reporting on disarmament and arms control issues should not simply relate facts,

but present the current events in a broader and more balanced context and provide the audience with solution-oriented views.

- Despite a generalized media's perspective that "good news is bad news; bad news is good news", we need to make utmost to present good news as actual and positive stories to promote peace and disarmament.

BACKGROUND AND AIMS OF THE WORKSHOP

Global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament stand at a critical juncture. The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons around the world is equally concerning. To advance the disarmament agenda, it is essential to mobilize a strenuous support from the general public. In this context, the media as an intermediary entity has a very important role to play. They are best placed to generate public interest and involvement in these issues and get invaluable firsthand feedback from ordinary citizens, who in turn can play a very positive role in requesting governments and international organizations to promote disarmament and non-proliferation.

For the media to constructively contribute to peace and disarmament, it is essential to first enhance their knowledge and understanding of specific issues related to disarmament and non-proliferation. Second, experts on disarmament and non-proliferation and the media should jointly explore a communication strategy to enhance a flow of accurate and wide-ranging information on disarmament-related trends and developments from the disarmament community to the general public. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament, which covers 43 countries in Asia and the Pacific, is in a good position to enhance the links between experts, organizations involved in peace and disarmament, and the media.

This workshop aimed at further increasing the knowledge and expertise of the media in disarmament and non-proliferation and at finding ways to enhance partnerships among the United Nations, international organizations, and individuals working on disarmament-related issues in the media.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Opening session

The regional workshop was opened by an introductory statement by Amb. Sergio Duarte, United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and followed by a keynote speech by Amb. Cheng Jingye, Director- General of the Department of Arms Control and Disarmament, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China.

Mr. Duarte started his remarks by asking why we should focus on the media, when it is widely recognized that key disarmament decisions are made by sovereign States. “The answer lies in the unique roles played by the media in shaping the wider relationship between government and society—roles that will certainly have implications for the future of disarmament efforts”, he emphasized. The process of globalization has reinforced the roles and responsibilities of the media, as both audiences and the variety of subjects have expanded by the unprecedented revolution in communication technologies. Amb. Duarte stressed the significant role of the media in keeping the public informed, in reporting public expectations, in describing and assessing progress and setbacks, and in keeping the issue of disarmament as a high priority in public policy. He added that the media has done much to assist civil society efforts for disarmament, to expose illicit traffickers of weaponry, and to prevent terrorists from acquiring the world’s deadliest weapons. “Yet more needs to be done, as uses of either weapons of mass destruction or illicitly traded conventional arms have characteristically had catastrophic effects on civilian populations, which continue to face pressing social and economic needs.” He concluded by saying that the UN stands ready to work closely with partners from the media to achieve a safer and better world.

Speaking on behalf of the host country, Mr. Cheng emphasized that, due to the complexity of today’s security challenges, no country can address all security issues on its own. Mr. Cheng further stated that China is a firm upholder of peace and stability in Asia and the Pacific and the world at large as well as an active participant and promoter of international arms control and the non-proliferation process. China is also a loyal performer of its international arms control and non-proliferation obligations. In his view, the media are not only the reporter, but also important participant and promoter of peace and security. Their professional, objective and timely report is indispensable for the public to have a comprehensive and accurate understanding on arms control and disarmament-related issues. He concluded that the media’s work will facilitate communication and mutual understanding between government and the people and thereby promote the international arms control and non-proliferation processes.

SESSION I: Taking Concrete Steps Towards a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World

The first session focused on nuclear disarmament at a global and regional level.

Amb. Thomas Graham Jr. from Global Zero provided the participating media with an overview of the early stages of both the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament efforts. For the last four decades, the basic bargain contained in the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) has formed the central underpinnings of the international non-proliferation regime. However, due to the failure of the nuclear weapon states to deliver on the disarmament part of this bargain, today the NPT is in trouble. Recognizing this vulnerability of the NPT, urgent efforts have begun to move directly toward the elimination of nuclear weapons as called for in the treaty. Mr. Graham further said that the New START will open the door to negotiations toward continuous U.S.-Russian reductions in strategic nuclear weapons, perhaps even to a total of 1,000 total nuclear weapons on each side. This

level is regarded as a necessary step to permit consideration of multilateral nuclear weapon reduction negotiations involving all nuclear weapon states. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is of greatest immediate importance, although the chance for CTBT to enter into force in the near future is not dim. Mr. Graham concluded that in spite of the difficulties, the current time remains a time of promise thanks to the commitment of President Obama and the widespread support for progress on nuclear arms control and non-proliferation and we should keep the faith.

