



Thinking from Nagasaki—Greetings upon Taking Office

Kimiaki Kawai (Vice Director, RECNA)

Hello, everyone. My name is Kimiaki Kawai. I have been involved in the nuclear weapons abolition movement as a member of civil society for nearly 30 years. In April 2023, I was appointed to the post of vice director and professor of RECNA. My field of expertise within international law is international humanitarian law, formerly known as the law of war. I study the issues with nuclear weapons from the perspectives of international law and civil society. I look forward to working together with the people of Nagasaki.

If my father were still alive, this year would mark his 99th birthday. My mother and father experienced the last world war first-hand and due to restrictions at the time, their education finished at elementary school level. In spite of this, they enabled me to pursue a college education. When I was in my sophomore year at college, I was studying international politics and my father said to me, “You are studying something that looks quite difficult.” He continued, “Difficult reasons are not necessary in opposing war. What is wrong is wrong.”

During the war, my father experienced air raids in Kawasaki City in Kanagawa Prefecture and suffered injuries. I heard him talk about this several times when I was a child. My mother also told me about when she had to evacuate to a safer place and had to eat sweet potato vines to survive. In our house, during the month of August, we ate *suiton*, a kind of vegetable soup with dumplings made from flour, a dish eaten during the war years as a substitute for rice which was in short supply. When I was at that time, I didn’t know that under international law, it is prohibited to attack civilians during a war.



My father’s words of “Difficult reasons are not necessary in opposing war. What is wrong is wrong.” are strongly engraved in my memory, even now. In international law, there is a rule, the rule of distinction, that weapons used in armed conflict, i.e., means of warfare, must not be used against civilians. Judge Rosalyn Higgins of the International Court of Justice, stated that “It is in any event absolutely prohibited to attack civilians, whether by nuclear or other weapons.” Words of ordinary people about a war in which they had been the target of attacks, which they considered unconditionally wrong, were also the words of international law.

Discussions about war tend to be framed from the perspective of those who use weapons. However, in international law it is also important for discussions to include the perspective of those who are being attacked, those people whom the weapons are being used against. International law asks “What is the tar-

get?” in an attack. Civilians must never be the target of attacks. I believe that Nagasaki, a city that suffered an atomic-bombing during the war, provides us with the opportunity to see with our eyes, hear with our ears, feel with our hearts and reason about the mean-

ing of this rule.

I will conduct research from now with “Thinking from Nagasaki” as my starting point.

Beginning a New Joint Project with Carnegie Endowment for International Peace: A New Path toward Nuclear Disarmament

Fumihiko Yoshida (Director, RECNA)

RECNA has initiated a joint project with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace to study about “A New Path toward Nuclear Disarmament” and both parties have agreed to publish the results of this research as a book. Tentative title of this book is “Where Are We Are Going with Nuclear Weapons?”. The book will analyze new trends in nuclear weapons policies and explore ways to revitalize policies toward nuclear disarmament. The goal is to publish it by FY2025, the year that will mark 80 years since the atomic bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

This joint project will take place over a period of two years, from July 2023 until June 2025. The book, which will be the result of the research, will be free and downloadable. It is to be published in English and Japanese, and possibly with Chinese, Russian, French, and Korean versions. The book is intended to be used as a reference work at a wide range of universities, with a readership of undergraduate and graduate students interested in nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation.

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace is one of the world's leading think tanks located in Washington, DC in the United States. The institution generates strategic ideas and independent analysis that influence diplomatic policy in the United States and abroad in a complex, changing and increasingly contested world and trains the next generation of international scholar-practitioners to help countries and institutions take on the most difficult global problems and safeguard peace.

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace responded to a call from RECNA to take part in the joint project, which will be led by Dr. George Perkovich, vice president for studies, Dr. Fumihiko Yoshida, director of RECNA, and Dr. Mitsuru Nishida, professor at Nagasaki University’s School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences (also professor of RECNA). As the Ukraine crisis and the buildup of nuclear capabilities of China and North Korea are making it difficult to see the path to nuclear disarmament, the purpose of the project is to stop the regression to the nuclear arms race and to find a new path to nuclear disarmament. We will deepen interactions and exchanges of views with experts not only in the United States and Japan, but also those in Europe and Asia, and promote analysis from multiple perspectives.

