

CTBTO Regional Conference for States in the SEAPFE
Statement by Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
H.E. Mr. Nobuo KISHI
(19 May 2014, Indonesia)

Thank you for the kind introduction. I'm Nobuo Kishi, Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. I'm honored to be here today.

Dr. Zerbo, the Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), H.E. Dr. Marty Natalegawa, the Foreign Minister of Indonesia, and all the people involved in this meeting, let me begin by expressing my deepest appreciation for the devotion you made for this meeting.

Dr. Zerbo, you have dedicated yourself for the proactive work to facilitate the entry into force of the CTBT, including the establishment of Group of Eminent Persons. You also shared your positive vision with us when you visited my country, Japan, last year.

H.E. Dr. Marty Natalegawa, you have been taking strong initiatives as one of the Co-Presidents of the Conference on Facilitating Entry into Force of the CTBT. You are also playing a leading role as a coordinator of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in the field of disarmament. You kindly took part in the NPDI Ministerial Meeting recently held in Hiroshima, Japan, as a guest speaker.

Today, I would like to talk about two points; (1) the significance of the CTBT in the context of global security, and (2) the significance of the CTBT in the context of the security of South-East Asia, the Pacific and the Far East (SEAPFE) region.

First, let me elaborate my idea on the significance of the CTBT in the context of global security.

Japan is of the view that we need to have a clear understanding of the humanitarian aspect of the use of nuclear weapons as well as an objective assessment of the reality of the severe security environment in East Asia. With these notions, it is important to work towards “a world free of nuclear weapons” by steadily building up realistic and practical efforts of nuclear disarmament.

The CTBT is one of the most important pillars of such realistic nuclear disarmament measures, and plays a significant role in strengthening the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime based on the NPT.

From the view point of the universalization of the CTBT and the widespread acceptance of the norm of the prohibition of nuclear tests, we are convinced that the CTBT is a success story of today’s international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The dramatic decrease in the number of countries conducting nuclear tests and also in the number of nuclear tests itself since the opening of the CTBT for signature clearly demonstrates such success.

Some may argue that relevance of the CTBT has waned due to the fact that the treaty has not yet entered into force. However, we must say that such

understanding is just a one sided view and does not capture the entire picture of the dynamics surrounding the CTBT.

If we compare today's situation with the year 2000, when only 70 countries had ratified, we can calculate that, on average, 6-7 countries ratified the CTBT per year. That clearly shows that the universalization has been in progress steadily. Today we can count 183 signatory states and 162 countries that have ratified the Treaty.

Then, why has the CTBT been successful in advancing its universalization and in spreading the norm of the prohibition of nuclear tests?

The factors promoting the universalization of the treaty are two-fold. First, the world has shared a strong concern for the humanitarian impact brought about by nuclear test, including the negative impacts on the environment and on the human body.

Second, more and more countries have recognized the effectiveness of the International Monitoring System (IMS), which serves as the sole detection network for nuclear testing in the world. This recognition has been accompanied by a steady development of this system. Today, approximately 87 % of this network has been completed, and we have seen in the past that IMS stations in neighboring countries have been effective in detecting nuclear tests by North Korea. In this way the effectiveness of the IMS has been widely recognized.

As a further evidence of the effectiveness of the IMS, I can point out, in recent years, in addition to the original function of IMS, the important aspect of the civil

and scientific use of this system has been expanding, for instance, to the tsunami warning system, detection of volcanic activities and meteor blast from outer space, and the projection of the spread of radionuclides.

Every country and organization can benefit from the use of this network and all countries recognize the efficacy of the IMS, which has further encouraged the universalization of the CTBT.

Japan also shares this recognition and therefore has been actively engaged in the universalization of the CTBT.

At the Eighth Conference of Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT last September in New York, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida proposed the following three actions for countries concerned;

- Firstly, taking united and determined actions as one united international community to condemn nuclear tests if and when they are conducted;
- Secondly, moving quickly forward with the construction and certification of the IMS and;
- Thirdly, enhancing political actions by each State to promote prompt ratifications by Annex 2 States (whose ratifications are necessary for the CTBT to entry into force).

Regarding the second item “moving quickly forward with the construction and certification of the IMS”, which is the core component of the CTBT regime, Japan has proactively shared its technical know-how with the international community,

through sending experts, for instance, to workshops, including one that is to be held this time.

Japan has also conducted, as part of its technical cooperation, Global Seismological Observation Training Courses for almost 20 years since 1995. Japan continues to provide effective technical cooperation taking into consideration specific situation in each country.

In relation to the third item “enhancing political actions by each State to promote prompt ratifications by Annex 2 States,” Japan has been encouraging the Annex 2 States, including the United States, India, and Iran, to sign and ratify the CTBT at the summit level as well as at the foreign minister’s level.

Now I would like to turn to the second point of my speech, which is the significance of the CTBT in the context of the security of SEAPFE region.

Looking at the current situations in Asia, there are issues such as the nuclear issues in North Korea, and therefore we cannot say that the security environment in the region is stable.

Even now, in the SEAPFE region, we still have three non-signatory countries and six states that have not ratified the CTBT.

It is important to continue the dialogue with those countries and encourage them to sign and/or ratify the CTBT, as well as to secure their commitment at the regional level not to conduct nuclear test.

I believe that such efforts not only have the effect of reducing the risk of a competition to expand nuclear arsenals in this region, but also encourage further nuclear disarmament, and thereby contribute to the enhancement of security in this region.

In this manner, the universalization of the CTBT in the SEAPFE region is significant. Therefore it is crucially important for each state in this region to take individual and collective actions promoting the universalization and the early entry into force of the treaty.

In this regard, it is vitally important for us to call upon these states to take the first step regardless of other countries' positions, as has been expressed in the Final Declaration of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT.

Related to this point, Japan highly appreciates the fact that China started transmitting CTBT-related data to the IDC in this January, thanks to the efforts of the Executive Secretary Dr. Zerbo.

Japan hopes that China, as a major power in the region, ratifies the treaty as soon as possible and takes a leading role in promoting the early entry into force of the treaty.

As a country situated in the SEAPFE region, Japan would like to place a particular focus on the Asia-Pacific region and continue to contribute to this process through

encouragement and technical cooperation based on the needs of each country and each country's situation.

I hope that today's meeting will provide a great opportunity for exchange among participants at both political and expert levels. I also hope that the meeting will serve as an impetus to encourage participating countries to move on towards the complete universalization of the CTBT in the SEAPFE region as well as to contribute to the further enhancement of the CTBT technology and the strengthening of the CTBT monitoring system.

With this I would like to conclude my statement. Thank you for your kind attention.