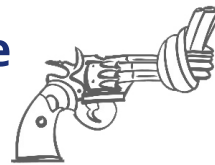




September 2015

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

...strengthening peace and security through disarmament



Number 7

January - September 2015

NEWSLETTER

Towards a World Free of Nuclear Weapons – 25th UN Conference on Disarmament Issues in Japan

The 25th United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues held in Hiroshima, Japan, coincided with two other anniversaries – the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, and the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

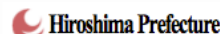
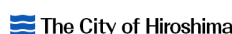
This triple anniversary, and the Conference's reputation as an important forum for frank dialogue on pressing security and disarmament issues, drew participants of 23 countries, including many high-level officials, as well as from intergovernmental organizations, academia and civil society. Video messages by the UN Secretary-General and the UN Messenger for Peace Michael Douglas, commending the Conference, were screened for the audience.



The discussions of this year's Conference focused on the outcomes and next steps regarding the 2015 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, the significance of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, and the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. The role of civil society and education in renewing the efforts towards realizing the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons was also discussed. The accounts given by survivors of the atomic bombings, the Hibakusha, presented an impressive account and reminder of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons use and of the threat they pose, thereby reiterating the need for nuclear disarmament.



Read more at bit.ly/1GT08pO



Training Young Diplomats in Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

In June 2015, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) conducted a Training Programme in Hiroshima, Japan, on nuclear disarmament for Southeast Asia, bringing together 11 junior-to-mid-level diplomats from the region. They discussed the topic of nuclear disarmament in Southeast Asia as well as challenges and best practices of sub-regional, regional and global nuclear disarmament initiatives as they relate to security, civil-society, and humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons use. The programme also emphasized strengthening inter-cultural communication skills and negotiation techniques.

UNRCPD's representative delivered presentations on negative and positive security assurances in current nuclear disarmament negotiations, and on the contributions of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones in Asia and the Pacific to nuclear non-proliferation. The training programme was the result of a collaboration between UNITAR, United Nations Institute for Disarmament and Research (UNIDIR), Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, the Asia Center of Japan Foundation, City of Hiroshima, Prefecture of Hiroshima and UNRCPD.



Read more at bit.ly/1QLS9P1

UNRCPD ACTIVITIES

Building Capacity in Small Arms Control in Bangladesh

In June 2015, UNRCPD and the Government of Bangladesh organized a workshop in Dhaka with a view to enhance the national capacity to effectively implement the UN Programme of Action on SALW (UN PoA) and, in the future, the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

During this two-day event, 39 government officials discussed issues and challenges related to the implementation of the UN PoA and ATT and received additional input and training on these areas. Participants heard presentations from UNRCPD on provisions for assistance and the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS)



Assessment Tool allowing for effective implementation of the ATT. International experts presented on ISACS, Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM), as well as marking, electronic recordkeeping and tracing of SALW. The project was funded by the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR).

Technical and Legal Assistance Project on UN PoA and ATT in Maldives

From August to September 2015, UNRCPD executed a two-month joint project with the Government of the Maldives strengthening the country's ability to control small arms and light weapons (SALW), to implement the UN Programme of Action on SALW (UN PoA), and to move towards accession to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).



The project was inaugurated by a four-day consultation visit to Malé, Maldives, where UNRCPD facilitated an assessment on needs for assistance, conducted by an international technical

arms expert and a maritime legal expert. The international experts briefed Government representatives and experts on the requirements for effective SALW control, maritime in particular, and on the obligations of the UN PoA and ATT.

The challenges associated with the implementation of UN PoA and the ATT at the national level were also discussed. The consultations were complemented with visits to sites relevant for SALW control. The experts subsequently initiated a one-month desk review analysis to prepare recommendations for developing the necessary laws and regulations as well as technical framework and procedures. At the final summary visit to Malé in late September, the experts and UNRCPD met with Government experts and officials to review the recommendations, as well with senior officials to discuss the next steps. The project was funded by the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR).



National Roundtable Discussion on the Arms Trade Treaty in Indonesia

Representatives from Indonesian key ministries and national agencies dealing with international trade of conventional arms gathered in Jakarta, Indonesia on 9-10 September 2015, to discuss the relevance of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) for this country.