In October 2022, RECNA received a donation of approximately 100 million yen from a donor (now deceased) who was a resident of Nagasaki City. The donor was mobilized as a student during the war and worked at the Mitsubishi arms factory in Mori-machi, Nagasaki City. By chance, the donor happened to be absent from work on the day of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki and was able to escape being killed or injured in the bombing. Losing old friends in the war, the donor made this donation to RECNA as a prayer for the repose of the souls of those who lost their lives and also to help research for the abolition of nuclear weapons. For the eightieth anniversary of the atomic bombing, we decided to use part of the donation initiate this joint project with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace institution .

Side Event: “Writing Peace—Uniting People Through Nagasaki and Japanese Calligraphy—”

We, the 11th Nagasaki Youth Delegation, have been conducting our activities under the theme of “people-to-people connections” with the resolve to make Nagasaki the last place in history to have suffered the effects of an atomic bombing. Through the activities in Nagasaki and Hiroshima, not only conveying these messages, but we have also been reconsidering what we need to think about from here, what kind of world we want to live in in the future, whether things are fine just as they are now, and what it is that we can do.

We realized that to know other ideas is key to making progress on all social issues. To that end, the participants of the side event were asked to express their personal thoughts or wishes about peace with Japanese calligraphy as the medium. Participants of the side event in Nagasaki included university students, international students, university faculty and staff members, hibakusha, and people involved in peace activities. Participants in Vienna included Nagasaki Prefectural Governor Kengo Oishi, Nagasaki City Mayor Shiro Suzuki, Minister Nobuharu Imanishi of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna, former diplomats from Kazakhstan, CTBTO officials, and NGO officials from various countries. We made [a video that shows the result of each person’s thoughts or wishes about peace](#).

Meetings with members of various countries’ permanent missions and international organizations

As well as observing meetings and participating in events at the Vienna International Centre, we met with ambassadors and diplomats from various countries, and officials from international organizations. We met ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary



of the permanent mission of Japan to the international organizations in Vienna, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the delegation of Japan to the conference on disarmament, hibakusha from Nihon Hidankyo, head of Security Policy Department of the Netherlands, ambassador of the Republic of the Sudan to Austria, ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Austria, ambassador and president’s special representative for nuclear nonproliferation of the United States, as well as officials from the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Mayors for Peace “Youth Forum”

The aim of this forum was “to encourage young people, who will lead the next generation, to give presentations about their thoughts on peace through their own peace activities, and through exchanges of opinions, to advocate for the realization of a peaceful world without nuclear weapons, to deepen exchanges

and use that to enhance their future activities.” As well as our group, eight other groups of young people from around the world, including a group of high school students from Hiroshima and also Vienna, gave presentations. We gave a presentation about the Nagasaki Youth Delegation, our efforts in Japan since our appointment, the side event in Vienna, and our thoughts on peace. The various groups presented different stories. However, we were able to reconfirm that regardless of nationality or age, we are all united in our pursuit of the abolition of nuclear weapons. At the end of the forum, we received a message from Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, under-secretary-general and high representative for disarmament affairs of the United Nations, who said that the United Nations appreciates these serious discussions by young people. We realized through the Youth Forum that it is important for young people to communicate from our respective locations and to strengthen our activities through mu-

tual collaboration. We renewed our determination to continue with our future efforts.

The Eleventh Nagasaki Youth Delegation

Hanako Ariyoshi, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Nagasaki University

Asumi Imaoka, Faculty of Environmental Science, Nagasaki University

Tatsuhito Kaji, School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences, Nagasaki University

Kazuha Suehiro, School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences, Nagasaki University

Chinami Hirabayashi, Graduate School of Education, Nagasaki University

Noa Yasumoto, Faculty of International Cultural Studies, Kwassui Women’s University

Sakura Yamamoto, School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences, Nagasaki University

Publication of RECNA Policy Paper on Nuclear Weapons and International Politics, Nuclear Weapons and International Humanitarian Law

Fumihiko Yoshida (Director, RECNA) / Kimiaki Kawai (Vice Director, RECNA)

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entered into force in January 2021. It was a historic step for people in many countries around the world, including those in the cities that suffered atomic-bombings in war, who aspire a world without nuclear weapons. However, nuclear deterrence has deep and far-reaching roots in global security policies, and nuclear deterrence-dependent states (nuclear-weapon states or nuclear umbrella states) continue to oppose or take a cautious stance toward TPNW.

