



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

...strengthening peace and security through disarmament



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NEWSLETTER

Disarmament Conference on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea

In November 2017, UNRCPD and the Government of Republic of Korea (RoK) held their 16th United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues. More than 60 officials and experts from governments, intergovernmental organizations, policy institutes and academia gathered for the event, which took place on Jeju Island, RoK.

The Conference gave rise to open and lively discussions. On the issue of non-proliferation and disarmament, participants focused on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and elaborated its content and significance, and the need to identify common ground between its supporters and opponents and find ways to reconcile it with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The challenges to peace and security posed by technological advances was also looked into, including emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, lethal autonomous weapon systems, IT and cyberspace, 3D printing, unmanned aerial vehicles, nano- and stealth technology etc. On the topic of a pathway for the denuclearization of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, speakers expressed concern with the severity of the situation, as well as the need for a negotiated solution based on multilateralism. Participants also discussed ways to strengthen the verification and control of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials, including by considering new approaches and technologies, and case studies.

Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, opened the event together with her counterpart from the RoK Government, Amb. Youngju Oh, Deputy Minister for Multilateral and Global Affairs. 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. This joint endeavor, taking place for the 16th consecutive year, is also known as the "Jeju Process" and is one of the longest continuing disarmament conference series. It is funded by the Government of RoK.



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Read more at <http://bit.ly/2CnCJDI>

27th United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues in Hiroshima

UNRCPD, in cooperation with Government of Japan, the Prefecture of Hiroshima and the City of Hiroshima, organized the 27th United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues (UNCDI) in Hiroshima, Japan, from 29-30 November 2017. The conference brought together 80 representatives from Governments, experts from research institutes, academia, non-governmental and civil society organizations. The conference aimed to provide a forum to reflect on the prospects for nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation regime taking into account the recent adoption of the TPNW and the current challenges to regional and global security. In addition, attention was given to critical and emerging issues related to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and to exploring possible solutions related to contemporary and future risks. The presentation topics addressed the following subject matters:



- Current approaches towards elimination of nuclear weapons;
- Role of civil society and educational institutions including a broader dissemination on the experience of the hibakusha (atomic bombing survivors) to spread and promote the message of peace and disarmament education;
- Regional security issues and the roles of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones; and
- Priorities and challenges in the lead up to the 2020 NPT Review Conference.

Much of the discussions taking place during the conference focused on the following key elements: the relationship between the NPT and the newly adopted TPNW; strengthening the effectiveness of the 2020 NPT review process; and the promotion of nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation education. All of these were highlighted by participants as integral parts of the international community's efforts towards creating a world free of nuclear weapons.

As a side-event to the conference, UNRCPD, UNITAR, Hiroshima Prefecture and Hiroshima City cooperated to host a screening of the documentary "Paper Lanterns" – a film that highlights the efforts of a hibakusha to contact the families of American servicemen that were killed in the atomic blasts.



UNSCR 1540 (2004) National Round Table in Turkmenistan

A national roundtable meeting to further develop and finalize the National Implementation Action Plan (NIAP) of UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1540 (2004) was jointly organized by UNRCPD, OSCE and the Government of Turkmenistan. The meeting took place in Ashgabat from 22 to 23 January.

During the two-day event, the national participants together with international experts conducted a paragraph-by-paragraph reading of the draft NIAP. This exercise resulted in adjusting some terms and measures included in the plan to bring them in line with the resolution's provisions. Special attention was paid to identifying practical steps for implementation, as well as the ministries that would be responsible for their execution. International experts also underlined the importance of appointing a national focal point on UNSCR 1540 and having a coordinating agency. With the practical support and assistance of UNRCPD and other international experts, Turkmenistan concluded the development of its NIAP.

This event in Ashgabat concluded the "UNODA-OSCE Joint Project on the Regional Implementation of UNSCR 1540 in Central Asia and Mongolia." This programme began in June 2015 and since then has resulted in the development of, or significant progress towards, NIAPs for Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Illicit Trafficking Seminar for ASEAN States and Timor-Leste

On 19-20 December 2017, UNRCPD and the Government of Cambodia cooperatively organized a Regional Seminar on Illicit Trafficking and Diversion of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Other Conventional Arms and Ammunition in Southeast Asia. Fifty-five representatives from nine Southeast Asian states, ASEANAPOL, UNODA, UNRCPD, UNODC, WCO, the ATT Secretariat, RAND Europe and Non-Violence International attended this Seminar held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The primary objectives of the Seminar were:

- To build further capacity of Southeast Asian States in SALW control, in particular for preventing arms diversion into illicit possession and also trafficking; and
 - To foster regional dialogue and explore possibilities for strengthening sub-regional cooperation and coordination.
- Representatives of national ministries and law-enforcement agencies discussed with international experts the main trends and challenges caused by the illicit flows of SALW and ammunition in the region. Participants acknowledged that diversion was one of the primary sources of illicit arms in the region.



