



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



...strengthening peace and security through disarmament

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NEWSLETTER

UNRCPD to Resume Operations in Kathmandu and Hosts UNSCR 1540 Roundtable

On 21 November 2016, the Foreign Minister of Nepal, His Excellency Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, and the United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Under-Secretary-General Kim Won-soo, unveiled a plaque commemorating the resumption of UNRCPD operations in Nepal. The Centre had operated from Kathmandu since 2008, before relocating temporarily to Bangkok, Thailand, following the earthquakes in 2015. The event was attended by more than 30 participants, including the UN Resident Coordinator, members of the UN Country Team, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, foreign diplomats, UN Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), UN Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution (UNSCR) 1540 (2004), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), international experts and the press.



Following the inauguration ceremony, the Centre organized a high-level roundtable on the implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004). The event focused on the 2016 Comprehensive Review on the status of implementation of the resolution, the role of regional cooperation and synergies between the resolution and other disarmament and non-proliferation instruments, particularly the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). Participants included international experts, UNODA, SAARC and foreign diplomats. In the discussion that followed, foreign delegates delivered the official positions of their respective governments on resolution 1540 and the BWC. International experts, among other participants, stressed the importance that the implementation of these two instruments had to regional security. Many members of the diplomatic community reiterated their government's willingness to work with one-another and with the Regional Centre to further promote peace and disarmament initiatives in the region.

The occasion revitalized the "Kathmandu Process", a dialogue among States in Asia and the Pacific on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation issues. While addressing the audience, the High Representative made special mention to the importance of the Process as a tool to build confidence and foster common understanding of disarmament issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

Read more at bit.ly/2fSiv1L



1540 Committee

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)



unrcpd.org

15th Anniversary of the UN-RoK Disarmament Conference

The 15th United Nations–Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues provided an opportunity to consider the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) nuclear issue and UN Security Council (UNSC) sanctions; the nexus between the security of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials and facilities; cyber security and the issue of export control. More than 40 officials and experts from governments, intergovernmental organizations, policy institutes and academia participated in the event, which took place on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea (RoK), 17-18 November 2016.

The Conference gave rise to open and lively discussions: On the DPRK nuclear issue, participants reflected on the impact and effectiveness of the UNSC sanctions and on how to move forward. They recognized that cyber threats to CBRN facilities (nuclear power plants particularly) and satellites presented a significant and underestimated danger, and in response they emphasized the need for well-coordinated efforts and a holistic approach. The nature, workings, challenges and issues of four key export control regimes were presented (covering items relevant for nuclear, chemical, biological, missiles and conventional weaponry), and possibilities to enhance cooperation between the regimes were considered.

This annual event was organized by UNRCPD in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of RoK. Mr. Kim Won-soo, UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs opened the event together with his counterpart from the RoK Government. In reference to the above challenges, Mr. Kim recalled UN Secretary-General Ban's words that "together, nothing is impossible", encouraging stakeholders to work together and rise above their differences, as "it is possible to find common ground, and build mutual trust and confidence."

Hosted by RoK since 2002, the Conference series has become an important forum characterized by a candid and constructive exchange of views among Government officials and experts, scholars and civil society representatives on the challenges and solutions to key disarmament, non-proliferation, arms control and security issues at the global and regional levels. Taking place for the 15th year, this joint endeavour, also known as the "Jeju Process", is now one of the longest continuing disarmament conference series. It is funded by the Government of RoK.



Capacity Building in Small Arms Control in Cambodia

UNRCPD and the Government of Cambodia co-organized a national workshop on building capacity for controlling small arms and light weapons (SALW) on 7-8 December 2016, in Phnom Penh. Mr. Sieng Lapresse, Senior Government Advisor at the rank of Secretary of State from the Ministry of Interior, opened and participated in the event along with almost 20 other government officials. These were provided the opportunity

to reflect on legal aspects of SALW control with international experts, and to enhance national capacity on technical aspects, specifically marking, tracing and recordkeeping, and physical security and stockpile management. Attention was given to the importance of implementing the UN Programme of Action on SALW (UNPoA). A focus of the workshop was to advance national coordination and develop a national action plan for enhancing SALW control. The content and relevance of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) were also presented and discussed. The workshop was funded by the Government of Germany.