Prof. Zhu Feng from the Center for International and Strategic Studies of the Peking University presented his views on the current security situation vis-à-vis nuclear armament in East Asia and suggested ways toward a nuclear free region. He outlined the positive steps taken by the Obama administration to move towards a nuclear free world. However, in his view, the US foreign policy in Asia is still focused on maintaining the US supremacy in the region and China fears a neutralization of its limited nuclear deterrence. Dr. Zhu stressed that to turn the vision of a nuclear-free world into a real and workable process, all powers should take a prudent and restrained strategy to re-examine their defense demands. Furthermore, he called for the development of a regional strategy including a shared vision of the region, and a set of pragmatic steps. Stopping North Korea's nuclear program should continue to be a top goal for the region. Dr. Zhu concluded that a Nuclear Free East Asia is possible, but that would require an end to power rivalry yet consolidating stability and constructive cooperation of power relations.

In the discussion following the presentations it was mentioned that the viability of the NPT depends on the implementation of the Middle East resolution. Nuclear powers should commit to a non-first use policy, not to attack non nuclear weapon states and not to move nuclear weapons across borders; the international community should strive for gradual and proportional reduction with stringent verification; the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula will be the first steps towards a Nuclear Free East Asia. It was also suggested that the media should in the first place get informed accurately on the nuclear issues and should avoid inaccurate and unrealistic reporting.

SESSION II: Pressing Issues on Disarmament and Security Agenda

The second session aimed at providing media participants with background knowledge on specific issues related to disarmament and security. The first part of the session dealt with the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), nuclear terrorism, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Dr. Annika Thunborg, Spokesperson and Chief of Public Information of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) offered background information on the past nuclear test activities. Out of the more than 2,000 tests that took place in the past, the vast majority was conducted by the US and the Soviet Union/Russia. The CTBT forbids all nuclear tests, may they be underground, underwater or in the atmosphere. If the treaty entered into force, it would be very difficult to improve the weapons and to develop new technologies. 182 States signed the CTBT and 153 ratified it. It will enter into force when all 44 States which either possess nuclear weapons or significant nuclear capacities have

ratified it. Nine of those 44 States are yet to ratify the instrument. Then, Ms. Thunborg explained the three pillars of the global verification regime which has been developed by the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO, namely International Monitoring System, International Data Centre and On-site inspection. With the monitoring system currently comprising 245 certified facilities in 89 countries, it has the capacity to determine time, location, depth and magnitude of a nuclear explosion.

Dr. William Potter from the Monterey Institute of International Studies highlighted the importance of taking measures to combat nuclear terrorism. He started with a fictional discussion among three would-be terrorists talking about acquiring nuclear material. Those terrorists conversed about the many options for stealing nuclear fissile materials in a country with lax nuclear security. As long as the international community keeps creating more organizations and initiatives to fight terrorism, but fails to properly implement concrete measures, such options will exist. Mr. Potter emphasized that learning on nuclear material and technologies has taken place among terrorists, and that the international community needs to become aware of the nuclear terrorism threat and take practical steps to reduce this risk. He proposed concrete measures to secure Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) such as conducts of nuclear security upgrades, shutdown and conversion of relevant facilities, an IAEA mandate to promote HEU minimization, strengthening of national legislation and HEU Code of Conduct. He also stressed the importance of strengthening national and international standards on nuclear security and the role of education and training in promoting global nuclear security culture. He expressed his hope that the situation becomes much better before the 2nd Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul in April 2012.