Officials from participating States shared their national experiences in combating illicit trafficking, and emphasized the need to consolidate efforts to more effectively address the various challenges posed by illicit arms. Special mention was made on the role of ASEANAPOL, cooperation with international law-enforcement organizations like WCO and INTERPOL, and the development of a regional action plan to address the risks of the diversion of small arms and fight their illicit trafficking. Representatives from UNODA, UNODC and

the ATT Secretariat remarked on how utilization of global instruments, agreements and synergies between their provisions would contribute to achieving the goals of the meeting. The seminar was financed by the Government of Germany.

Local Outreach Activities

Kathmandu's Lincoln School Visits UNRCPD

On 30 January, students from an international relations class at Lincoln School, Kathmandu visited UNRCPD's office where they received a presentation on the activities of the Centre, as well as key disarmament and arms-control issues, followed by a Q&A session.

UNRCPD Delivers Lecture to Nepal Police College on SALW Control

On 8 February 2018 Director of UNRCPD delivered a lecture at the Nepal Armed Police Forces Command and Staff College to 25 police officers entitled "Global Agreements and National Efforts to Control SALW", the topics included:

- Overview of the United Nations agreements addressing issues relating to SALW;
- Developing a national action plan to consolidate and strengthen national efforts to control SALW; and
- Options for UNRCPD assistance to build national capacity to effectively implement the UN PoA and the ATT.



INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Remarks by High Representative Ms. Nakamitsu to the Conference on Disarmament, 23 Jan 2018. See: <http://bit.ly/2n43Jhq>

UNREC promotes gender perspectives in preventing arming of terrorists in Lake Chad Basin, 27 Dec 2017. See: <http://bit.ly/2rSa19F>

UNLIREC hosts Women and Security Symposium, 12 Dec 2017. See: <http://bit.ly/2DOElaf>

Secretary-General congratulates "New START" fulfillment, 5 Feb 2018. See: <http://bit.ly/2sabhVN>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✿ Asia-Pacific regional preparatory meeting on the PoA RevCon3, in Thailand
- ✿ Sub-regional workshops on gun violence and illicit trafficking from a gender perspective, in South and Southeast Asia
- ✿ Regional workshop on the high-level FMCT expert preparatory group consultative process, in Thailand.
- ✿ Joint UNITAR training programme for Southeast Asian States, in Japan.



QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

Our work is based on a strong recognition that peace and security does not depend on the dangerous and destabilising accumulation of arms, but on a commitment to shared norms, dialogue, transparency and confidence in one another's actions.

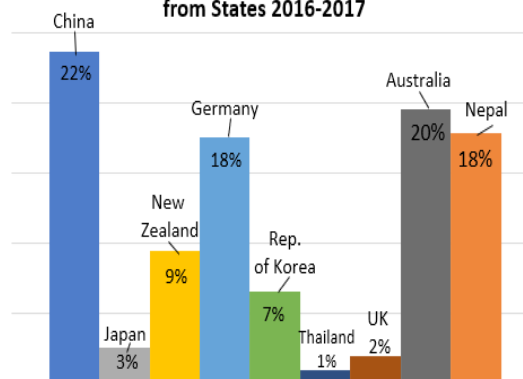
Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu
High Representative for Disarmament Affairs
United Nations, Nov 2017



DID YOU KNOW...?

...in 2016-17 the three largest extra-budgetary contributors to UNRCPD are Asia-Pacific States?

Extra-Budgetary Contributions to UNRCPD from States 2016-2017



* In addition, Japan and Switzerland provided the Centre with gratis personnel.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

- Reorienting towards the future: Integrating state-of-the-art weapons and ammunition management into DDR programmes: DPKO, UNODA, Jan 2018
- Occasional Papers No.31 - Celebrating 15 Years of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education: UNODA, Dec 2017
- Deferred verification: Verifiable Declarations of Fissile Material Stocks: UNIDIR, 2017
- SIPRI Yearbook 2017: Armaments, Disarmament and International Security: SIPRI, 2017

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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Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Germany, Japan, Nepal, Republic of Korea, Thailand, European Union, OSCE, Risho Kosei-kai, and UNSCAR

The 43 countries covered by UNRCPD's mandate

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