

International Security and Nuclear Weapons in the Flux of Global Security Dynamics

1. Summary and Purpose

Amid increasing reliance on nuclear weapons, we held a public event featuring experts from various regions to deepen understanding of the worsening international security environment.

2. Current Situation and Background

Hiroshima Organization for Global Peace (HOPe) is advancing security research that does not rely on nuclear deterrence.

Amid today's severe security environment, this event provided an opportunity for Hiroshima residents to gain a deeper understanding of security challenges surrounding nuclear weapons and served as a catalyst for concrete contributions toward realizing a world without nuclear weapons.

3. Overview

(1) Organizer

Hiroshima Organization for Global Peace (HOPe)

(Composition: Hiroshima Prefecture, Hiroshima Prefecture Mayors' Association, Hiroshima Keizai Doyukai, Hiroshima University, and 17 other organizations)

(2) Date and Time

Sunday, June 16, 2024, 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM

(3) Venue

Hiroshima International Conference Center (1-5 Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima City)

*Simultaneous live streaming online

(4) Program

Theme International Security and Nuclear Weapons in the Flux of Global Security Dynamics

Content

-Opening Remarks]

Hidehiko Yuzaki, Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture; Representative of HOPe

-Sessions]

Session 1: Global security, regional security, and nuclear weapons

Session 2: Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Japan in international politics

-Closing

Speakers

Moderator:

Nobumasa Akiyama, Professor, the Graduate School of International and Public Policy,
Hitotsubashi University

Panelists:

- Malcolm Chalmers, Deputy Director-General, The Royal United Services Institute for
Defence and Security Studies

- Ibrahim Fraihat, Associate Professor, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

- Yoko Iwama, Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies

- Manpreet Sethi, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Air Power Studies and Senior Research
Advisor, Asia Pacific Leadership Network

(5) Participants

70 (31 in-person attendees, 39 online attendees)

(6) Key Remarks

【Opening Remarks】

Despite the current adversity, I hope we can collectively consider what we can do to achieve a world without nuclear weapons, while understanding the current security situation and concerns.



【Session 1】 Global security, regional security, and nuclear weapons

- Security dynamics in Europe, the Middle East, South Asia, and East Asia are closely linked to nuclear proliferation or heightened nuclear risks. Furthermore, in each region, the presence of nuclear weapons shapes the nature of regional security.
- While traditional security frameworks like Japan-U.S. relations have centered on bilateral ties, horizontal networks such as Japan-U.S.-South Korea and the Quad (QUAD) are becoming increasingly active.
- Many countries find themselves compelled to rethink their own strategies amidst the struggle to respond to nuclear-armed states.
- The greatest potential for nuclear weapon use, given the dangerous strategies pursued under the banner of deterrence, is not likely to be intentional but rather stem from miscalculations or misperceptions.
- As the Middle East order shifts from U.S. unipolar dominance to multipolarity and fluidity, the situation of permitting Israel's nuclear possession is causing various negative impacts in the region. The only way to halt the arms race in the Middle East is through denuclearization and conflict resolution.
- The fact that nuclear weapons have been possessed for over 70 years without being used indicates that while they held political value, they lacked military value. If they lack military value, will their political value not also diminish?



【Session 2】 Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Japan in international politics

- Leaders of all nuclear-armed states must understand the implications of nuclear weapons. The use of nuclear weapons is unacceptable. As the memory of the atomic bombings fades worldwide, leaders meeting with survivors to hear their experiences may repeatedly reopen their wounds. Yet, this is precisely where the role of Hiroshima and Nagasaki lies.
- The existence of a strong norm against the use of nuclear weapons is by no means a minor factor in international politics. One reason President Putin cannot easily use nuclear weapons is the condemnation he would face from around the world, and the value of this norm is by no means small. Strengthening it is also Japan's role.
- Japan itself possesses very strong anti-nuclear public opinion and is unlikely to easily become a nuclear-armed state. This fact is a crucial element in Japan taking leadership in stabilizing Asia, the non-proliferation regime, and future efforts in arms control and disarmament.
- Not everyone can come to Hiroshima, but Hiroshima's experience must be conveyed to every corner of the world. Politicians are conducting politics without fully understanding what nuclear weapons are. We must utilize social media to revive the memory of the atomic bombing and break the world's silence.
- It is easy to say abstractly that Japan will bridge the gap between nuclear-weapon states and non-nuclear-weapon states. However, as the process of disarmament in Asia progresses, the need for inspections will arise. If Japan cannot provide the necessary personnel, it will be unable to play a significant role. Japan must continue to cultivate a group of experts possessing nuclear energy knowledge.
- As the world becomes multipolar, U.S. power declines relatively, and China's power grows, the role played by middle powers like Japan, the UK, Germany, and India is gaining international significance.
- Japan's crucial role is demonstrating to the world that the current nuclear deterrence cannot continue indefinitely and that alternative approaches must be explored. It is vital to convey the necessity of multilateral disarmament and to persistently send the message that non-nuclear Japan can play a significant role. Since the end of the Cold War, Japan has fulfilled this role to a certain extent.

