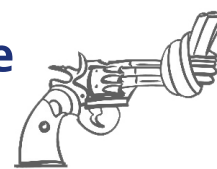




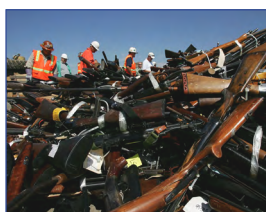
Vol. 1, no. 3

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

...strengthening peace and security through disarmament



## NEWSLETTER



### Out of 'site'!

New website for UNRCPD launches soon. Visit [unrcpd.org](http://unrcpd.org) in October to see the new face of peace and disarmament in Asia-Pacific!

## ATT – Momentum Is Building



Following the historic adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in April of this year, states have been demonstrating continued commitment to this new instrument by signing the treaty. Opened for signature on 3 June, the number of ATT signatories has been increasing weekly--with a total of 85 at the time of publication. Of those, four have already ratified, led by Iceland on 2 July. In the Asia-Pacific region, just seven states have signed to date. A high-level meeting is planned on 25 September in advance of the opening of the UN General Assembly to garner additional signatures. (Photo: Representative of the Republic of Korea signing the treaty).

The process towards signature and ratification can be complex so assistance has been made available to assist countries in their efforts. The United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR) was established as a flexible, results-focused facility to support all aspects of the Arms Trade Treaty's implementation, including small arms and ammunition controls. Proposals to the Facility are being accepted 1 September to 31 October 2013. Details can be found at [www.un.org/disarmament/UNSCAR](http://www.un.org/disarmament/UNSCAR).



## Asia-Pacific Challenges

While countries in the Asia-Pacific are committed to this treaty, some face unique challenges in moving towards signature and ratification. UNRCPD will be extending considerable assistance over the next months and years to countries of the region, at both a bilateral and multilateral level. The next step is an Asia Regional Meeting on the ATT to take place in Manila, Philippines, on 26-27 November 2013 (see story next page).

## UNRCPD ACTIVITIES

### Supporting the Biological Weapons Convention in Asia

Malaysia hosted a Regional Workshop on National Implementation of Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) in South and Southeast Asia on 3-4 September. The participants at the meeting considered approaches to strengthen the national implementation of the BWC and build sustainable capacity to ensure biosafety and security in the region. UNRCPD presented on its activities and plans, including providing support to national implementation in the Asia-Pacific. The workshop was part of a series of regional workshops the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs is organising as part of the European Union Action in support of the BWC.



### UNRCPD video premieres on International Day of Peace

With UNRCPD's support, Nepal is implementing a new model of delivering Peace and Disarmament education to meet post-conflict challenges. UNRCPD has created a video to illustrate the start of a journey of Peace



and Disarmament education which will initially reach 300,000 Nepali schoolchildren. By addressing the roots of interpersonal violence and reducing the demand for arms, the project will help strengthen the fragile peace that the people of Nepal have worked tirelessly to achieve. **International Day of Peace** will be celebrated across the world on 21 September, with a special commemoration at UN Headquarters on 18 September. With this year's theme, 'Education for Peace', the project video will be premiered at the event before a global audience. To view it, please visit [www.unrcpd.org](http://www.unrcpd.org).

## UNRCPD ACTIVITIES

### Asia to Meet Again on the ATT



UNRCPD will facilitate a Second Regional Meeting this time focusing on the signature and ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty in the Asia-Pacific.

The meeting will take place in Manila on 26-27 November 2013 and will be hosted by the Government of the Philippines. The two-day meeting aims to create a forum for regional dialogue to identify priority areas, discuss common challenges and explore tools for assistance for countries in their efforts to move forward in the ATT process.

### Youth Dedicated to Disarmament

UNRCPD was pleased to attend 'Student Presentations on International Issues' in Saitama City, Japan, this past August. The event engaged high school students in Saitama, supported by university students from the Japan Model United Nations. The programme's objective was to increase students' understanding of global peace, security and disarmament issues. The presentations were followed by a lively debate with a panel from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Center for the Promotion of Disarmament and UNRCPD.



