



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

...strengthening peace and security through disarmament



## NEWSLETTER

### WELCOME!

UNRCPD is launching a new newsletter that will be issued three times a year, reporting on the Centre's activities, peace and security events in the Asia-Pacific region, global disarmament news, recent publications of note, and much more. We welcome you to join us as we continue to actively support countries and disarmament actors in the region, and keep you up-to-date with events in Asia-Pacific. If you would like to receive our newsletter, please send a message to: [subscriptions@unrcpd.org.np](mailto:subscriptions@unrcpd.org.np).

*Shriggle*  
Sharon Riggle, Director

## UNRCPD ACTIVITIES

### Workshop in Bangkok to Strengthen UN PoA

At the invitation of Thailand, UNRCPD had the opportunity to facilitate a workshop and share experiences for Thai security sector personnel on small arms control. Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action (PoA) was a particular focus at the workshop, which took place 11-13 December 2012, hosted by the Government of Thailand and supported by the Government of Germany. The goal was to enhance the capacity of national agencies involved in small arms light weapons (SALW) control and to implement the provisions of the PoA. Participants from 19 different government agencies gathered to review techniques and standards of SALW control, such as stockpile management practices, and hear the latest updates on international best practices.



The project also provided key materials in the native language in order to facilitate the most effective and sustainable implementation of the global regimes and standards. Thai speakers included experts from Ministry of Interior, Royal Thai Police, Ministry of Defence and Royal Thai Customs. International experts included the German Ministry of Defense, Small Arms Survey, and the Conventional Arms Branch in UNODA.

### Why is peace important?

And how can children contribute to peace? These were the questions pondered by Kathmandu Valley schoolchildren in an art competition with the theme 'Children and Peace' in August 2012. Colourful peace symbols and white pigeons, peace bells and Gautama Buddha filled the papers, and in some works it was clear that the child had witnessed violence firsthand.



The aim of the competition was to increase awareness on peace and disarmament issue among local youth, and allow them to think about their role in a peaceful society through drawing. Nearly 400 hundred enthusiastic students from six Kathmandu schools participated in the competition, which culminated in an award ceremony on International Peace Day, 21 September. This began a process to a pilot peace and disarmament education for schoolchildren in Nepal.



Winner of the competition (left, centre): Shiris Sakha, a grade six student from Kathmandu

## Experts gather in Jeju over missiles and conventional weapons

A number of high-level guests took the chance to engage with some of the most pressing disarmament dilemmas of our time at the 11th United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues. Hosted by the Republic of Korea on Jeju Island on 3-4 December 2012, the Conference's discussions focused on challenges facing the international community in the areas of conventional arms. Speakers challenged the audience to come up with solutions to thematic areas including the ATT, missile issues and control regimes, illicit trade, and conventional weapons disarmament. The event was attended by over 40 representatives from governments and international organisations, as well as policy institutes, academia and other organisations.



## Tomorrow's peace and disarmament professionals



Youth are the leaders of tomorrow, and in an effort to engage the future, UNRCPD attended an event in August 2012, 'Student Presentations on International Issues', for several high schools in Saitama City, Japan. The programme's main objective was to increase students' understanding of global peace, security and disarmament issues. The event included student presentations and an exchange of views on their proposals with a panel consisting of UNRCPD, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

of Japan and non-governmental organisations. The event was an excellent example of engaging youth and promoting peace and disarmament education.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 24TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ISSUES:

*Creating a Peaceful and Safe Future: Pressing Issues and Potential Solutions*

Frank dialogue on pressing security and regional disarmament matters is on the agenda at the annual United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues, organised by UNRCPD in cooperation with Government of Japan. **This year, the high-level Conference is hosted by the City of Shizuoka and will take place from 30 January to 1 February.** Held in Japan since 1989, the Conference is recognised as a distinguished forum to exchange



views on current and future challenges in the world of disarmament and non-proliferation. The 2013 Conference will address topics such as humanitarian issues on the use of nuclear weapons, nuclear-weapon-free zones and the

current situation and challenges to the non-proliferation regime.

### ASIA REGIONAL MEETING TO FACILITATE DIALOGUE ON THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

The world needs a robust, legally-binding treaty covering conventional arms and their largely unregulated trade. **UNRCPD will organise an Asia regional meeting on 26-27 February 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to promote discussion on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in advance of the final negotiations taking place 18-28 March (see next page).** The purpose of the two-day meeting, hosted by the Government of Malaysia, is to create a forum for regional dialogue on the upcoming ATT negotiations and share views in advance of the talks. External experts will also participate to provide insights and updates on key topics under discussion.

## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

**Brunei Darussalam ratifies the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty:** Brunei Darussalam became the 158th country to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) in January 2013. The Treaty is meant to ban all nuclear explosions, but cannot enter into force until ratified by the remaining Annex II States.

**Mongolia recognised as nuclear-free zone:** Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status was formally recognised by the five nuclear-weapon-states on 17 September 2012, when they confirmed assurances not to use nuclear weapons against Mongolia and signed declarations recognising Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status. This was the final move to formalise a status declared in 1992.

