Towards restoring and strengthening confidence in the NPT regime -Takeaways from the Student Session-

Haruki Tsukada

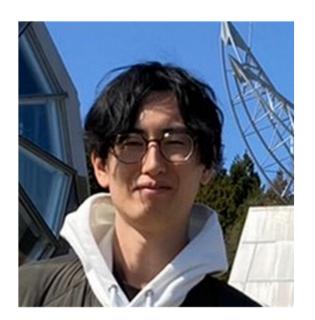
Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

The International Forum on Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy,
Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Security
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Overview of the Student Session

- Held on 8 December 2023
- Topic: "Towards restoring and strengthening confidence in the NPT regime: the status quo and the ways forward"

Panelists



Ryosuke Narita
PhD student in
medical physics



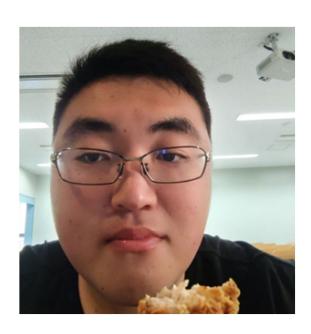
Yuki Hashimoto
Master's student in radioactive waste management



Haruki Tsukada Undergraduate in international law



Ayako Takao
Undergraduate in
environmental
policy



Yasutomo Nagai Undergraduate in social studies

The Foundation: Existing Norms and Rules

- Confirmed the "Three Pillars" of NPT
- Pinpointed:
 - Russia's CTBT withdrawal and its relation to VCLT §18
 - Importance of scrutinizing the relationship between the NPT and TPNW
- Discussed on IAEA's role in providing safeguards for NWS and NNWS
 - Safeguards at civilian nuclear facilities in the NWS
 - Treatment of surplus nuclear material
- →How to assure the effectiveness of these rules?How can a rule be "effective"?

Key Discussion Point 1: How to Ensure the "Effectiveness"?

- Elements of effectiveness
 - Awareness of norms
 - Presence of mechanisms (e.g. sanction/persuasion),
 aiding convergence toward compliance
- Having frameworks (willingness) in place alone is significant, however, maintaining capability to implement the rules is even more crucial
- Highlighting the role of technical support in determining the effectiveness of NPT/SG frameworks

Pathways to a Nuclear Weapons-Free World

- Discussed on the possibility of rendering nuclear weapons valueless and purposeless
- Recognized that military and scientific measures alone may not lead to a fundamental resolution
- Finally agreed that political and diplomatic means are essential to reach a resolution and facilitate the dismantling of nuclear weapons
- →Demand for a forum for deliberation on the nuclear agenda?

Key Discussion Points 2: Fostering Societal Discussions

- Discussed on strategies to evoke societal discourse, recognizing the necessity for a more accessible forum closer to the people
- Convincing argument for the nuclear industry to strengthen outreach efforts beyond conventional risk communication
- Called for evidence-based discussions and the enhancement of individuals capable of grounded arguments when addressing nuclear issues in current (Japanese) society

ISCN's Contribution: A Platform for Informed Discussions

- Emphasis on the crucial role played by ISCN and similar institutions in providing a solid foundation for informed discussions on contemporary nuclear issues
- Encouraged them to persist in and develop their activities, continuously fostering an environment for learning and discussion

Conclusion: For a Better Future

- Students agreed upon the need to prioritize existing rules to promote the world without nuclear weapons
- It is essential for disarmament and the promotion of peaceful nuclear use to further deepen societal discussions
- Expectations were placed on organizations like JAEA and ISCN to lead these discussions
- Students acknowledge their responsibility to understand and contribute to the current and future states of nuclear affairs