

Dialogue and Cooperation with Civil Society

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Chapter 1. Overview

In recent years, civil society, including non - governmental organizations (NGOs), has come to play an increasingly important role in the field of disarmament and non - proliferation. Collaborations between NGOs which can act quickly and governments as well as international organizations are indispensable particularly in the emergency aid activities in post - conflict regions.

International cooperation as exemplified by the so - called "Ottawa Process" on the anti - personnel mine issue has been strengthened, and NGOs have been increasing their influence on national governments. In the field of nuclear weapons, for example, the NGO session was held during April through May 2007 in the margins of the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 NPT Review Conference, and representatives of 25 NGOs including Japanese ones made speeches at the session.

The Government of Japan considers it meaningful to amply listen to the opinions of civil society including NGOs and to ensure collaboration with them in its endeavors to promote disarmament and non - proliferation, and thus conducts an active exchange of opinions with many NGOs and citizens. It also provides various types of cooperation, including support for symposia and forums on disarmament and non - proliferation.

Chapter 2. Holding of symposia and workshops

1. International workshops on nuclear disarmament and non - proliferation

Ahead of the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 NPT Review Conference during April through May 2007, as part of Japan's substantial contribution to NPT, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Center for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non - Proliferation (CPDNP) jointly held the NPT Japan Seminar in Vienna in February 2007, for the purpose of providing relevant parties to the NPT with the opportunity for discussion in preparation for the Conference. A total of 110 participants, including observers such as government officials from 29 countries, officials of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs and the IAEA, and experts of private research institutes attended the Seminar, and active discussions were held at sessions organized in accordance with three pillars of the NPT (nuclear disarmament, nuclear non - proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy), from the perspective of how to strengthen the NPT regime toward the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Participants reconfirmed the significance of maintaining the credibility of the NPT and the necessity to take a well - balanced approach based on those three pillars of the NPT.

2. Chemical terrorism

On the first day of the 19th United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues in Sapporo, which was held from August 27 to 29, 2007, a special session, "the Tenth Anniversary of entry - into - force of the Chemical Weapons Convention and chemical terrorism," was held. In this session, which the general public also participated in, Mr. Pfirter, Director - General of the OPCW, delivered a keynote speech. While explaining efforts made so far by State Parties and the OPCW, he called for further efforts by State Parties for achieving the goal of the CWC on occasions such as the Second CWC Review Conference in April 2008, and also referred to the significance of the role that the OPCW is supposed to play. On August 28, Director - General Pfirter also gave a speech on "the overview and remaining issues of the CWC" at the CPDNP of the Japan Institute of International Affairs and had an active question - and - answer session with participants.

3. Small arms and light weapons

On March 12 and 13, 2007, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held the Tokyo Workshop on Small Arms and Light Weapons, entitled "SALW Issues from the Perspective of the Protection and Empowerment of the Peaceful Community." 26 representatives from 18 governments, as well as 29 intellectuals including Diet members and individuals representing international organizations and NGOs in and outside Japan participated in the workshop.

Tackling SALW issues is one of the major pillars of Japan's disarmament diplomacy, along with the promotion of nuclear disarmament. This workshop was a good opportunity for Japan to show its positive attitude toward SALW issues both domestically and internationally, and at the same time, to deepen collaboration with civil society, with a recognition that the international community needs to continue strenuous efforts based on the "Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons."

4. Anti - personnel mines

On December 1, 2007, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Association for Aid and Relief, Japan jointly held the "Symposium on Mine Action in connection with the 10th Anniversary of the Ottawa Convention." Foreign experts specialized in mine action representing the UN organizations, governments of mine - affected countries and international NGOs participated in the symposium. Participants from the private sector, government and academia and NGO members overviewed past efforts from respective standpoints based on their own experience of addressing landmine issues and exchanged opinions actively to search for further possible approaches. The Japanese government reported on concrete examples of Japan's assistance for mine action since 1998 and their achievements, and was able to successfully deepen understanding of audience.

5. Assistance for exhibitions held overseas on the sufferings caused by atomic bombs

Japan, as the only country that has suffered from the devastation of atomic bombings, attaches much importance to conveying to people of other countries the tragedy of nuclear devastation and the strong wish that this should not be inflicted again. From this standpoint, the Japanese government has been supporting, through overseas missions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, exhibitions held overseas by local governments and NGOs on the suffering caused by atomic bombs. Recent examples of such assistance are as follows.