**December rocket launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK):** Despite warnings from the international community, the DPRK launched the Unha-3 rocket on 12 December 2012, in violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1874. This was the first successful attempt for the country put a satellite into orbit, interpreted by many as moving the state one step closer to developing intercontinental ballistic missile technology. The Security Council is currently considering punitive measures.

**Republic of Korea to deploy long-range ballistic missiles:** In October 2012, Republic of Korea (RoK) announced a new missile agreement with the United States that allows the country to extend the range of its ballistic missile fleet from 300km to 800km. In early 2013, in the wake of the launch by the DPRK, RoK announced its aim to hasten efforts to acquire longer-range missiles.



# 2012: YEAR OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

2-27 July

## UN Conference on the Treaty on the Arms Trade

The global trade in conventional weapons remains poorly regulated and no internationally agreed standards exist to ensure that arms are transferred responsibly. After four weeks of intensive efforts to negotiate the first-ever universal Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in July 2012, no agreement was reached on a final text. However, Member States agreed in December 2012 to hold 'final' negotiations in 18-28 March 2013 to adopt a treaty called for by the majority of states. A legally-binding treaty covering conventional arms and the largely unregulated trade in arms would increase transparency and help prevent diversion of arms from the legal market to illicit trafficking. As stated by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the United Nations supports a



robust Arms Trade Treaty. The draft Treaty text from July and other sources are available at [www.un.org/disarmament/ATT](http://www.un.org/disarmament/ATT).



15-16 November

## Humanitarian concerns at centre of treaty

The Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), was held in Geneva in November 2012. The purpose of the Convention is to prohibit or restrict the use of certain weapons that are considered to cause unnecessary or unjustifiable suffering to combatants or to affect civilians indiscriminately. The UN Secretary-General urged parties to 'continue exploring all possible avenues for ensuring that anti-vehicle mines no longer harm civilians, impede the delivery of humanitarian aid or obstruct social and economic development'.

27 August-7 September

## UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons Review Conference

Member States came together to review progress in the implementation of the 'Programme of Action (PoA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects' in Autumn 2012. This 2nd Review Conference (RevCon) reaffirmed states' assurances to tackle the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons and outlined a roadmap towards the next RevCon in 2018, including steps to implement the PoA. Challenges to the implementation of the PoA were discussed, including the need for enhanced international co-operation and assistance. It was recognized that especially technical and financial areas need more support and assistance.



29 August

## UN launches new arms standards

In August 2012, the United Nations launched the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS), a groundbreaking new set of guidelines that provide clear, practical and comprehensive guidance to practitioners and policymakers on small arms and light weapons control. They give guidance and ensure that the United Nations provides support to Member States



[www.smallarmsstandards.org](http://www.smallarmsstandards.org)



in implementing their small arms control commitments over the full life-cycle of the arms: from manufacture to marking, recordkeeping and storage, during transport and international transfer, as well as tracing and collection to destruction of illicit weapons.

2013

## Final Conference on the Treaty on the Arms Trade

18-28 March

Despite the efforts put forth by delegations in New York on 2-27 July 2012 at the Conference on the Treaty on the Arms Trade, Member States could not reach agreement on a treaty text. The General Assembly of the United Nations has decided to convene another conference in March 2013 to conclude the work begun in July 2012.





## Quote of the Quarter

*Small arms in the wrong hands destroy lives and livelihoods, impede peace efforts, hinder humanitarian aid, facilitate the illicit trade in narcotics and obstruct investment and development.*

**UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon**



## The countdown is ON!

The 24th UN Conference on Disarmament Issues (30 Jan-1 Feb 2013) marks UNRCPD's highly anticipated entrance into the world of social media! One month prior to the start of the Conference, the Centre launched an interactive Facebook site with a Mt. Fuji countdown banner, facts on issues at the Conference, and regular factoids on non-proliferation and disarmament. With the help of our partners at the UN Information Centre in Tokyo, the page has attracted an enthusiastic audience of future decision-makers from across the globe.

## PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

- ☀ **Civil Society and Disarmament 2012 – Applying a Disarmament Lens to Gender, Human Rights, Development, Security, Education and Communication: Six Essays**, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), November 2012.
- ☀ **Forces of Change: Profiles of Latin American and Caribbean Women in Combating Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms**, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC). United Nations, 2012.
- ☀ **Options for the further Strengthening of the NPT's Review Process by 2015**. United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), December 2012.
- ☀ **Viewing Nuclear Weapons through a Humanitarian Lens: Context and Implications**, John Borrie, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), January 2013.
- ☀ **Asian Defense Spending, 2000–2011**, David J. Berteau, Guy Ben-Ari, Joachim Hoffbauer, Priscilla Hermann and Sneha Raghavan, Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS), October 2012.

### ABOUT UNRCPD

The UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific 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 (UNGA Resolution A/42/39D of 30 November 1987). The Regional Centre became operational in 1989 and was relocated from New York to Kathmandu, Nepal, in August 2008. The Regional Centre is part of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

UNRCPD extends its appreciation to the following countries and organisations for their generous contributions:  
**Austria, China, Finland, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan, Nepal, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, and Rishso Kosei-kai**

### The 43 countries covered by the UNRCPD mandate

▶ Australia ▶ Afghanistan ▶ 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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