

# Dialogue and cooperation with civil society

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## Chapter 1. Overview

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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 the 2005 NPT Review Conference, and representatives of NGOs from 15 countries including Japan made speeches at the session.

The year 2005 was the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Japan, and various commemorative events were held in Japan to raise awareness in civil society of the significance of a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons. Events included a photo exhibition on Nuclear Victims of the world held by the Parliamentarians’ Coalition for the Promotion of Global Disarmament and the Hiroshima A-Bomb Exhibition sponsored by the city of Hiroshima. Also, the Mayors for Peace which is an organization headed by the Mayor of Hiroshima Tadatoshi Akiba held the General Conference commemorating the 60th anniversary of atomic bombings. Thus, active commitments of civil society to seek the elimination of nuclear weapons were seen in 2005.

The Japanese Government 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

As part of Japan's substantial contribution to NPT, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Center for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (CPDNP) held the NPT Tokyo Seminar in February 2005, just before the NPT Review Conference held in May of the same year, for the purpose of providing relevant parties to the NPT with the opportunity for discussion in preparation for the Conference. Government officials and nongovernmental intellectuals as well as Chairman Duarte of the 2005 NPT Review Conference attended the Seminar and made active discussions. As a representative of Japan, (then) Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tanigawa made an opening speech and said that he expected the 2005 NPT Review Conference to encourage international society to further strengthen its trust of the NPT scheme and send strong messages to enhance the functions of the NPT, while referring to the past accumulated achievements of important consensus such as the "Principles and Objectives" adopted during the 1995 NPT Review Conference and the Final Document adopted during the 2000 NPT Review Conference. He also pointed out the significance of well-balanced progress among three major objectives "nuclear disarmament," "nuclear non-proliferation" and "peaceful utilization of nuclear energy," and explained the basic attitude of Japan toward the three objectives respectively while asking for the understanding of other countries.

Also in June 2005, "Tokyo Seminar on G8 Global Partnership" was held jointly by the Japan-Russia Committee on Cooperation for Elimination of Nuclear Weapons Reduced in the Russian Federation and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (U.S.) under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Main participants in this Seminar were government officials from G8 countries., NGOs, the press as well as observers from Japanese private companies. This was the first seminar held in Japan to discuss the projects to dismantle Russia decommissioned nuclear submarines and treatment of excess plutonium under the framework of the G8 Global Partnership. Japan explained to the participants its achievements, current situation and future plans, and exchanged opinions with the countries and parties concerned.

### 2. Symposia on the elimination of chemical weapons

In October 2003, a symposium titled "Towards the Elimination of Chemical Weapons – Roles of the OPCW and Japan" was held jointly by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations University for the purpose of discussing the significance of Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the role of Japan. In this symposium, Director-General Pfirter of the Technical Secretariat of the Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), who visited Japan as an official guest of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, delivered a keynote speech. Also, in October 2004, Deputy Director-General Hawtin of the OPCW, who was invited to Japan by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, gave a lecture titled "Chemical Weapons Convention" at Kyoto University, where active discussions were made on the OPCW's challenge inspection and its relationship with the United Nations.

### **3. Landmines**

On March 4 and 5, 2004, "Tokyo Seminar on Landmines" was held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Thirteen countries including mine affected countries and donor countries (including Japan), United Nations organizations and international NGOs participated in the Seminar and took part in active opinion exchange on the issues of Victim Assistance, international cooperation, Mine Risk Education, appropriate way of clearing landmines, landmines detection and clearance technologies and cooperation with NGOs. Victims from Afghanistan also participated in the Seminar to report details about actual casualties by landmines.

Through this Seminar, parties engaged in mine action (including mine affected countries, donor countries, international organizations and experts or staff of mine action NGOs) deepened mutual understanding. Thus, the Seminar was quite effective to facilitate discussions and promotion of assistance for landmine clearance, etc.

### **4. 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, Japanese government has been supporting, through overseas agencies 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) July and August 2004: Exhibition in Nicaragua (at Managua, Granada and Leon)

Sponsored jointly by the Japanese Embassy in Nicaragua and Central American University Managua, Granada City and Leon City Hall respectively.

- (2) September 2004: Exhibition in France (Aubagne)

Sponsored by the cities of Aubagne, Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Consulate General of Japan in Marseille gave a speech at this exhibition.

