

# Workshop I

## Let's Expand the Non-Nuclear Umbrella and the Nuclear Weapons Free Zone

Date: November 3, 2013 10:00-12:30

Venue: Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum Hall

Participants: About 100 people



### Coordinators



#### **Keiko Nakamura**

(Japan, Associate Professor, Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA))



#### **Tae-ho Lee**

(Korea, Secretary General, People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy)

### Panelists



#### **Ward Wilson**

(USA, Senior Fellow and Director of the Rethinking Nuclear Weapons Project, British-American Security Information Council(BASIC))



#### **Shinichiro Tsukada**

(Japan, Acting Secretary General, Peace Depot)



## **Hideo Hiraoka**

(Japan, Former Minister of Justice)



## **Kazumi Mizumoto**

(Japan, Vice-President, Hiroshima Peace Institute,  
Hiroshima City University)

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Let me report to you the result of the discussion on workshop 1, Let's Expand the Non-Nuclear Umbrella and Nuclear Weapon Free Zone. There were altogether four panelists. From the United States, Mr. Ward Wilson, Senior Fellow and Director of the Rethinking Nuclear Weapons Project, British-American Security Information Council, Mr. Kazumi Mizumoto, Vice President of Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University, Mr. Hideo Hiraoka, Former Minister of Justice, Mr. Shinichiro Tsukada, Acting Secretary General of Peace Depot, and Co-Coordinator, Mr. Lee Tae-ho, Secretary General of People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy. With the different and diversified backgrounds, they are all active in the frontline of our activities.

As for the theme, nuclear weapon-free zones was focused especially including Japan. We focused on the Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone, what kind of actions are needed to promote such a zone? Two-and half hours, there are a lot of discussions with the high level of condensation and a very timely type of the discussion. We did have a lot of input from the panelists as well as from the audience.

When it comes to the Northeast Asia NWFZ, you might think, yes, we have already heard of them in the meetings in the past. The idea is nice, but the discussion is not proceeding or the situation is worsening, you might think, but those who have participated yesterday in the Workshop 1, I'm pretty sure that they have heightened their awareness and went back home confirming that there has been the progression and there will be a progress.

At the outset, I have given you the example of the result of UN General Assembly high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament, introducing their statement by Mongolian president. For the

first time as the head of the state, and for the first time in United Nations, he mentioned about the initiative of Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone. He said he is determined to start to exert their efforts. That's one example.

As you know, Mongolia has already acquired its nuclear-weapon-free status, and also it is possible for Mongolia to become a member of Northeast Asia NWFZ. So what is the basis of such energy? I believe it was fully supported by the efforts of the civil society and people's movement, especially focusing in Japan and South Korea.

Of course, we were hoping that such a positive posture will be shown not only by Mongolia, but also from Japan and Korea, but as you already know, Japanese government and ROK government are quite dependent on the US nuclear umbrella for their securities, but Mr. Ward Wilson Ward Wilson had clearly stated it was a wrong notion by giving the historical evidence taking example of the Cuban missile crisis. People often think nuclear deterrence worked, but Mr. Wilson said no. It was contrary. The fact that nuclear weapons were not used in the past was only luck. We need to get out of such wrong notion.

The second presenter, Professor Mizumoto talked about then what are the challenges we face, what kind of challenges we need to overcome in order to establish a Northeast Asia NWFZ? In general, the Japanese government has been quite passive in the discussion in Northeast Asia NWFZ, but there was some sign if you look at the Japanese disarmament and non-proliferation diplomacy government document, 3+3 and some other references are made in such document related to Northeast Asia NWFZ.

And also, historical issues, territorial issues, there are a lot of issues in this region, but once we make the determination on Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, I think there are a lot of – ample boom for us to proceed and we do have a lot of mechanism and tools, Professor Mizumoto said.

Another channel is the roles to be played by the parliamentarians, which is represented by Mr. Hiraoka and Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) head. He runs the Japanese section of the PNND. He has been giving the various moves by the parliamentarians in order to promote Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone. The voices were put onto the various international meetings, including side events of NPT-related conferences and there is a joint statement by the parliamentarians, which amounts to 100, both in South Korea and Japan.

There was a comment from the floor that their target should be to include the Northeast Asia WFZ initiative in the final document of 2015 NPT Review Conference. Parliamentarians need to lobby and motivate the people in South Korea and Japan to utilize the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting.

NGO activities by Japan are quite buoyant. Mr. Tsukada talked about the nuclear free zone of the local authorities and NGO. As many as 530 local authorities signed on this nuclear free zone.

The importance of the coordination between NGO and local government authorities are exemplified by this very meeting of the Global Citizen's Assembly. We are making the move and motivating Japan and the global governments to take an action. Also Mr. Lee Tae-Ho said we're able to also encourage DPRK to check the positive action. We tend to think DPRK is the one who should be blamed because they do not give up on their nuclear program, but we need to be very serious in looking at the background, why they resort to such action.

People say if Japan change the world change. This might be too much to say, but the fact that Japan has signed on in the Joint Statement on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons, although the basic policy might not have been changed, probably we should start to think about our initiative not to be dependent on nuclear umbrella and nuclear weapons.

That has to be communicated directly, very quickly from the Japanese government and from Japanese NGO to the world. This is what we have discussed in Workshop 1. Thank you very much.