Idealism (the TPNW group) and realism (the non-TPNW group) are sharply opposed to each other. This situation could very likely shake the foundation of global governance of nuclear issues for the past fifty years, which is to stabilize international and national security through nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation based on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

In addition, Russia, which invaded Ukraine, has repeatedly made threats that it will use nuclear weapons while also declaring that it will suspend implementation of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START Treaty). The adversarial relationship between the United States and China has also intensified, and the future of nuclear disarmament has become dim.

Against this backdrop, a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (B) project “Compatibility of Security and Nuclear Disarmament” (Principal Investigator: Fumihiko Yoshida) run by Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) has been moving forward. By correcting the biases that exist in both idealism and realism regarding nuclear deterrence and nuclear disarmament, the research will find out the “greatest common denominator = middle ground that can be shared” between the two, and present an optimal solution and a

set of policies accorded top priority for the “compatibility of security and nuclear disarmament.” Research is proceeding with this as the main objective.

A “comprehensive evaluation” of nuclear weapons and nuclear deterrence based on various analyses and reviews is necessary in the process of exploring optimal solutions. Over the past year, the research team has been collecting and organizing information for such a “comprehensive evaluation,” conducting interviews and literature reviews regarding diverse perspectives, and conducting a comprehensive exchange of opinions based on such findings.

The results were published in Japanese as Policy Paper No. 17, *Main Issues Concerning Nuclear Weapons: International Politics and Security edition* (released April 10, revised June 22) and Policy Paper No. 18, *Main Issues Concerning Nuclear Weapons: International Humanitarian Law edition* (released May 31).

[Policy Paper No. 17](#) was written by Fumihiko Yoshida (Nagasaki University), Maika Nakao (Hiroshima University), Michiru Nishida (Nagasaki University), Wakana Mukai (Asia University), Kimiaki Kawai (Nagasaki University), Junko Horibe (Nagoya University of Foreign Studies), Kazuko Hikawa (Osaka Jogakuin University), Seiji Endo (Seikei University), and Yoshihiro Makino (Asahi

Shimbun). The publication provides a comprehensive examination of issues surrounding nuclear weapons comprising the following subjects in seven chapters: reexamining nuclear weapons in history; complex relationship between international politics and nuclear deterrence and disarmament; NPT, TPNW, and Civil Society; multifaceted problem of nuclear non-proliferation; new aspects of nuclear deterrence and disarmament; reexamining nuclear deterrence and disarmament through international political theory; and changing security environment in the Asia-Pacific region .

[Policy Paper No. 18](#) was written by Kimiaki Kawai (Nagasaki University) and Akira Mayama (Osaka Gakuin University and professor emeritus at Osaka University). This publication addresses international humanitarian law, which has been attracting renewed attention in the wake of Russia's military invasion of Ukraine, analyzing how international humanitarian law relates to nuclear weapons. With a series of moves by the international society to neglect the rule of law and a dangerous drift toward the spread of the rule of power in the fields of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, how can the rule of law be reconstructed and made universal? From the awareness of these issues, the study also considers the functions and limitations of international law in international politics.

The Project on “Reducing the Risk of Nuclear Weapons Use in Northeast Asia (NU-NEA)”

Tatsujiro Suzuki (Vice Director, RECNA)

In FY2021, RECNA initiated a three-year joint research project with the Nautilus Institute for Security and Sustainability and the Asia-Pacific Leadership Network for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (APLN) titled “Reducing the Risk of Nuclear Use in Northeast Asia: Ensuring Nuclear Weapons Are Never Used Again” (NU-NEA). In the second year of this project (FY2022), in addition to 25 possible cases of nuclear

weapons use in Northeast Asia which was covered in the first year, five possible cases in Russia were added making a total of 30 cases, from which five cases were taken up and evaluated quantitatively ([Newsletter](#) Vol. 11, No. 2, March 2023, p. 3).

