

## **Fact Sheet**

### **JAPAN'S ROLE IN PROMOTING A HUMANITARIAN AWARENESS OF THE DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

#### **International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons**

In order to stimulate discussion in the international community of the anticipated humanitarian, developmental, economic, and environmental consequences of the deliberate or accidental detonation of a nuclear weapon and the resources needed to respond to such an event, Norway will host an International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in Oslo, 4-5 March 2013.

#### **Japan's commitment to raise awareness of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons use**

As the only country ever to suffer the devastating effects of wartime nuclear explosions on its cities, Japan has worked tirelessly for nearly seven decades to ensure that the international community never forgets the horrific consequences that result from the use of nuclear weapons. Accordingly, Japan shares many of the concerns expressed in recent joint statements on the humanitarian dimension of nuclear disarmament and fully supports the principal aims of the International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons.

Among those attending the conference from Japan are Dr. Masao Tomonaga, Director of the Japanese Red Cross Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Hospital, who will present on the medical effects of a nuclear weapons detonation, and Dr. Terumi Tanaka, Secretary General of the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations.

#### **Promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation from humanitarian viewpoints**

From humanitarian perspectives, Japan has taken the lead in a wide array of initiatives to build international support for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, including:

- Designation of atomic bomb survivors (88 to date) as “Special Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons” who appear at international events to share their experiences of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

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- Translation of testimony from *hibakusha* (atomic bomb survivors) not only into English, French, and Russian, but into Hindi, Urdu, and Indonesian and many other languages
- Support for the permanent atomic bomb exhibition “Toward a World Free of Nuclear Weapons” at the United Nations Office at Geneva
- Invitation of approximately 800 young diplomats from around the world to Hiroshima and Nagasaki over the last 30 years through the UN Disarmament Fellowship Program
- Promotion of disarmament and non-proliferation education:
  - Representing 46 countries at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, Japan issued a Joint Statement on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education. As a result, for the first time in the history of the NPT, the Final Document touched on the importance of education.
  - With United Nations University, Japan hosted the Global Forum on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education in Nagasaki in August 2012.