

Project Completion Report 2022 Cycle

HIROSHIMA TRAINING PROGRAMME ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION

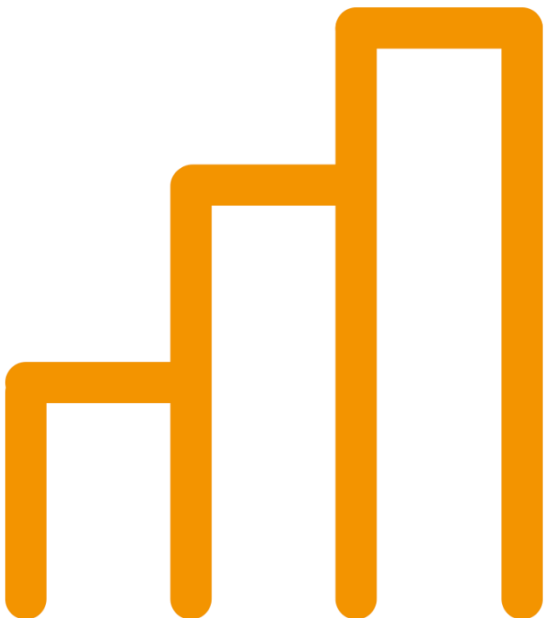
DIVISION FOR PROSPERITY
September 2022, Hiroshima, Japan



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Acknowledgements

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research would like to express its deep gratitude to the following supporters of the UNITAR Hiroshima Training Programme on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation – 2022 Cycle.

- Hiroshima Prefectural Government
- City of Hiroshima

In addition, we would like to recognize

- United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
- United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)

I personally liked the overview which were very extensive, and gives a solid foundation... Appreciate the presence of practitioners and recognised experts.



September 2022

About Us

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

UNITAR was established in 1963 as an autonomous body within the United Nations and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. As a training arm of the United Nations system, UNITAR provides innovative learning solutions to individuals, organizations and institutions to enhance global decision-making and support country-level action for shaping a better future. UNITAR designs and conducts some 500 different global training activities per year for more than 133,000 participants. Our alumni include diplomats and other government officials, non-governmental representatives, and local authorities.

UNITAR, Division for Prosperity

The Division for Prosperity is one of the eight divisions of UNITAR and consists of the Trade and Finance Programme Unit and the Hiroshima Office. We offer cutting-edge training and learning opportunities that promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

The Division for Prosperity programmes fall under six thematic pillars that support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- Anti-corruption and Combatting Crime
- Entrepreneurship and Private Sector Development
- Finance and Trade
- Frontier Technologies
- Hiroshima and Peace
- Leadership and Empowerment

Leveraging our Division's extensive experience in designing relevant and targeted training, we adapt our methodologies and technologies to the needs of the regions and individuals we serve. We work with learners in least developed countries, small island developing states, and fragile states, with special attention to the most vulnerable including women, youth, and those in conflict situations.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mihoko Kumamoto'.

Mihoko Kumamoto
Director
Hiroshima Office, Division for Prosperity
United Nations Institute for Training and Research



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Executive Summary

Introduction

The international fora which govern the discourse on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are, by their very nature, complex. To achieve national goals and progress, representatives attending these fora must not only be well versed in the current state of discussion but also communicate effectively, using approaches suitable for such international meetings.

In 2022, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose challenges on numerous aspects of society and issues surrounding nuclear weapons are not an exception; the NPT review conference had been postponed for the 4th time and the first TPNW States Party Meeting likewise had been delayed twice. To accommodate the continuing restrictions imposed by the pandemic, UNITAR has once again carried out its training fully online as was the case in 2021.

Amid this situation, the Russian invasion of Ukraine began, revealing that in fact the possible use of nuclear weapons is real. The sudden invasion revealed that the threat and the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons are real and rocking not only Europe but also the post-WW2 international order to its foundation. The training program was meaningful in advancing dialogue and coordination among states which is essential to foster a common understanding that nuclear disarmament is the best means for preserving global peace.

Programme Objectives

The 2022 Programme focused on preparing trainees for the upcoming Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), scheduled for August 2022. The Programme aimed to increase the trainees' understanding of the nuclear disarmament debate and the structure and practice of negotiations at international meetings on disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and to equip them with the skills to communicate and negotiate for disarmament.

Demographics

In 2022, the Programme was delivered fully online for the second time due to the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. 23 participants from 11 countries participated with a good gender balance: 52% identified themselves as female and 48% as male. Among them, 65% represented the ministries of foreign affairs or equivalent and 35% were from ministries of defence.



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Programme Structure and Methodology

In the four-week Programme, participants learned through a combination of on-demand e-learning courses and seven live webinars consisting of expert lectures and preparatory groupwork for the final online conference simulation. Participants were assigned to three groups representing three different positions on disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and negotiated to draft a paragraph of an NPT Foreign Ministers Communiqué.