UNRCPD co-organized this event with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia. National participants sought clarifications

on main provisions and requirements of the Treaty, in particular its potential impact for national security interests. Experts from the United Kingdom, Australia, and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs provided case studies and concrete examples to elaborate how Indonesia would benefit from acceding to the Treaty and to underline the relevance of the ATT for its interests. The project was sponsored by the Government of Germany.



REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Tuvalu ratified the Arms Trade Treaty on 4 September 2015, thereby becoming the 73rd State Party to the Treaty, joining the three other Pacific States Parties to have done so to date: Australia, New Zealand and Samoa. See bit.ly/1wbUawf

Myanmar became Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention on 8 July 2015. Myanmar was among the first countries to sign the Convention in 1993. See bit.ly/1GiHyWq

Regional Participation to the First Conference of States Parties to the ATT (CSP1): Held in Mexico on 24-27 August 2015, the CSP1 was attended by 119 States. Of States Parties to the Treaty which participated in the work of the Conference, four States were from the Asia-Pacific region covered by UNRCPD's mandate: Australia, Japan, New Zealand and Samoa. Nine States signatories from the region also took part in the Conference: Bangladesh, Kiribati, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Tuvalu. In addition, China, Fiji and Viet Nam attended the CSP1 as observers. See bit.ly/1Q2FXt1

The 2015 UN Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament started in August – six countries from region participate. The Fellowship Programme will last for a period of nine weeks and will include exchanges with representatives of UN Member States, international organizations, academia and civil society on a wide range of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control issues. From the Asia-Pacific region, young diplomats and other government officials from Japan, Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Uzbekistan will participate. See bit.ly/1Kl4wr6

Project on Peace and Disarmament Education successfully concluded

In 2014, UNRCPD successfully implemented Phase I of its Peace and Disarmament Education (PDE) project in post-conflict Nepal, incorporating peace and disarmament objectives into the national school curriculum. Further to the success and momentum achieved from this first phase, Nepal's Ministry of Education requested the continuation of the project.

Phase II of the project received funding from the Swiss Embassy in Kathmandu, and was launched in December 2014. In this phase, UNRCPD partnered with UNESCO to include PDE content in government school curricula and textbooks. In response to needs identified during Phase I, UNRCPD broadened the scope of Phase II and published a series of articles on how to teach PDE in Nepal's teacher's magazine "Shikshak", thereby reaching over 22,000 teachers each month. A collection of these articles is also available on UNRCPD's homepage.

To further strengthen teachers capacity on PDE, UNRCPD worked with the Nepal Centre for Education Development to analyse existing PDE gaps in the current teacher training. Phase II of the PDE project concluded in July 2015. The curricula and textbooks created during Phase I and II of this project will reach more than 700,000 children per year for the next 10 years.

UNRCPD was planning to continue this project with a third phase, however the devastating earthquakes in Nepal and UNRCPD's subsequent temporary relocation put these plans on hold.



Read more at bit.ly/NUIvPu



UNRCPD's Cooperation with Regional Organizations

ASEAN Regional Forum Workshop on Promoting a Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Status of Mongolia

The ASEAN Regional Forum Workshop on "Promoting a Nuclear Weapons Free Status of Mongolia" took place in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The Director of UNRCPD participated in the event and delivered a presentation on the regional dimensions of Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zones.

Regional Asia Parliamentary Workshop on Regulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Mitigation of Armed Violence

In August 2015, Parliamentarians for Global Action in cooperation with the Bangladesh NGO, ChangeMaker, organized a regional workshop on prevention of armed violence and SALW regulation in Dhaka, Bangladesh for parliamentarians from South and Southeast Asia. UNRCPD's representative gave a presentation on the Centre's efforts in this area and how it can further assist in facilitating SALW control.

