Debating the role [of the UN] regarding the threat of terror – International conference on PKO in Hiroshima
Chugoku Shimbun, 29 March 2005

An international conference scheduled for two days on PKO opened at a hotel in central Hiroshima on the 28th. It was organised by the Hiroshima office of UNITAR in cooperation with other organisations. Specialists will be discussing issues in closed session based on case studies of peace keeping activities in Timor-Leste, Cambodia and other places.

About 150 people attended the open session, including the UN Secretary-General’s Special Advisor Mr. Brahimi, Mr. Aisawa, the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, together with government officials, academics and others from 20 countries. In his opening comments, co-chair Judge Owada from the ICJ said he would like to raise for discussion “what will the UN do when faced with new threats and challenges such as terrorism; and what can and should Japan do?”

Reading out the Secretary General’s message, Mr. Brahimi said that holding such a conference in (A-bombed) Hiroshima has special significance. In his keynote speech, the former President of Finland, Mr. Ahtisaari, emphasised that in post-conflict situations it is necessary to have not just ceasefire observers, but also to link up with NGOS in order to ensure the maintenance of peace.