(1) January and February 2006: Exhibition in Brazil (at Porto Alegre)

Sponsored by the Porto Alegre City Hall under the auspices of the Japanese Consulate General in Curitiba

(2) April 2006: Exhibition in Belarus (at Minsk)

Sponsored jointly by the Committee on the Problems of the Consequences of the Accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant under the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus and the Japanese Embassy in Belarus

(3) May 2006: Exhibition in El Salvador (at San Salvador)

Sponsored by the Student Association of the UCA Social Information Department under the auspices of the Japanese Embassy in El Salvador

(4) August 2006: Exhibition in Bulgaria (at Kazanlak)

Sponsored jointly by the Kazanlak Art Gallery and Kazanlak City under the auspices of the Japanese Embassy in Bulgaria

(5) August and September 2006: Exhibition in Brazil (at Sao Paulo)

Sponsored jointly by the Contemporary Culture Space and the Japanese Consulate General in Sao Paulo

(6) August 2006: Exhibition in Bolivia (at La Paz)

Sponsored jointly by La Paz City, the Sociedad Japones de La Paz, the Bolivia Library Association, and the Japanese Embassy in Bolivia

(7) July and August 2007: Exhibition in Honduras (at Tegucigalpa)

Sponsored by Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers under the auspices of the Japanese Embassy in Honduras

(8) August 2007: Exhibition in Brazil (at Curitiba)

Sponsored jointly by the Culture Bureau of Curitiba, Curitiba Japanese - Brazilian Cultural and Beneficent Association, and the Japanese Consulate General in Curitiba

(9) August 2007: Exhibition in Bangladesh (at Dhaka)

Sponsored jointly by the Japanese University Graduate Association and the Japanese Embassy in Bangladesh

(10) October 2007: Exhibition in Paraguay (at Asuncion)

Sponsored jointly by the Centro Paraguayo Japonesa, La Federacion de Asociaciones Japonesas en el Paraguay, JICA Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, and the Japanese Embassy in Paraguay

(11) October 2007: Exhibition in the United States (at Chicago)

Sponsored jointly by the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, DePaul University, Hiroshima city, Nagasaki city, and the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum under the auspices of the Japanese Consulate General in Chicago

(12) November and December 2007: Exhibition in the Dominican Republic (at Salcedo)

Sponsored jointly by Salcedo province, volunteers from JICA in the Dominican Republic, and the Japanese Embassy in the Dominican Republic

Chapter 3. Dialogue and cooperation with NGOs

1. Nuclear disarmament and non - proliferation

The desire of Japanese people to eliminate nuclear weapons is very strong as Japan is the only country in the world to have experienced disasters caused by atomic bombs. Thus, the activities of Japanese NGOs for elimination of nuclear weapons, including the victims of atomic bombs and the families of those killed by atomic bombings, are extremely active, and also have special significance at an international level.

It is important for Japan to convey the message on the tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to the world and to continue its appeal to the international community not to repeat the disasters caused by nuclear weapons. The Japanese government exchanges opinions with NGOs in order to seek ways of advancing the nuclear disarmament process. For example, the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs attend the World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August every year to exchange opinions through subcommittees. During the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 NPT Review Conference, Mr. Sumio TARUI, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament, exchanged views with NGOs who participated in the NGO session of the Conference. Before, during and after international conferences such as the UN General Assembly, the representative of the Ministry frequently exchanged views with many NGOs in Tokyo or at other conference venues, and has actively attended various NGO meetings.

2. Conventional arms

Collaboration among the government, NGOs and international organizations is extremely important in dealing with weapons that actually produce victims in post - conflict areas, such as landmines and small arms and light weapons. NGOs play an indispensable role as implementation bodies especially in mine clearance, collection of small arms and light weapons and support projects for affected countries and victims in post - conflict areas. Since activities in these projects are dangerous, relevant countries, NGOs and international organizations have to act in close cooperation and in unison.

