Closing of the international conference on UN Peacekeeping.

An international conference held by the UNITAR Hiroshima office and others over a period of two days closed on March 29.

About 60 government officials, academics and others from 19 countries discussed monitoring of peace keeping operations, the development of the function of the UN and other issues in five areas. One of the co-chairs, the Executive-Director of UNITAR, Mr. Boisard, commented at the press conference at the end of the conference, that "it was significant that it was held in Hiroshima, city of peace. The discussions were of a very high level."

Another co-chair, Judge Owada of the ICJ, said that "in addition to discussions on the traditional activities of cease-fire monitoring, issues related to nation-building such as government capacity building, solutions to refugee issues and the establishment of legal structures were among the issues discussed." He also emphasized the important role of civil society has to play.

A report of the conference will be submitted to the UN Secretary General.