### UNSC Resolution 1540 for Discussion in Jeju

UNSCR 1540 and other non-proliferation issues will be discussed at the 12th United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues on Jeju Island on 14-15 November 2013. This year's theme is 'Non-proliferation Regime in the 21st Century: Challenges and the Way Forward'. It will focus on global compliance with non-proliferation regimes, including strengthening the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540, its universalisation and the way forward. The event will provide a setting for frank and interactive discussions on critical challenges by convening leading experts from different sectors of the non-proliferation community.

### Tweeting for Peace

On 24 October, the birthday of the United Nations, Disarmament Week will begin once again this year. The week is intended to highlight the many challenges facing countries regarding the control or ban of certain weapons, as well as to increase public understanding of disarmament issues in general. To celebrate this important week, UNRCPD is excited to announce our **Disarmament Twitter Week!** Experts will join UNRCPD live via Twitter for insightful interviews, a daily trivia contest question will be published, new publications and resources will be shared, there will be regular updates from the UN General Assembly First Committee by UNRCPD on site, and much more. To make sure you are receiving the latest updates follow UNRCPD on Twitter and look for **#DisarmamentWeek** on the feeds. To learn more about UN Disarmament Week visit, [www.un.org/en/events/disarmamentweek](http://www.un.org/en/events/disarmamentweek).



### Celebrating 5 years in Asia-Pacific

This year UNRCPD marks the 5th anniversary of its presence in the Asia-Pacific region. Since its relocation in 2008 from New York to Kathmandu, Nepal, UNRCPD has been working hard to enhance engagement with states and other stakeholders across the region. To celebrate the occasion, UNRCPD will host a reception in Kathmandu for the international community, government and civil society on 20 September. Artwork from the annual children's drawing competition will also be on display.



*Inauguration in 2008 of UNRCPD offices in Kathmandu, Nepal*

## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

**International Day against Nuclear Tests:** Nearly 2,000 nuclear weapons tests have taken place since 1945. The International Day against Nuclear Tests on 29 August 2013 included educational events across the world, as well as activities and messages to call attention to the need for a united effort in preventing further nuclear testing. The Day is meant to galvanize the United Nations, states, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, academic institutions, youth networks and the media to inform, educate and advocate for a safer world. To date, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty banning nuclear weapons testing has been signed by 183 countries and ratified by 159. An initiative of Kazakhstan, the International Day against Nuclear Tests was first observed in 2010 and marks also the day when Semipalatinsk in Kazakhstan - one of the largest test sites in the world - was closed permanently in 1991. Read more online [<http://www.un.org/en/events/againstnucleartestsday/>].

**ASEAN Ministers Focus on Peace and Security:** ASEAN Foreign Ministers met 27 June to 3 July 2013 in Brunei Darussalam for the 46th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, an annual event consisting of meetings and retreats to discuss peace and security issues in the region. Attendees adopted a Plan of Action to Strengthen the Implementation of the Treaty of the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone and a joint communiqué that reiterated the importance of the Zone and encouraged nuclear weapon states' support for it.

**Peace Commemoration held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki:** This year marked the 68th anniversary of the atomic bombings at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. People from across the globe, including tens of thousands of Japanese citizens, came together in August to pay tribute to those who perished and were wounded in the bombings of 1945. There is increasing discussion regarding the humanitarian consequences of using nuclear weapons which is attracting new activists and giving a louder voice to the survivors of the bombings known as hibakusha, who have worked tirelessly for 68 years to spread the message of peace and warn of the dangers of nuclear proliferation.

# 'PEACE FOR EVERYONE!'

## Theme of 2013 Children's Art Competition Brings Messages of Peace



For the second year, UNRCPD engaged Nepali schoolchildren on the subject of peace and challenged them to reflect on what it means to them in their lives. The 2013 Children's Art Competition, with a theme of 'Peace for Everyone', took place at 12 Kathmandu Valley schools this summer. The schools invited UNRCPD into their grade 5-8 classrooms to lead thought exercises on peace and conflict. The children were then asked to think about how peace is important for them, their families and communities. The results were goo colourful and creative expressions of their ideas through art.



