

**7th Meeting
of the
Asia Pacific Leadership Network for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and
Disarmament (APLN)
Jeju, Republic of Korea
24 May 2016**

Co-Convenors' Report

Asia Pacific leaders, meeting this week at Jeju in the Republic of Korea, have highlighted the twin threats posed by nuclear weapon proliferation and the continued growth of nuclear arsenals in a region faced with active armed conflicts, land and maritime border disputes and nuclear posturing.

The APLN again calls on global and regional policymakers to urgently re-energize the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament agenda. The core issues remain:

- the challenge of regional nuclear and ballistic missile proliferation;
- rising nuclear weapon numbers in the Asia-Pacific;
- the continued heavy reliance on nuclear deterrence in national security policy by the nuclear 'haves', and of those protected by nuclear umbrellas;
- nuclear security in an age of terrorism;
- and nuclear safety as the world seeks more environmentally friendly energy options.

The APLN reflected on the historical divisions afflicting North East Asia over the last century and more, the legacy of which is reflected in today's fault lines and tensions. The analysis of the Asia Pacific's strategic circumstances is underpinned by an awareness that today the region is a major **focus of the world's remaining 16,000 nuclear weapons**. Despite the gradual reduction in stocks over the last three decades, the United States and Russia still account for 90% of the world's nuclear weapons stockpiles. In addition three more Asia Pacific states have growing numbers of nuclear weapons – China, India and Pakistan – and to this we have to add the nuclear and missile ambitions of DPRK.

No other region of the world has to manage the inherent complexity of so many nuclear actors in one geopolitical space. And no region of the world has less experience or a less-developed infrastructure for managing nuclear threats.

Our meeting welcomed the forthcoming **visit of US President Obama to Hiroshima**. We recalled our own meeting in Hiroshima last year on the 70th anniversary of the first and hopefully last use of nuclear weapons in war and affirmed our conviction that the world's political leaders should share the deeply moving experience of the legacy of the indescribable horror of the world's first use of atomic weapons. We hope the visit by President Obama will give new life to the 2009 Prague commitments promising substantial but unrealised **progress towards eliminating nuclear weapons stocks** once and for all.

We recall the recommendations we made in our **Hiroshima Declaration** for:

- dramatically reducing the role of nuclear weapons in security policies across the region
- for urgent practical measures for reducing alert levels across the region
- progress in bringing into force the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty
- and for a start on negotiation of a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty.

Our final objective remains a comprehensive and universal Nuclear Weapons Convention prohibiting nuclear weapons, backed by effective verification and enforcement.

The Asia Pacific remains a focal point of global efforts to **stop the further spread of nuclear weapons**. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action to address Iran's nuclear program is demonstration of the potential of coordinated and high level international efforts to address proliferation risks. The same level of intensity, commitment and coordination is needed now to address proliferation threat in north Asia.

In response to the **DPRK's fourth nuclear test** in January 2016, the APLN issued a statement calling on the DPRK to resume dialogue with international community by re-engaging in diplomacy rather than aggression and to this end re-joining the Six Party Talks (see http://apl.org/?m=statements&sm=statements_view&seq=267). The DPRK's subsequent ballistic missile tests have only added to regional concerns. It is vital that Asia Pacific remains unified and resolute to denuclearise the Korean peninsula. To this end the region must fully implement agreed Security Council measures. Further, it must spare no effort to find new approaches which would meet the legitimate security concerns of all parties. APLN will contribute to these efforts.

The Asia Pacific region must continue to support a strengthened global regime to **contain nuclear proliferation**. Practical immediate steps to this end include:

- full adherence to best practice international legal obligations and standards including the Additional Protocol to IAEA safeguards and the CTBT
- adherence by the five Nuclear Weapon States to the South East Asia Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty requiring observance of the Treaty and the extension of negative security assurances
- full collaboration the implementation of relevant UNSC resolutions, including effective export controls.

The 4th Nuclear Security Summit in Washington on 1 April charted several new directions for continued **international efforts to deny terrorists access to nuclear materials** that might be used for nuclear weapons or radiological devices. The APLN statement on the summit urged all Asia Pacific countries to:

- join as soon as possible all relevant international legal instruments governing the protection of nuclear materials
- improve national nuclear theft and sabotage precautions, and
- avail themselves of international support services and peer reviews.

Asia Pacific countries now need to consider how to support the Summit's proposed follow-on action especially in the International Atomic Agency which is holding its annual high level meeting on nuclear security in December. In some countries inadequate security of nuclear materials (military as well as in civil use) continues to pose a grave danger, as is evident from the findings of the third biennial Nuclear Security Index (see <http://ntiindex.org/data-results/country-profiles/>). A key challenge yet to be addressed is bringing nuclear materials under military control into line with the disciplines now being adopted internationally.

Russia's did not attend the Nuclear Security Summit but has committed to support ongoing action on nuclear security. It is vital that the **US and Russia** resume their hugely successful program for managing the cold war legacy of nuclear materials in the countries of the former Soviet Union.

This year marks the 30th anniversary the tragic accident at the **Chernobyl** Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine, and the 5th anniversary of the worst-ever earthquake and tsunami to hit Japan which triggered the disaster at the **Fukushima Daiichi** nuclear power plant. At the same time we observe that nuclear power is expanding more rapidly in Asia than in any other part of the globe, meeting an ever-growing demand for energy in a relatively environmentally benign manner. The **safe management of all aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle** will remain critical to public acceptance of nuclear power. APLN will continue to encourage adoption by all countries in the

region of international best-practice nuclear safety standards and to support measures to enhance regional cooperation in the promotion of the safe utilisation of the peaceful applications of nuclear science for energy generation but also in the fields of medicine, agriculture and the environment.

Asia Pacific continues to grow as the world's economic powerhouse. But it is also a region of rapidly growing military assets, including most regrettably nuclear arms. Yet its regional institutions are struggling to evolve to meet the growing challenges. We look to the **global leaders** to provide leadership in managing international security threats and specifically nuclear threats in Asia Pacific. In this context the **G-7 Summit** should take careful note of the G-7 Foreign Ministers Hiroshima Declaration, and key elements should find reflection in the summit outcome.

And within the region, we urged that this year's **ARF Ministerial Meeting and the EAS summit** process demonstrate new thinking on how to reduce regional nuclear risks by action to promote regional nuclear arms controls, greater regional collaboration in implementation of UNSC resolutions, and strengthened cooperation in implementing export controls and acting against proliferation networks.

The members of the APLN rededicated themselves to the tireless pursuit of these goals through engagement with regional governments and civil society, and through producing targeted publications and research.

Background

The 7th meeting of the A-PLNP was held in Jeju, ROK on 24 May 2016, co-chaired by the Co-Convenors:

- Chung-in Moon, Professor of Political Science at Yonsei University and Editor-in-Chief of Global Asia
- Ramesh Thakur, Professor and Director of the Centre for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, Australian National University, former Vice Rector/Senior Vice Rector United Nations University (1998–2007) and UN Assistant Secretary-General

Participation and agenda for the meeting are attached.