Examples of cooperation with NGOs in such field include mine clearance activities in Afghanistan and a project to collect small arms and light weapons in Cambodia. Japan has been supporting mine clearance operations in Afghanistan through international organizations since 2001, and seven international NGOs stationed in Afghanistan and nine local NGOs have actually been carrying out mine clearance activities on the ground. Specific action policy for carrying out these activities as well as important matters including research on needs for mine clearance are decided in coordination among the NGOs operating on the ground, international organizations coordinating such NGOs and Japan.

In Cambodia, Japan has been implementing a SALW collection project combined with development assistance. Through the project, in areas where remaining weapons after civil conflicts are aggravating public security, local residents are educated and persuaded to submit small arms and light weapons voluntarily, and then granted, in return, assistance for constructing infrastructure such as schools and roads. In the project, Japan has played an important role, in cooperation with 17 local NGOs, in such fields as persuasion of local residents, confidence building, and research on development needs.

In addition, it should be noted that NGOs have so far been calling attention to the issues of landmines and

small arms and light weapons in the international community and in their countries. In particular, NGOs have played a large role in dealing with anti - personnel mines. Especially, the "International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)" led international opinion for elimination of anti - personnel mines and largely contributed to the adoption of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti - Personnel Mines and On Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention). Also, an international NGO network (International Action Network on Small Arms: IANSA) consisting of about 700 groups from about 100 countries all over the world is working on the control of small arms and light weapons.

In this way, the government, NGOs and international organizations are in a mutually complementary cooperative relationship in the fields of anti - personnel mines and small arms and light weapons. It is thus important to deal with such issues by promoting cooperation with NGOs.

From such perspective, Japan invited foreign and domestic NGO members to the Tokyo Workshop on Small Arms and Light Weapons in March 2007, asking for their opinions based on their own experience and knowledge obtained through working on projects related to demand factors of SALW issues.

The concept of an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) has been discussed within the framework of the United Nations since the adoption of UN General Assembly Resolution 61/89 in 2006. In March 2007, ahead of the submission of the Japanese government's view on an ATT due by the end of April, the Japan NGO Network on UN Reform and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs co - hosted the Fourth "Public Forum on UN Reform" for exchanging opinions on an ATT between the government and NGO members. At the Forum, the NGO side explained what they would expect for the Treaty.

Regarding cluster munitions, the Japan Campaign to Ban Landmines (JCBL) hosted a symposium to discuss how to regulate them in May 2007. Government officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense attended the symposium to explain the Japanese government's stance on this issue.

Chapter 4. Disarmament/non-proliferation and education

It has come to be widely recognized in the international community that education on disarmament and non - proliferation to citizens is important in promoting efforts to address the issue of disarmament and non - proliferation.

1. United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme

It was decided to implement the UN Disarmament Fellowship Programme to train experts on disarmament issues, particularly in developing countries, at the First Special Session of the UN General Assembly special session on disarmament in 1978. Every year since 1979, participants from various states, including experienced diplomats and officials of the national defense department who are engaged in disarmament, have participated in this Fellowship Programme. Participants have deepened their knowledge in the field by visiting international organizations, research institutions related to disarmament and non - proliferation and relevant countries.

With regard to the involvement of Japan in this Programme, then Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki made a proposal to invite the participants in the Fellowship Programme to Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the Second Special Session of the UN General Assembly special session on disarmament in 1982. A group of about 25 to 30 participants has been invited to visit Japan every year since 1983. The number of participants, comprised mainly of diplomats who had visited Japan, totaled more than 650 in 2007, the 25th anniversary of the invitation. Participants receive briefings on the disarmament and non - proliferation policies of Japan and also have opportunities to gain insight into the reality of atomic bombing and to learn about the unique circumstances of Japan as the only country to have suffered from the devastation of atomic bombs, through visits to Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

A large number of diplomats that participated in the Fellowship Programme are now actively working on the front lines of global disarmament diplomacy, and many of them often comment on the deep impression that their visits to Hiroshima and Nagasaki had on them. As can be seen from these examples, it is very meaningful to invite the Fellowship Programme participants to Japan as a way of strongly communicating the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons to the world based on the Japanese people's own experience with atomic bombing, and Japan's efforts on disarmament and non - proliferation.

