

Japan's Efforts in Disarmament and Non-proliferation Education

Working Paper submitted by Japan

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Working Paper is to share Japan's efforts in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation education, as suggested in section III, paragraph 9 of our Working Paper (NPT/CONF.2005/PC.III/WP.17), which encourages states to "*voluntary share information on efforts they have been undertaking in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation*".

JAPAN'S EFFORTS

Japan has chosen to establish its position in the international community as a nation dedicated to peace, aiming towards a safe world free from nuclear weapons. As the only country to have experienced devastation from nuclear bombing, Japan is committed to ensuring that the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki never be forgotten. With this aim, Japan places utmost importance on disarmament and non-proliferation education, especially for the younger generation.

The following illustrate Japan's efforts in this field.

UN DISARMAMENT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

Following a decision taken at the First Special Session of the General Assembly in 1978, the UN Disarmament Fellowship Programme was implemented for the first time in 1979 to train experts, mainly from developing countries, on disarmament issues. Various government officials participate in the programme for around three months, whereby they receive training at the UN Headquarters and the Geneva Conference on Disarmament and deepen their knowledge in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation by visiting international organizations, research institutions and relevant countries.

Japan has been inviting around 25 people to visit Japan each year since 1983, amounting to a total of around 480 participants in 2003. Participants receive briefings on the disarmament and non-proliferation policies of Japan. The programme includes a visit to Hiroshima and Nagasaki to learn about Japan as the only country to have suffered from the devastation of the atomic bomb and to gain an insight into the reality of atomic bombing. A large number of diplomats who have participated in the Fellowship Programme are now actively working in the front lines of global disarmament diplomacy. Japan will continue to actively contribute to this programme.

UN CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ISSUES

Regional disarmament conferences are an effective means to enhance awareness of the importance of disarmament at a regional level. Japan has sponsored a UN Conference on Disarmament Issues in a different local city each year since 1989, providing a valuable opportunity for distinguished disarmament experts from around the world to engage in

useful discussions. The UN Conference on Disarmament Issues this year will be held in Sapporo, Japan, in July.

PARTICIPATION IN THE UN GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS GROUP ON DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION EDUCATION

Japan participated in the Group of Governmental Experts on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Education, established following the 55th UN General Assembly resolution adopted in August 2000, requesting the Secretary-General to prepare a study toward the advancement of disarmament and non-proliferation. The Group submitted a report to the Secretary-General two years later, containing a series of recommendations for immediate and long-term implementation, which formed the basis for a draft resolution adopted at the UNGA in 2002.

INVITING DISARMAMENT EXPERTS/HIBAKUSHA

Based on the recommendations from the UN study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, Japan invited American nuclear disarmament education expert and representative of Educators for Social Responsibility (ESR), Kathleen Sullivan, to conduct a nuclear disarmament education tour of Japan in November, 2002, working with high school students, civic leaders, and Hibakusha in Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Tokyo. Furthermore, on 19 January, 2004, disarmament and non-proliferation expert, Dr. Natalie Goldring, from the Programme on Global Security and Disarmament at the University of Maryland, was invited to Japan to give a lecture on disarmament and non-proliferation, in particular concerning nuclear weapons and terrorism.

Atomic bomb victims (Hibakusha) share their experiences first-hand through visits to schools and by providing guided visits to monuments and A-bombed landmarks. Speaking from personal experience, survivors educate students and the public in a culture of peace by creating an awareness of the devastation caused by nuclear weapons.

CITIZEN'S FORUM ON DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION EDUCATION

In August 2003, during the UN Conference on Disarmament Issues held in Osaka, a citizen's forum on disarmament and non-proliferation education was held with participation by 50 teachers from primary, junior high and high schools in Osaka, international organizations, as well as various experts on disarmament and non-proliferation. Following the conference, an organizer made the proposal that 'advocate' cities for UN-initiated education on disarmament and non-proliferation be created, acting as facilitators or coordinators in the access to and gathering and sharing of disarmament and non-proliferation education.

DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION SEMINAR

The Center for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (CPDNP) in Japan held a Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Seminar in March, 2004, for two and a half days, with the aim of deepening understanding on recent WMD disarmament and non-proliferation trends for those wishing to make an active contribution in the area of

disarmament and non-proliferation. A series of lectures were given on various topics in the field, followed by active discussions among participants.

It is essential to train experts through, and disseminate basic knowledge of, disarmament and non-proliferation education, as Japan continues to regard the promotion of disarmament and non-proliferation as an important pillar of its diplomatic policy.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MATERIALS

Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has made various efforts to disseminate materials on various efforts it has been making in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation. 'Japan's Disarmament Policy' was published in 2002 in Japanese, followed by an English version in 2003. In April of this year, 'Japan's Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Policy' was published. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also established, and regularly updates, a comprehensive Homepage with readily available information on Japan's activities in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

SUBMISSION OF A WORKING PAPER ON DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION EDUCATION TO THE 2ND PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 2005 NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE

Japan jointly submitted a working paper on disarmament and non-proliferation education to the Second Preparatory Committee for the 2005 NPT Review Conference, underlining the importance of education as a tool for strengthening disarmament and non-proliferation for future generations. Japan introduced a working paper on behalf of coordinating countries.

PEACE EFFORTS/ PEACE EDUCATION

Among the UN recommendations, the creation of peace cities through the establishment of, for example, peace parks, peace museums and websites is encouraged. The Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the only cities to have suffered from the devastation of atomic bombs, are dedicated to peace as they seek to convey their experience to the world in order to prevent the recurrence of such a tragedy. Both cities hold a yearly Peace Ceremony, which gathers people from Japan and all over the world. The Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki respectively deliver a Peace Declaration each year at the Ceremony, expressing the hope that nuclear weapons will never be used again and appealing for peace.

The Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki began the World Conference of Mayors for Peace, now known as Mayors for Peace, in 1982, to encourage cities to work together towards the total abolition of nuclear weapons. It convenes every four years in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, with an ever increasing number of member cities, currently standing at 579 cities in 108 countries and regions, including major cities in the nuclear-weapon states.

Peace museums play an important role in disarmament education, the most famous being Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum. The

International Network of Peace Museums (INPM), enabling the worldwide exchange of information, exhibits and ideas among peace museums, was created in 1992. The Japanese Network of Museums for Peace was established in Japan in 1994. Peace museums aid in disseminating information on disarmament through exhibitions and other activities in schools as well as in the wider community, and can play a pivotal role in disarmament education.

The cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki along with the International Peace Research Association have agreed, with the support of UNESCO, to cooperate actively to establish Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Courses in universities around the world by sending peace education materials and lecturers, establishing university-level peace education models, and exchanging opinions and methodology.

Japan believes that the international community should be well informed of the destructive effects of nuclear weapons. In accordance with the wish of the people of Japan that such weapons never be used again, the Government of Japan has supported on a number of occasions the efforts of local governments and NGOs to organize exhibitions relating to atomic bombs in foreign countries, including the Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb exhibitions in Atlanta, U.S., in September 2003, and in Coventry, U.K., in October 2003