A partnership between the District Education Office, school principals and teachers, and UNRCPD provided a fun and creative opportunity for children to share ideas through artwork, which is not normally offered during school hours. During the competition, UNRCPD staff and volunteers had an opportunity to engage with children directly, participating in thought exercises and sharing information on the United Nations.



Students and schools vied for prizes awarded to three finalists and one winner whose drawings were chosen based on creativity, composition, theme and technique. Winners received drawing materials and small stipends towards education, and all schools received prizes. An awards ceremony was held on 20 September, corollated with International Peace Day, to hand out prizes with UN and school officials in attendance as well as local media.

Next year's competition will be merged with a UNRCPD pilot project on peace and disarmament education for school-children in Nepal. The aim of the project is to include peace and disarmament information in school curricula and to provide tools for dealing with conflict in a non-violent way.



More pictures from competition event can be found on the UNRCPD Flickr site, at [www.flickr.com/photos/unrcpd/sets/72157634971872256](http://www.flickr.com/photos/unrcpd/sets/72157634971872256)





## Quote of the Quarter

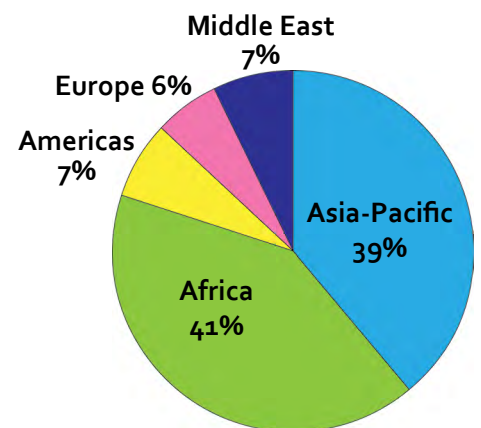
*Because there is peace now we are getting an education, and education is developing the country.*

**Parvin, age 11, Nepal** (not pictured)  
Talking about peace education in school

## DID YOU KNOW...?

*...That Asia-Pacific countries contribute 39% of all peacekeepers globally*

*The United Nations keeps peace with 97,602 peacekeepers in 16 operations on four continents. In July 2013, the number of peacekeepers from the Asia-Pacific region totalled 38,064 for troop, police and military observer personnel. (Source: [www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/resources/statistics/contributors.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/resources/statistics/contributors.shtml), July 2013)*



## PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

- ✿ **Report of the Secretary-General on small arms to the Security Council**, United Nations, August 2013.  
[www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/2013/503](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2013/503)
- ✿ **Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific**, United Nations, June 2013.  
[www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/112](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/112)
- ✿ **International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) Implementation Support Toolkit**, United Nations, August 2013.  
[www.un.org/disarmament/un-safeguard/](http://www.un.org/disarmament/un-safeguard/)
- ✿ **The Cyber Index: International Security Trends and Realities**, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, Center for Strategic & International Studies, Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy, 2013.  
[www.unidir.org/files/publications/pdfs/cyber-index-2013-en-463.pdf](http://www.unidir.org/files/publications/pdfs/cyber-index-2013-en-463.pdf)
- ✿ **Small Arms Survey 2013: Everyday Dangers**, Small Arms Survey, July 2013.  
[www.smallarmssurvey.org/publications/by-type/yearbook/small-arms-survey-2013.html](http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/publications/by-type/yearbook/small-arms-survey-2013.html)
- ✿ **International Conference on Nuclear Security: President's Summary**, International Atomic Energy Agency, July 2013.  
[www-pub.iaea.org/iaeameetings/43046/International-Conference-on-Nuclear-Security-Enhancing-Global-Efforts](http://www-pub.iaea.org/iaeameetings/43046/International-Conference-on-Nuclear-Security-Enhancing-Global-Efforts)

## 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. The Regional Centre is part of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

Contributors to this issue include: **Betty-Ann Atherton, Quintin Chou, Dani, Essi Hynninen, Haruka Katarao, Sharon Riggle and Mohit Shrestha**

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

## 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



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

UNHouse, P.O. Box 107, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: +977-1-5010257, Fax: +977-1-5010223, [subscriptions@unrcpd.org](mailto:subscriptions@unrcpd.org), [www.unrcpd.org](http://www.unrcpd.org)