

"Beyond Nuclear Deterrence"

-80th year since the atomic bombing and the end of the war-

1. Summary and Purpose

To realize a peaceful world without nuclear weapons, Hiroshima Prefecture and the Hiroshima Organization for Global Peace (HOPE) held an event to clearly explain to residents the research they have undertaken on security systems that do not rely on nuclear deterrence.

2. Current Situation and Background

Hiroshima Prefecture and HOPE believe it is crucial for nations to develop a vision for transitioning to security systems that do not rely on nuclear deterrence to achieve nuclear abolition. They are engaged in organizing the Hiroshima Roundtable and conducting research on security that does not require reliance on nuclear deterrence.

3. Event Overview

(1) Date

Saturday, August 30, 2025, 1:30 PM - 3:45 PM

(2) Venue

Hiroshima International Conference Center, Dalia Hall
(1-5 Nakashima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima City), Online Streaming

(3) Organizer

Hiroshima Organization for Global Peace (HOPE)

(4) Theme

"Beyond Nuclear Deterrence"

~Toward a Global Security System Not Dependent on Nuclear Deterrence~

(5) Content

〈Part 1〉 Lecture: "Overcoming the Nuclear Deterrence System"

Kiichi Fujiwara

Project Professor at Juntendo University, Emeritus Professor at the University of Tokyo

A leading expert in international politics provided a clear explanation of the reality of nuclear deterrence theory and the nature of policies to overcome it.

【Summary】

- While nuclear weapons have not been used since the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it cannot be said that they have prevented war.
- While bilateral deterrence may be effective, extended deterrence (the nuclear umbrella) cannot be considered effective; the efficacy of nuclear deterrence is limited.
- While the possession of nuclear weapons may prevent nuclear attack, it does not prevent aggression using conventional weapons, and the risk of conventional war escalating into nuclear war always exists.
- Conditions for effective deterrence include possessing combat capability, having a clear intent to fight, and communicating the will to retaliate.
- Peace relying on deterrence may sometimes be achieved, but it contains significant vulnerabilities. When those vulnerabilities are exposed, nuclear war can occur.
- Nuclear disarmament and abolition are not unattainable ideals but realistic choices for peace.



〈Part 2〉 Introduction to Research on Alternative to Nuclear Deterrence

Researchers from the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), both global research institutions, provided clear introductions with commentary from young Japanese researchers.

Research Report 1

“Elements and Conditions for a World That Does Not Rely on Nuclear Deterrence”

Lukasz Kulesa, Director, Proliferation and Nuclear Policy, RUSI

Hideo Asano, Coordinator, The Japan Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

【Summary】

- Reliance on nuclear deterrence is not a universal phenomenon.
- The main challenge is how to realistically change the policies of the nine nuclear-armed states and the countries that depend on extended nuclear deterrence guarantees.
- In the short term, narrowing the scope of nuclear deterrence could potentially reduce the role of nuclear weapons. Additionally, identifying alternatives to nuclear weapons and addressing their symbolic and psychological impact, along with concretely and sustainably easing tensions between nuclear-armed states and countries relying on extended nuclear deterrence, are crucial.
- To achieve this, four elements must be advanced in parallel: political, doctrinal, military, and risk reduction/arms control.
- This will pave the way for the next stage: building a global security architecture independent of nuclear weapons and the extensive transformation of the international security system that this entails.
- The role civil society can play includes holding states accountable for their responsibilities and obligations, informing them about the consequences of nuclear weapons, and reducing the role of nuclear weapons while enhancing non-nuclear credibility.



Research Report 2

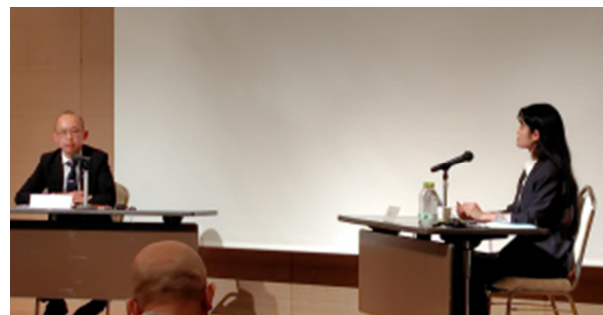
Regional-Level Examples: Confidence-Building Measures (Case Study: Korean Peninsula)

Wilfred Wan, Director, The Weapons of Mass Destruction Programme, SIPRI

Kokoro Nishiyama, Visiting Researcher, Nagasaki University Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (RECNA)

【Summary】

- The concept of deterrence is not limited to nuclear weapons. Conventional weapons remain a significant issue even in a world without nuclear weapons. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the norm of non-aggression, shift deterrence more clearly toward defense rather than offense, and reinforce international law, the UN Charter, and related norms.
- North Korea views nuclear weapons as a means to counter the military power of South Korea and the United States. However, the issue lies not only in military power but also in how North Korea perceives U.S. foreign policy and intentions.
- The problem with the United States is that it demands nuclear disarmament without addressing North Korea's security concerns, and is reluctant to ease sanctions in response to North Korean nuclear concessions such as the destruction of nuclear test sites. However, both sides have shown interest in resuming dialogue since last year.
- Focus should be placed on nuclear freeze rather than complete abandonment, and furthermore, responding to North Korean nuclear concessions with substantive sanctions relief. This means linking nuclear diplomacy to a broader framework of cooperative risk reduction and arms control.
- The greatest obstacle to a nuclear freeze is North Korea's security concerns. Building trust requires exercising restraint and avoiding a preemptive posture.



(6) Participants

4. Outcomes

We provided clear explanations, including dialogue-based presentations with young researchers, on research content that does not rely on nuclear deterrence, an area the prefecture and HOPE have been addressing.

Prior to this, Mr. Kiichi Fujiwara delivered a lecture using slides to clearly explain nuclear deterrence theory and approaches to security policy that do not rely on nuclear deterrence.

We will continue to disseminate information about the prefecture's initiatives, including posting videos of this event on our website.