The presentation by Prof. Nobuyasu Abe of the Center for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-proliferation focused on the challenges in the fields of non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Mr. Abe explained that the same scientific methods and the materials are used to either make nuclear bombs or to produce electricity from nuclear energy. How, he asked, can we allow the peaceful uses of nuclear energy while preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons? His first suggestion is to prevent the material, i.e. enriched uranium and plutonium, for peaceful uses to become used for weapon purposes. This is what the IAEA has been doing since it launched its Safeguards system after the NPT entered into force. Mr. Abe's second idea is to control the technology by which you enrich uranium or separate plutonium. This has been done by a group of 46 countries, called the Nuclear Suppliers Group. However, it is difficult to make a distinction between military use and peaceful use as the materials and technologies themselves do not differ. Thus, one needs to confirm the intention of a country by reviewing its past performance. Against this background, one way to make certain that the use of nuclear energy is for peaceful purposes, is to allow IAEA inspections under the Additional Protocol. Another idea is to limit the location of uranium enrichment facilities and plutonium separation plants, the two key nuclear activities that may be abused for bomb-making. He hopes that the current effort to establish an international framework to provide nuclear fuel services will provide a favorable nuclear fuel supply assurance to the countries who may try to start nuclear power generation projects and reduces greatly the need for each country to have its own nuclear enrichment and reprocessing plants. Mr. Abe urged nuclear suppliers not to put commercial consideration above non-proliferation, and not to start

making exceptions for “special friends”. His specific suggestions for the media professionals were to make disarmament a priority issue and to write or broadcast realistic statements on those topics.

In the discussion following the first part of the Session II, the different patterns of potential nuclear terrorisms (attack or sabotage of nuclear facilities, acquisition of fissile material, fabrication of dirty bombs and acquisition of intact nuclear weapons) were discussed.

The second part of the session gave an overview on space security and small arms and light weapons (SALW).

Mr. Ben Baseley-Walker from Secure World Foundation presented current trends in space security and possible responses. He started by explaining that currently over 60 countries and organizations have space assets and that there is an increased space usage by governments (civil and military purposes) and the general population (GPS, banking, weather, etc). In order to ensure humanity’s future ability to use space resources, it is necessary to prevent weaponisation of space and an arms race in outer space. The prevention of terrestrial conflicts resulting from uncertainties or misunderstandings in space should be a priority. Mr. Baseley-Walker stated that there is a need to bring the international community together to discuss how space security issues should be dealt with in the future. In his view, a treaty on space security is necessary to provide a framework for the growing uses of outer space, and to ensure that all outer space activities are peaceful. It is of utmost importance to bring together the new initiatives into a network of effective agreement without hindering the entry of new players into the space arena. Transparency and predictability are key elements in this regard.

Building on the previous presentation, Amb. Li Changhe from China Arms Control and Disarmament Association talked about Preventing Weaponization in Outer Space. Mr. Li reminded the audience that space technology was first developed for military uses. Over 6000 satellites have been launched, of which more than 80% were for military purposes. Satellites are multipliers to increase operational effectiveness of weapons systems, and have extensively been used in support of military ground operations in recent years. Mr. Li presented the concept of “Space Warfare”: whoever controls space controls the earth, and the command of space is an important precondition of command of air and sea. He recalled that, during the Cold War, superpowers competed in development and experiment of different types of anti-satellites weapons. Mr. Li stated that missile defence system and outer space are closely related, since the former relies on the supportive space-based early warning, tracking and identifying systems. Mr. Li pointed out that the international community has reached a series of international laws and agreements on weapons in outer space (Outer Space Treaty in 1967, Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in 1972), yet none of them being entirely satisfactory. China stands against the weaponization of outer space. For Mr. Li, it is necessary to negotiate and conclude an international legally-binding instrument on arms race control in outer space. Proper operational transparency and confidence building measures can play a positive role in maintaining space security.

Mr. Eric Berman from the Small Arms Survey (SAS) concluded Session II with a presentation on today's small arms and light weapons (SALW) challenges. He first explained that the vast majority of armed violence related deaths occur in non-conflict settings. Mr. Berman enumerated some consequences of the proliferation of SALW and ammunition, including direct casualties (deaths and injuries), the undermining of development, weakening of good governance structures, and detrimental long-term societal changes, etc. More than two-thirds of small arms are in civilian hands SALW are not difficult to trade, as they are available in great numbers, cheap and easy to transport. Mr. Berman introduced the UN Programme of Action (PoA), a political instrument adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2001, which aims at preventing, controlling and eradicating the illicit trade in SALW. His concluding observations were that Asia and the Pacific region was comparatively less transparent on SALW related issues, and that regional organizations are relatively inactive in this topic. Finally, Mr. Berman requested the media participants to approach authorities, security forces and civil society on the current SALW situation and efforts, as well as to play a role in the national agenda setting.