The second year's report, *Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons Use in Northeast Asia: Implications for Nuclear Risk Reduction* ([English](#), [Japanese Sum-](#)

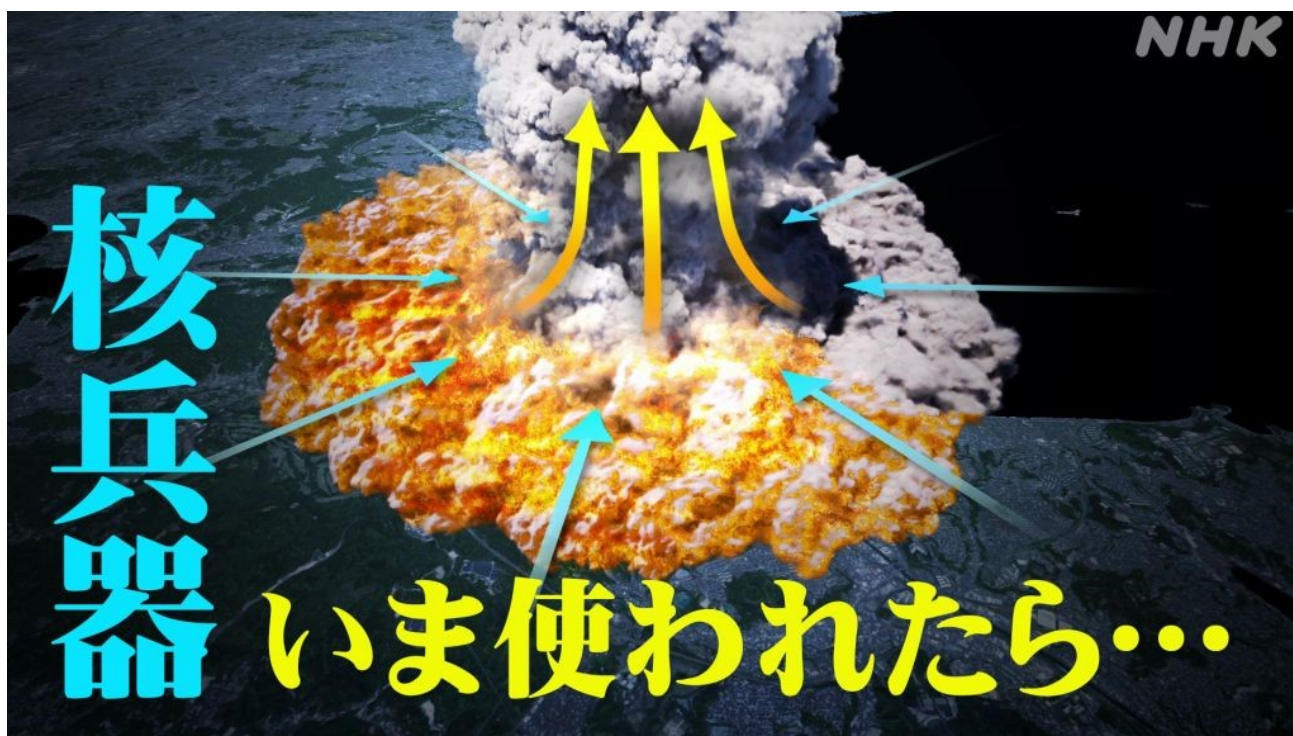
mary), was released on April 7. After its release, NHK was first to feature the report in a special slot in its [News Watch 7](#) program that day. Other media coverage included [NHK Nagasaki](#), [Nagasaki Broadcasting Company](#) (NBC) (affiliated with TBS), [Kyodo News](#), and the [Nagasaki Shimbun](#) on the same day or the following day.

Media coverage continued, and as nuclear disarmament was a major theme at the G7 Summit, the report attracted a lot of attention. It was also introduced in a special slot on Nippon TV's program [News Zero](#) on May 19. Also, on August 9, in the NHK program [Jiron Koron](#) [Contemporary Opinion, Public Opinion] news commentator Junya Yabuuchi gave a commentary using content from the report for details, focusing

on “not causing damage with nuclear weapons.”