- (3) March 2005: Exhibition in Honduras (Tegucigalpa)

Sponsored jointly by National Pedagogical University, Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula and the Japanese Embassy in Honduras

- (4) May 2005: Exhibition in France (Strasbourg)

Sponsored jointly by Centre Europeen d'Etudes Japonaises d'Alsace, Bartholdy High School and the Japanese Consulate in Strasbourg

- (5) May 2005: Exhibition in the U.S. (United Nations Headquarters in New York)

Sponsored by Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations under the joint auspices of Hiroshima City and Nagasaki City and the support of the United Nations and the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

- (6) July and August 2005: Exhibition in Uruguay (Montevideo)

Sponsored jointly by Uruguay Ministry of Education and Culture, Prefectural Office of Montevideo, Permanent Delegation of MERCOSUR to UNESCO and the Japanese Embassy in Uruguay

- (7) July and August 2005: Exhibition in Denmark (Copenhagen)

Sponsored by Pugwash Group under the auspices of the Japanese Embassy in Copenhagen

## 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. At a town meeting of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held in Hiroshima in November 2003, then Minister for Foreign Affairs Yoriko Kawaguchi gave a comprehensive explanation on Japan's disarmament diplomacy and clearly stated that Japan takes it upon itself to ensure that the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki remain in the memories of mankind. During the 2005 NPT Review Conference, a reception for NGO representatives was held for the first time by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with then Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Mr. Kawai being host, and at the reception, the Ministry exchanged opinions with NGOs who participated in the NGO session of the Conference. During the period of the Conference, the Ministry exchanged opinions with many NGOs in New York. Furthermore, the Ministry has been active in exchanging opinions and information with various NGO representatives and attending their meetings in Tokyo or at other conference venues, before, during and after international conferences such as the UN General Assembly and the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT.

### 2. Landmines, small arms and light weapons

- (1) 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, 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.
- (2) 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 it is seven international NGOs stationed in Afghanistan and nine local NGOs that are actually 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 NGOs and Japan.

In Cambodia, Japan has been implementing a project to offer development in return for voluntary submission of small arms or light weapons (Weapons Reduction and Development for Peace Project). Through the project, local residents in areas where remaining weapons are aggravating public security are educated and persuaded to submit small arms and light weapons in return for construction of roads and schools. The prerequisites for implementing the project include persuasion of local residents, research on specific development needs, and activities by local NGOs that have an understanding of the subject area. In Cambodia, the project has been implemented in cooperation with five local NGOs.

- (3) In addition, it should be noted that NGOs have so far been calling attention to the issues of landmines, 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 the 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: IANASA) consisting of about 500 groups from about 100 countries all over the world is working on the control of small arms and light weapons.
- (4) In this way, the government, NGOs and international organizations are in a mutually complementary cooperative relationship in the fields of anti-personnel mines, small arms and light weapons. It is thus important to deal with such issues by promoting cooperation with NGOs.

## 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

The decision to implement the UN Disarmament Fellowship Programme was taken at the First Special Session of the UN General Assembly devoted to Disarmament in 1978 to train experts on disarmament issues, particularly in developing countries. 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 deepen 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 devoted to Disarmament in 1982. A group of about 25 participants have been invited to visit Japan every year since 1983. The number of participants comprising mainly of diplomats who had visited Japan totaled more than 590 in 2005, the 23rd 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 to the effect 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 57th UN General Assembly in November 2002 and the 59th 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.

### **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 who is 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 those who were suffering because of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In January 2002, 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 Nonproliferation Studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, who is one of the leading experts in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, and Dr. Potter gave a lecture in Hiroshima. Mr. Kawai, (then) Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, attended the lecture and made a speech.

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

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

#### **(2) Submission of a working paper on disarmament and nonproliferation education**

Japan submitted, jointly with other countries, a working paper on disarmament and non-proliferation education to the Second and the Third Preparatory Committee for the 2005 NPT Review Conference, raising awareness for the significance of education as a means of strengthening disarmament and non-proliferation for the next generation.

Japan also jointly submitted to the 2005 NPT Review Conference a working paper on disarmament and non-proliferation education, as well as a working paper on Japan’s efforts in

disarmament and non-proliferation education. This working paper underlines the importance of the recommendations in the report “the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education” submitted to the UN General Assembly at its 57th Session, and suggests that the state party to the NPT should support disarmament and non-proliferation education activities of civil society, in pursuit of their implementation of the recommendations.

### (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.