During the subsequent discussion, participants said that commercial considerations are also a reason for SALW proliferation; most Asian countries are not transparent in SALW issue because of weak civil society structures and lack of strong regional instruments; concrete questions on SALW for media with which they could approach authorities are: how are stockpiles managed? Do all weapons have a unique serial number? Are there surplus of SALW? Participants also discussed; the issue of anti-satellite weapons to be addressed in the general framework of the weaponization of outer space, and not separately.

SESSION III: Strengthening the Role of Media in Promoting Peace and Disarmament: Cooperation between Media, Civil Society and International Organizations

The third session gave inputs from various actors (media, international organization, civil society) on the importance of disarmament education and the role that media can further play in advocating disarmament.

Dr. William Potter stated that although all states endorse the general concept of disarmament education, relatively little progress has been made in translating the recommendations made by the UN Experts Group on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education and adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2002 into concrete action. Among many others, one recommendation is for the United Nations, relevant International Organizations, Member States, NGOs, and research institutes to develop and strengthen programs, workshops, fellowships, and materials on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation for journalists and media representatives, in order to enhance their knowledge of these issues. Mr. Potter expressed his regrets that few states have taken seriously the request to convey to the Secretary-General every other year the results of their implementation of the recommendations of the Experts Group. In conclusion, Mr. Potter highlighted a number of concrete steps how states,

international organizations, and civil society could take a more responsive approach to the recommendations made by the Experts Group: find mechanisms to alert states to their reporting requirements; designation of focal points for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation education in relevant UN offices and International Organizations.

Dr. Hiro Ueki from the UN Department of Public Information (DPI) shared his experience on the collaboration among media and the UN. His first example concerned the inspection missions verifying the alleged possession of weapons of mass destruction by Iraq. In the 1990s, media played a positive role when helping to put pressure on the Iraqis to admit past untruthful declarations. However, they also had a negative influence by aggravating some confrontations between the inspectors and the Iraqi authorities, and contributed the technical inspections to become a high political issue. As a UN inspection, Mr. Ueki issued a daily written press statement on the UN inspections activities in order to satisfy the demands of the media for constant updates as well as reduce the chances of misinterpretation. Challenges included the management of the media without manipulation and the creation of a sense of trust among them that they were being given accurate information. The second example refers to the disarmament, demobilization and rehabilitation (DDR) process in Afghanistan which started in 2003. This process was first seen as a success since numerous combatants from the Afghan Military Forces were demobilized and many arms were collected. Media reported very positively and uncritically on the ongoing DDR. However, the process had a lot of serious shortcomings, like the non-provision of sustainable livelihoods for demobilized combatants. Mr. Ueki mentioned another example of DDR process, in Bougainville, a province of Papua New Guinea. The peace agreement, reached in 2001, was tied to a three stage weapons disposal plan. By 2004, 92% of the weapons collected were destroyed and seven out of ten districts were disarmed. Throughout this process, the local media played an important role in keeping the stakeholders informed about the ongoing progress. He urged the media to have a good understanding of the complex factors affecting peace and disarmament and to present them in a proper context with careful analyses.

Dr. Fumihiko Yoshida from the Asahi newspaper elaborated on the involvement of Japanese media to advocate nuclear disarmament. In his view, the process of nuclear disarmament is inextricably linked to the opinions, emotions and knowledge of populations, therefore disarmament necessarily involves entire peoples, not merely governments. He explained that, due to the legacy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, reporting and analyzing nuclear issues have been an inherited importance in journalism for many of Japanese media. In case of his newspaper, 5,562 articles on nuclear issues were printed in 2010. Dr. Yoshida pointed out that Japanese media have sponsored a lot of events and activities on nuclear disarmament. The Chugoku Shimbun for example manages the Hiroshima Peace Media Centre since 2008. This Centre has been transmitting nuclear disarmament related reporting via internet both in English and Japanese. The Asahi Shimbun started the website named "Memory of Hiroshima and Nagasaki—Messages from Hibakusha". This website includes first-hand accounts of the 1945 bombings written by A-bomb survivors. Mr. Yoshida further explained that Japanese media needs to work together with international media. This includes collaboration with the South Korean media on the Six Party Talks, and cooperation between Japanese and foreign media aimed at enhancing reporting about experiences in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The subsequent interactive discussions facilitated deepening the understanding on the issues raised in the presentations. Major organizations involved in disarmament should carry out specific capacity building for journalists; disarmament professionals should shape and explain the issues in a clear and comprehensive manner; media wishes visual and clear examples that are appealing to the audience; the importance of the independence of journalists vis-a-vis governments or any other actors was emphasized; One media participant shared his concern about the difficulty to know the truth, who is right or wrong, since verification and enquiry related to these sensitive topics are difficult. Several participants emphasized the importance of making disarmament education more balanced taking into account the views of other states.