Recently, NHK's [Today's Close-Up](#) program on August 21 reported on the risks of nuclear attacks in detail, with the program structured around the report. Also included is an explanation of the video of a simulation of nuclear war as well as interviews with American experts such as Professor Lynn Eden and Professor Bruce Benett. The [English version](#) of the program was released on September 15 on NHK WORLD-JAPAN.

As can be seen, the project's reports have evoked a massive response, and we expect that the policy recommendations in the third year's reports will also attract a great deal of attention.



A screenshot from [the NHK Today's Close-Up program](#)

The 2nd Essay Contest on a “Nuclear Weapons Free Future”

Keiko Nakamura (Associate Professor, RECNA)

On Saturday September 23, 2023, RECNA hosted an award ceremony for the second essay contest on a “Nuclear Weapons Free Future.” This contest began in 2022 as one of the events to commemorate RECNA's tenth anniversary. The purpose of this essay contest is to bring to the attention of the

younger generation how important the issue of nuclear weapons is, as well as to build their capacities so that they can contribute to the realization of a peaceful international society. Continuing on from last year, the event was supported by Nagasaki Shimbun and from this year, it was supported by Nagasaki Prefecture, Nagasaki City, Television Nagasaki Co., Ltd.

(KTN), Nagasaki Broadcasting Company (NBC), Nagasaki Culture Telecasting Corporation (NCC), NHK Nagasaki Station, and Nagasaki International Television Broadcasting, Inc. (NIB). Funds from donations received by RECNA were used for the operation of this event.

Each year the essay contest poses a timely question as the sub-theme and this year's sub-theme was "Can Nuclear Weapons Save Our Planet?" From this year, two categories have been provided for applicants: youth aged 16-19 (Under-20) and youth aged 20-29 (Under-30). It was hoped that this will make it less daunting for younger people, including high school students, to enter the contest.

As a result, 122 entries were received, exceeding that of last year. Of those, 88 entries were in the Under-20 group while 34 were in the Under-30 group. Entries from overseas numbered 15 and applicants were spread throughout the world. Present addresses of the applicants included the nuclear-armed states of the United States, the United Kingdom, and India, as well as Indonesia, Nigeria, Austria, Peru, Turkey, and South Korea, among others.

After a rigorous screening process by the selection

committee chaired by Akutagawa Award-winning author Yuichi Seirai, one Grand Prize winner and one Second Prize winner in the Under-20 and Under-30 divisions respectively, were selected. The winners are as follows.

Under-20

Grand Prize: Minako Baba (Sophomore at Seiwa Jogakuin High School (Sasebo City, Nagasaki Prefecture) 17 years old)

Second Prize: Haruka Unno (Sophomore, School of Cultural Planning, Waseda University. 19 years old)

Under-30

Grand Prize: Adiya Kerimbayeva (2nd year of Master's course, Division of Disaster and Radiation Medical Sciences, Nagasaki University Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, 27 years old)

Second Prize: Adriana Nazarko (Assistant Language Teacher (ALT). 25 years old)

Ms. Baba, Ms. Kerimbayeva, and Ms. Nazarko attended the awards ceremony in person, while Ms. Unno attended online. The prizewinners were each pre-



Four award winners being interviewed

sented with a certificate and plaque by the chair, Mr. Seirai. The essays by the two Grand Prize winners were published in full by the Nagasaki Shimbun on the following day, the 24th. (A provisional Japanese translation was provided for the essay originally writ-

ten in English.) Together with the full texts of the four award winners' essays, RECNA's website also features essays by the finalists who gave RECNA their permission, out of the total of 42 finalists.

(<https://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/recna/topics/44903>)

Announcements

“World’s Nuclear Warheads Data” 2023 and **“World’s Fissile Material Data” 2023** by RECNA are now available from the URLs on the right.

“World’s Nuclear Warheads Data” 2023

<https://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/recna/en-topics/43753>

“World’s Fissile Material Data” 2023

<https://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/recna/en-topics/43755>



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