HIROSHIMA PREFECTURE

Disarmament and non-proliferation education efforts from July 2014 to June 2016

Executive Summary:

Hiroshima Prefecture launched the “Hiroshima for Global Peace” Plan in October 2011, as it is a place that has recovered from destruction of the first atomic bombing in human history. The Plan establishes the roles and missions the Prefecture must fulfill for global peace in tackling issues related to the abolition of nuclear weapons, reconstruction and peacebuilding.

According to the Plan, Hiroshima Prefecture has made a commitment to encouraging the progress of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation process, with the eventual aim of total abolition of nuclear weapons. Our disarmament and non-proliferation education activities include: (a) “Hiroshima Roundtable Meeting”, which offers a multilateral discussion forum on nuclear disarmament; (b) disarmament seminar programs to build youth capacity; (c) publication of the “Hiroshima Report” to evaluate selected states’ performances on nuclear disarmament; (d) offering internship opportunities for graduate students; and (e) dispatching our staffs to an international organization related to disarmament education and training.

For more details on the “Hiroshima Global Peace” Plan:
http://www.pref.hiroshima.lg.jp/site/peace-en/
The following is a detailed account of Hiroshima Prefecture's activities over the past two years listed in correspondence with the relevant recommendations of the UN Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education (A/57/124)

HIROSHIMA ROUNDTABLE MEETING (Recommendation 13)

1. Since 2013, Hiroshima Prefecture has hosted its annual “Hiroshima Roundtable Meeting” with the aim of encouraging a roadmap for the abolition of nuclear weapons; for which academic experts and practitioners, including former foreign ministers, from the United States, China, Australia, the Republic of Korea and Japan are invited. The roundtable offers a multilateral discussion forum on nuclear disarmament and arms control issues in East Asia region. Held concurrently with the roundtable, we also host an international symposium to disseminate the discussions of the roundtable and to raise public awareness.

The international symposium is open to the public, and discussion and lectures are given by leading academic experts on nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, and practitioners including former foreign ministers. The international symposium held in August 2015 focused on the “Inhumanity of Nuclear Weapons and International Security”. The symposium held in August 2014 discussed “Nuclear Disarmament and Peace in the East Asian Region”. More than 100 people attended each symposium.

For the summary of 2015 Hiroshima Round Table Meeting:
http://www.pref.hiroshima.lg.jp.e.bq.hp.transer.com/site/peace/roundtable2015-result.html

HIROSHIMA REPORT (Recommendations 4 and 17)

2. Since 2013, Hiroshima Prefecture has published its annual, “Hiroshima Report”, which studies, analyses and evaluates the performance of selected states on nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and nuclear security issues. By uploading the report onto our website, we aim to spread developments on issues related to nuclear disarmament internationally and raise public awareness of nuclear weapons.
In March 2016, in addition to full text and the executive summary, Hiroshima Prefecture published a new introductory handbook, “Agendas on Nuclear Weapons & the Efforts of International Society”, with the aim of raising awareness and promoting understanding of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and nuclear security.

For more details on the “Hiroshima Report”:

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT SEMINARS FOR YOUNG GENERATION
(Recommendation 23)

3. As a part of the “Hiroshima Report” project, Hiroshima Prefecture holds a nuclear disarmament seminar in Hiroshima for the younger generation. Through this seminar, participants experience a part of the nuclear disarmament policy making processes. The seminar offers participants workshops and lectures by experts, and they learn what is needed to realize a world without nuclear weapons.

In February 2016, following lectures by leading academic experts on nuclear disarmament, the forty-eight participants went through a diplomatic simulation conference on nuclear disarmament acting as diplomatic delegates from stake holder states. At the February 2015 seminar—after having extensive lectures about the measures an international society must take in order to achieve a world without nuclear weapons—the forty-two participants discussed which measures should hold priority and reported their conclusions, explaining why their measures should be prioritized over others.

G 7 YOUTH FOREIGN MINISTERS’ MEETING IN HIROSHIMA (Recommendation 5)

4. In April 2016, Hiroshima Prefecture hosted the “G7 Youth Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in Hiroshima as a preceding event to the G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in Hiroshima. Twenty-four young delegates representing G7 states (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) assembled in Hiroshima and learned the realities of atomic bombing after seeing the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and hearing a testimony of a hibakusha, atomic bomb survivor. After having a
tour of the museum, they actively exchanged their opinions on how to achieve a world without nuclear weapons. On the final phase of the meeting, they drafted the “Hiroshima Declaration” in order to broadcast their opinions to the world. On March 22, the declaration was delivered to Mr. Fumio Kishida, Japanese Foreign Minister, who presided over the G7 Foreign Ministers’ meeting in Hiroshima in April 2016.

In addition, in June 2016, participants of the G7 Youth Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in Hiroshima interacted with participants of “the 2016 Junior Summit in Mie”—held prior to the G7 Summit in Ise-Shima (Mie Prefecture, Japan). They discussed topics related to the main theme of “the planet for the next generations: the environment and sustainable society”.

For the full text of the “Hiroshima Declaration”:

“CRITICAL ISSUES FORUM” IN HIROSHIMA (Recommendations 5 and 14)

5. In April, 2015, Hiroshima Prefecture held the “Critical Issues Forum (CIF)” in Hiroshima, an event that invited high school students from around the world to discuss disarmament and non-proliferation. The CIF is sponsored by the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, in partnership with Hiroshima Jogakuin Senior High School.

Participants are high school students from Japan, Russia and the United States. It was a leadership program to help students become future leaders on these issues through research presentations by the participating schools and lectures by guest speakers. In this program, a member of the Peace Promotion Project Team of Hiroshima Prefecture also delivered a lecture entitled “Pursuing a Career in Peace and Disarmament”.

On the final day of this program, a public symposium on a role of education for disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation was held. Then, the keynote address, “Japan’s nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation policy and a role of disarmament and non-proliferation education” was given by a Japanese diplomat active in the field, and high school students from Japan, Russia and the United States held a panel discussion.

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EXCHANGE OPINIONS WITH YOUNGER GENERATION (Recommendation 5)

6. In August, 2015, Hiroshima Prefecture sponsored a meeting and lecture with the former United States Secretary of Defense, Dr. William James Perry, one of the proponents of “A World Free of Nuclear Weapons”—in order to generate international momentum toward the creation of such a world. As part of this program, a dialogue on the subject of “Peace education for young people who will lead the next generation” was held between adolescents in Hiroshima and Dr. Perry.

In this dialogue, six high school students—including participants of the “Critical Issues Forum”, the UNITAR Hiroshima Youth Ambassador, and the junior writers of the local Chugoku Shimbun newspaper—spoke with Dr. Perry about the role of youth and how they could contribute to a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons.

7. Hiroshima Prefecture implements an internship program for young students living in Hiroshima that provides work opportunities in a field related to their majors and their future careers. The Peace Promotion Project Team of Hiroshima Prefecture received a graduate student for an internship from August to September in 2015. During this period, the internship student was engaged in filing documents, giving an analysis of project results, supporting operations of the 25th UN Conference on Disarmament Issues in Hiroshima, and participating in symposiums on nuclear disarmament sponsored by Hiroshima Prefecture. Through such works, the said student gained working experience related to our nuclear weapons abolition efforts.

JOB TRAINING (Recommendation 19)

8. In 2013, Hiroshima Prefecture dispatched a prefectural staff, and in 2015 a staff from the prefectural board of education was dispatched to the United Nations Institute for Training and Research Hiroshima Office, which was established in 2003. Currently, there are two prefectural officials who contribute to peace-related capacity building projects with the United Nations.