SESSION IV: Strengthening the Role of Media in Promoting Peace and Disarmament: Regional and National Perspectives

The last session of the workshop aimed at giving time and opportunity to participants, especially to journalists, to exchange their views, concerns and suggestions on the role of media in promoting disarmament. Prior to the workshop a list of issues for discussions was distributed to all participants (see. Annex 1).

It started with four brief presentations from media participants. The first panelist, Dr. William Choong from the Straits Times (Singapore), spoke on nuclear disarmament. He stated among other things that reduction of nuclear weapons is the consequence of improved political relationships, and not the opposite, and that nuclear deterrence continues to be considered useful. Regarding media and arms control, Mr. Choong feels that journalists can interact with the news presented to them, and develop their own particular views, since there is no singular model of how media actually reports on arms control issues. As an example, he pointed out that media in Singapore does not report on the nuclear issue like their Japanese colleagues. Mr. Choong emphasized that journalists actually have to adopt a balanced view (e.g. not use sensationalist views on arms control, military development, etc). Still one needs to understand that, from a media company perspective, “good news is bad news; bad news is good news”.

Ms. Retno Shanti Ruwyastuti from the Metro TV (Indonesia) focused on the current perspective of Indonesian media on disarmament. She explained that they mostly report on the issue when a specific event is taking place. This was the case during the small arms collection and destruction process at the end of the internal conflict. In 2010, many bank robberies took place during which robbers used unregistered weapons. These events drove Indonesian media to inform their audience on arms licensing procedures. They pointed out that there is no comprehensive and complete inventory of security forces’ weapons. The sources of information to report on arms control issue are mostly local authorities and witnesses. Ms. Ruwyastuti suggested that more capacity building workshops on disarmament issues could be held for educating journalists like the ones held for educating journalists on global climate change issues. She pointed out that her media, a major TV station, has a good outreach to young people and already collaborated with the UN to prepare reportage on HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Son-Taek Wang from YTN TV (ROK), first pointed out that in his country, Republic of Korea, armament and military encounters are hot topics, but not disarmament. The sources of information about the reporting on disarmament issues are principally with the government. Mr. Wang said that the media wants easy stories to catch up young audience's attention as well as more detailed ones explaining, for example, the linkage between economic benefits and disarmament efforts. He further expects reliable data and facts from websites run by disarmament actors, in order to allow the journalists to conduct fact based analysis. Mr. Wang's ideas to improve the role of media in promoting disarmament include: capacity-building of journalists, stronger involvement of political to raise the attention of the public;. Although the media looks powerful, an individual journalist is actually weak, and each journalist needs to be provided with a good argument by disarmament experts to convince his colleagues of the newsroom that a particular story is relevant and worth to be published/broadcasted.

Ms. Li Hongmei from the People's Daily (China) mentioned the recent joint military exercises of the US Navy, the Japanese and the South Korean maritime forces. She pointed out that the media generally believed that these activities could exacerbate the situation in the region. Some blamed the US, others North Korea, some others China. In Ms. Li's view, the burning question is what kind of role the media should play in security crisis situations. The media seems to make headlines of war games. The US Senate's vote in favor of the New START Treaty is less reported than the likelihood of war on the Korean peninsula. For her, even if the media can hardly play a substantive role in reversing a cascade of events, they can help cultivate a constructive opinion environment throughout which peace should act as the basic formula

In the following discussion, general comments and questions were raised, and concrete steps toward an enhanced role of the media in promoting disarmament were suggested.

An expert mentioned that media should not simply report facts but also have a solution-oriented coverage of disarmament issues. Another participant emphasized that the thought "disarmament is too complicate to be explained" has to be banished.

One journalist sees jargon and technical knowledge as walls between media professionals and disarmament communities. Many journalists requested arms control practitioners to use simple language and explications accessible to journalists. Several media participants emphasized the necessity to have different sources of information as the currently available ones are limited to governments, foreign major news agencies and those engaged in disarmament campaigns. Disarmament communities should make more efforts to develop easily available fact-based sources for the media. It was further acknowledged that journalists need to extend their critical thinking and contextualize disarmament efforts.