International Conference in Nagasaki – towards a world free of nuclear weapons 26th United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues

UNRCPD, in cooperation with the Government of Japan, organized the 26th United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues (UNCEDI) in Nagasaki, Japan, from 12 to 13 December 2016. The Conference was attended by more than 60 representatives from Governments (representing 17 states) and intergovernmental organizations, as well as academia, think tanks and civil society. The aim of the Conference was to provide a forum for candid and constructive exchange of views on current challenges and possible solutions to key disarmament, arms control and security issues, including those at the regional level.

In the discussion on current approaches to nuclear disarmament, differing views and arguments were presented by the conference participants with regard to the negotiation of a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons and its potential effects on the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) regime. Regional security issues were also addressed and insights on the role of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones were provided. On the role that civil society can play in promoting nuclear disarmament, concrete suggestions were raised, including to strengthen ties and cooperation with non-governmental organizations at the national and international levels and to raise awareness on the humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. With regard to the priorities and challenges in the upcoming 2020 NPT review cycle, the establishment of a Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone and the parallel negotiations of a nuclear-weapon-ban treaty were mentioned.

The Conference was complemented by a Forum of Youth Communicator for a World without Nuclear weapons on 11 December. In the framework of this initiative, launched by Foreign Minister of Japan Mr. Kishida, the Youth Communicators from Japan as well as from abroad reported on their activities to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and presented a declaration which outlined a number of recommendations.

An opening ceremony of the UN Poster for Peace Exhibition took place as a side-event to the UNCEDI. It was organized in cooperation with the Japan NGO Network for Nuclear Weapons Abolition and with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. The exhibition, displaying 12 winning posters from the 2016 Poster for Peace Contest, was opened by Mr. Kim, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Nemoto, Director of UNIC Tokyo, Mr. Kawasaki from Peace Boat and two Youth Communicators.



REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

UNSCR 1540 Industrial Outreach Conference (Wiesbaden Conference) on 27-28 September 2016 in Seoul. See: <http://bit.ly/zhkCNqd>

30th Plenary Meeting of the Missile Technology Control Regime on 17-21 October 2016 in Busan. See: <http://bit.ly/2guDWcY>

Regional Participation at the Eighth Review Conference of Biological Weapons Convention: Held in Geneva, Switzerland on 7-25 November 2016. Thirteen participating States are covered by the UNRCPD mandate in the Asia-Pacific region (China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Thailand). See: <http://bit.ly/2gmS88d>

IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security in December in Seoul. See: <http://bit.ly/2hxYCpB>

Upcoming UNRCPD ACTIVITIES

- Technical and Legal Assistance Project to Support the Philippines in the Implementation of the UN PoA and the ATT in the Philippines
- UNODA-OSCE Joint Project on Supporting Regional Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004): National Roundtable in Uzbekistan
- UNODA-OSCE Joint Project on Supporting Regional Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004): Trilateral Peer Review in Tajikistan

Quote of the Quarter



I am pleased to note that this year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the regional centres in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia and the Pacific. In the past decade alone, the regional centres have trained more than 20,000 personnel in arms control, helped destroy over 176,000 small arms and light weapons and 132 tons of ammunition, and marked over 13,000 weapons. More than 500 seminars, workshops and conferences have been organized. Through disarmament education, the centres reached over 400,000 children and adolescents.

Kim Won-soo
Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for
Disarmament Affairs, UNODA
3 October 2016

DID YOU KNOW..?

...that UNRCPD is relocating back to Kathmandu in February 2017?



PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

- ✿ Global Peace Index: Global Terrorism Index 2016, November 2016
- ✿ UNODA Occasional Papers #28 "Rethinking General and Complete Disarmament in the Twenty-First Century", UNODA, October 2016
- ✿ UNODA Occasional Papers #29 "Bringing Democracy to Disarmament: A Historical Perspective", UNODA, October 2016
- ✿ SIPRI Yearbook 2016: Arms, Disarmament and International Security, SIPRI, September 2016
- ✿ UN Programme of Action and Arms Trade Treaty Modular Training Toolkits, Pacific Small Arms Action Group, September 2016

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.

Contributors to this issue include: Jingtong Chen, Yishu Chen, Melanie Gerber, Steven Humphries, Ellen Kim, Yuriy Kryvonos, Aleksander Micic

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Australia, Cambodia, China, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, Risho Kosei-kai and UNSCAR

The 43 countries covered by the UNRCPD 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



info@unrcpd.org



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

United Nations Secretariat Building, Rachadamnoen Nok Avenue, 10200 Bangkok, Thailand



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