Looking Ahead

In the immediate future, UNRCPD is organizing the following activities:

November 2015

- "Building Capacity in SALW Control through UN PoA" in the **Philippines**

December 2015

- "UN-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues" in the **Republic of Korea**
- "Building Capacity in SALW Control through UN PoA and ATT" in **Myanmar**

On the Horizon

- "Building Capacity in SALW Control through UN PoA and ATT" in **Cambodia**
- "Building Capacity in SALW Control through UN PoA and ATT" in **Thailand**
- "Regional Workshop for ASEAN States on Establishment and Maintenance of National Arms Control System as required by the ATT" in **Thailand**



Quotes of the Quarter



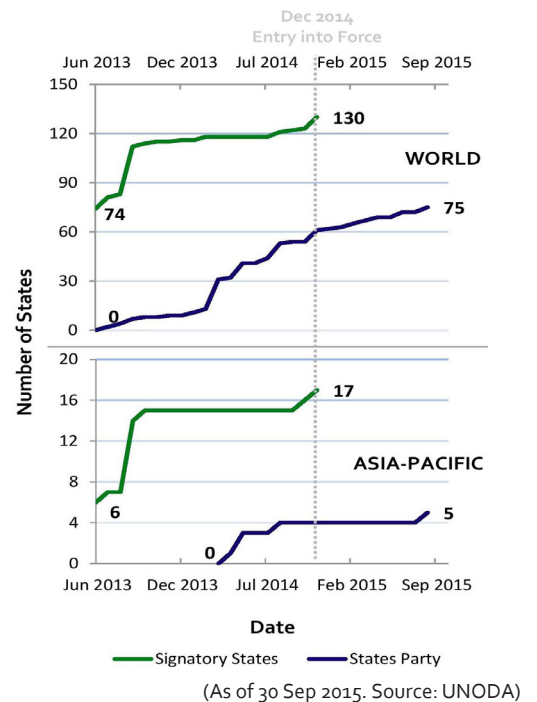
... throughout history, arms control agreements have played a crucial role in defusing conflicts. They act as confidence-building measures, providing the space to bring combatants to the negotiating table

Kim Won-soo
Acting High Representative for Disarmament Affairs,
UNODA.

DID YOU KNOW...?

...that the ATT currently has 130 signatory States, and 75 States Parties?

ATT Status



PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

- 🌿 **Guide to Participating in the Confidence-Building Measures of the Biological Weapons Convention**, UNODA, April 2015.
- 🌿 **SIPRI Fact Sheet - Trends in International Arms Transfer 2014**, SIPRI, March 2015.
- 🌿 **NPT Success and the Humanitarian Initiative**, by John Borrie, Tim Caughley, Nick Ritchie. UNIDIR, April 2015.
- 🌿 **Arms Trade Treaty Implementation Toolkit**, UNODA, 2015.
- 🌿 **Reimagining Peacemaking: Women's Roles in Peace Processes**, by Marie O'Reilly, Andrea Ó Súilleabháin, and Thania Paffenholz. International Peace Institute, June 2015.
- 🌿 **Arms and Ammunition in Oceania: A Guide for Pacific Governments**, Pacific Small Arms Action Group, August 2015.

ABOUT UNRCPD

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) assists countries in the Asia-Pacific region in achieving their peace, security and disarmament goals, through provision of substantive support, coordination of activities at the subregional, regional and international levels, and information sharing on global and regional activities. The Regional Centre is part of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

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UNRCPD extends its appreciation to the following countries and organizations for their generous contributions:

Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Thailand, UNSCAR and Risho Kosei-kai

The 43 countries covered by UNRCPD's mandate

▶▶ Afghanistan ▶▶ Australia ▶▶ Bangladesh ▶▶ Bhutan ▶▶ Brunei Darussalam ▶▶ Cambodia ▶▶ China ▶▶ Democratic People's Republic of Korea ▶▶ Fiji ▶▶ India ▶▶ Indonesia ▶▶ Japan ▶▶ Kazakhstan ▶▶ Kiribati ▶▶ Kyrgyzstan ▶▶ Lao People's Democratic Republic ▶▶ Malaysia ▶▶ Maldives ▶▶ Marshall Islands ▶▶ Micronesia, Federated States of ▶▶ Mongolia ▶▶ Myanmar ▶▶ Nauru ▶▶ Nepal ▶▶ New Zealand ▶▶ Pakistan ▶▶ Palau ▶▶ Papua New Guinea ▶▶ Philippines ▶▶ Republic of Korea ▶▶ Samoa ▶▶ Singapore ▶▶ Solomon Islands ▶▶ Sri Lanka ▶▶ Tajikistan ▶▶ Thailand ▶▶ Timor-Leste ▶▶ Tonga ▶▶ Turkmenistan ▶▶ Tuvalu ▶▶ Uzbekistan ▶▶ Vanuatu ▶▶ Viet Nam



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