A journalist also pointed out the time constraint in which media persons are constantly working. It was suggested that journalists wanting to publish an article or to broadcast news on arms control issues shall be more persistent to achieve it. One media participant working for a TV station thinks that documentaries on disarmament issues would be an effective way to report on the issue. In order to attract younger readers, a newspaper

issues a special weekly edition covering all topics - including arms control- of the week for teenagers. Various participants agreed that lot of the issues that come in the news are about conflict. Journalists should then try to include perspective on potential solutions in their reporting.

CONCLUSION

The workshop on strengthening the role of the media in promoting peace and disarmament, the first UN workshop in recent years specifically organized for media professionals, proved to be a timely and significant effort to promote peace and disarmament in East and Southeast Asia. It enhanced the knowledge of media participants on disarmament as well as the awareness of disarmament experts on the journalistic perspective, work and constraints. Furthermore, it highlighted the necessity for an increase of exchange and paved the way for stronger efforts by the media and disarmament community to enhance the capacity of journalists in reporting accurately and effectively on arms control and disarmament issues. The workshop offered the opportunity for direct contact and networking among media and disarmaments professionals, as well as among journalists themselves. Extensive interviews by Mr. Duarte and Mr. Cheng to respond to a variety of questions related to disarmament and security were also appreciated by the media participants. The very positive reactions and feedbacks from all participants prove that there is a real need for this type of regular exchange.

Concrete suggestions to enhance the role of media in promoting peace and disarmament include the following:

- UN and other disarmament-related organizations and the media should enhance collaboration to increase media coverage about disarmament issues.
- Regarding reporting on disarmament, easily available and fact-based sources of information are limited. Media mostly depend on information provided by governments. Institutions involved in disarmament-related activities and research are able to help the media diversify its sources of information by providing specific inputs for news as well as background document for the media. Their websites should contain updated facts and data for the media's use.
- Over the past years, many workshops for media were held to raise awareness on the issues of global climate change. Workshops for media training, like the current one, are very helpful to comprehensively educate the media on disarmament issues. For example, to raise awareness among the media on combating nuclear terrorism, it would be helpful to organize a workshop for the media before the 2012 Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul.
- To attract the attention of the media, it is important to provide them with an easily understandable and interesting story. It is so especially to attract the interests of young audiences. It is also relevant to illustrate the topic of disarmament in a bigger context such as the positive impact of certain disarmament efforts on the economy as it can generate more attention of the public. Mobilizing political protagonists would also help media's interests on the topic.

- Although the media itself is powerful, individual journalists are not necessarily the same. They need to be provided with a good argument by disarmament experts to convince their supervisors at the newsroom that a particular story is relevant and worth to be published or broadcasted.
- The media can institutionalize disarmament advocates inside the media by creating a special team for covering disarmament issues.
- The media can work together with the UN and other international organizations to make an informative documentary to promote the understanding and interest of the public on the disarmament issues.
- Disarmament experts should avoid using many jargons and understand the laymen's mentality if they want to promote the understanding of the media on the topics.
- Journalists reporting on disarmament and arms control issues should not simply relate facts, but present the current events in a broader and more balanced context and provide the audience with solution-oriented views. They should avoid sensationalism and contribute to fostering a constructive environment.
- Despite a generalized media's perspective that "good news is bad news; bad news is good news", we need to make utmost to present good news as actual and positive story to further promote peace and disarmament.

APPENDIX I: Issues for Discussion during Session IV

1. What is your perspective on current disarmament and non-proliferation challenges, i.e. nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, nuclear testing, WMD terrorism, space security, illicit small arms trade.etc?
2. How is the current profile in media reporting on disarmament and non-proliferation issues in your respective country in general?
3. What are the sources of your information for reporting on disarmament and non-proliferation issues? How do your media allocate staff for covering disarmament issues?
4. What do you expect of the UN, International Organizations and Civil Society in improving its media and public outreach on disarmament and non-proliferation issues?
5. What possible steps could be taken by media to better advocate and promote disarmament and non-proliferation issues?
6. Have you ever visited the web site of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs or CTBTO or the foreign ministries, especially the departments of arms control of states? How do you expect them to help you?
7. How do you consider the potential of the new social media in raising public awareness, especially in the younger population? How can the media and peace and disarmament educator work hand in hand to raise public awareness?