2. Meeting of UN Group of Governmental Experts on Disarmament and Non - Proliferation Education

At the UN Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters held in New York in 2000, it was pointed out that, in order to break the current stalemate in nuclear disarmament, it would be necessary to actively educate the young generation on nuclear disarmament issues. Based on this deliberation a draft resolution was submitted requesting the Secretary - General to carry out preparations for a study to evaluate the current situation and to promote disarmament and non - proliferation education. The draft was adopted by consensus at the 55th UN General Assembly in the same year.

In accordance with the resolution, the UN Group of Governmental Experts on Disarmament and Non - Proliferation Education (consisting of 10 experts from the governments, NGOs and research institutes: from Japan, Mr. Yukiya Amano, then Minister at the Japanese Embassy in the United States) has

held four sessions since 2001, and a report, "the study on disarmament and non - proliferation education," was submitted to the Secretary - General in August 2002.

At the 59th and 61st UN General Assemblies, following the 57th UN General Assembly in 2004, a draft resolution titled "United Nations study on disarmament and non - proliferation education" was adopted unanimously. The draft resolution requested implementation of a series of recommendations to vitalize disarmament and non - proliferation education that were included in the report prepared by the group (Japan jointly made the proposal).

3. Japan's own efforts

In response to the report and resolutions mentioned above, Japan has been carrying out projects to promote disarmament and non - proliferation education as follows.

(1) Invitation of disarmament educators

In November 2002, Japan invited Ms. K. Sullivan, an eminent disarmament educator in the United States. Ms. Sullivan conducted classes about the necessity of nuclear disarmament at high schools in Tokyo and Hiroshima, as well as exchanged opinions with NGOs and atomic - bomb survivors in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In January 2004, Dr. Natalie J. Goldring, another U.S. specialist in disarmament education was invited to Japan to deliver a lecture at the Center for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non - Proliferation, give classes to high school students and the general public, and exchange opinions with atomic bomb survivors.

In February 2005, Japan invited Dr. William Potter, Director of the Center for Non - proliferation Studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, one of the leading experts in the field of disarmament and non - proliferation. Dr. Potter gave a lecture in Hiroshima.

Also in February 2006, Japan invited Dr. Jean Pascal Zanders, Director of the Bio Weapons Prevention Project (BWPP), which is an NGO in Switzerland. Dr. Zanders, an expert on biochemical weapons, gave a lecture on the threat of bio - terrorism and enhancement of the BWC.

Furthermore in March 2007, Dr. Owen Green was invited to Japan to deliver a lecture on how the international community should address SALW issues.

Japan will continue to implement such projects not only for students but also for various citizens including politicians, educators and scientists on various occasions such as seminars and workshops as well as at schools.

(2) Submission of a working paper on disarmament and non - proliferation education

Japan submitted a working paper on disarmament and non - proliferation education to the First Preparatory Committee for the 2010 NPT Review Conference, raising awareness on the significance of education as a means of strengthening disarmament and non - proliferation for the next generation.

In this working paper, Japan proposed various ideas as a new initiative, such as the utilization of pop culture products including comics, and the holding of a disarmament/non - proliferation debate cup in which students from various countries have discussions on issues of disarmament and non - proliferation.

(3) Holding of disarmament education seminars

In August 2003, Japan held a disarmament education seminar jointly with the United Nations during the UN Conference on Disarmament Issues in Osaka. About 50 active teachers

of elementary schools, junior high schools and high schools in Osaka, as well as members of international organizations and various experts in disarmament and non - proliferation, participated in the seminar.

During the Second UN Conference on Disarmament Issues in Sapporo, which was held in July 2004, Japan held a disarmament education seminar again, where experts and teachers actively exchanged opinions.

At the Third UN Conference on Disarmament Issues in Sapporo in August 2007, local university students were invited to hold a student debate forum on disarmament and non - proliferation (opinion exchange). This was the first disarmament education event with the participation of students. Students exchanged their opinions freely and actively from multilateral viewpoints, and the event helped them deepen their interest and understanding of this issue.

(4) Other efforts concerning disarmament and non - proliferation education

In October 2007, Japan and the James Martin Center for Non - proliferation Studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies jointly held a workshop on disarmament and non - proliferation to conduct opinion exchange on the future of disarmament and non - proliferation education.