Summary of Outcomes

100% of the participants rated the Programme as useful overall. 68% indicated that the Programme content was relevant to their professional roles, and 87% expressed their intent to use the newly acquired knowledge in the future.

The Programme significantly helped increase the participants' knowledge; more than 80% of the participants indicated that their knowledge levels were moderate or high on 8 out of the 10 topics after completing the Programme, as compared to 18% at the outset.

Lessons Learned

The comprehensive learning experience aligned with the participants' professional roles helped extend their knowledge in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Providing opportunities to meet **like-minded fellows** in similar roles helped advance dialogue and coordination among states in the Asian region. The experience fostered a common understanding among participants that the regionally aligned movements are one of the best ways to achieve nuclear disarmament and global peace.

The Programme used the “**flipped classroom**” model, where participants studied the background of the topics through the EdApp e-learning courses before the live webinars, asked questions to the experts in the live webinars, and revisited the EdApp courses to deepen and reinforce their understanding further. This model maximized the use of the live interactions and contributed to better knowledge retention among the participants.





The online modality posed some challenges, however, especially in the **participation of webinars**. As participants had the freedom of switching their cameras off at any given moment, their presence was unclear during lectures and groupworks. In addition, due to the nature of online webinars where one has maximum control over participation, the four-week programme proved to be a difficulty for many who had their own responsibilities to attend to. Consequently, there was an **unbalance in contribution** of participants which sometimes made the smooth progression of groupworks impossible. To ensure full participation and fair certification of programme completion, UNITAR shall explore a hybrid online/in-person Programme to make the most of both modalities should travel become possible again.

Programme Summary

Programme Overview

The 21st century has been referred to as the era of nuclear power. The situation surrounding this issue is more challenging than ever, as both global and regional geopolitics become increasingly complicated. However, growing awareness of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would result from even a limited use of nuclear weapons has prompted new actions aimed at facilitating prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons.

Following the deposit with the Secretary-General of the 50th instrument of ratification of the Treaty on 24 October 2020, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entered into force on 22 January 2021, cementing a categorical ban on nuclear weapons, 75 years after their first use. This historic instrument forms an important component of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

The year 2021 marked one more major milestone towards nuclear abolishment. The United States and the Russian Federation have agreed to extend the New START Treaty (treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms) through 4 February 2026. The international community welcomed the extension of this treaty, the last remaining treaty between the United States and Russia on nuclear arms control.

However, the global landscape around nuclear arms controls is changing day by day. In February 2022, despite continuing international efforts and important advances to eliminate nuclear weapons for the pursuit of a peaceful world, the Russian invasion of Ukraine began, sending shock to

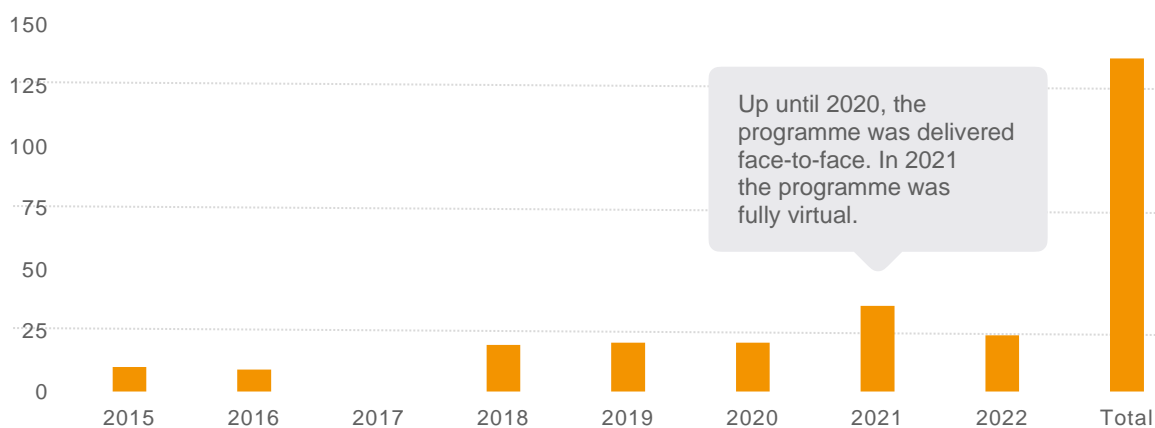
Russia was also not hesitant to hint the use of nuclear weapons when it considers necessary.

The international community was made to realize that advancing dialogue and coordination among states are thus necessary to foster a common understanding that nuclear disarmament is essential for preserving global peace. Although discussions have been hindered by the COVID-19 pandemic, as the 2020 NPT Review Conference had been postponed four times and twice respectively, they are both envisaged to be convened former in August and latter in June which will be an important opportunity to engage in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.

The UNITAR Hiroshima Office, by virtue of its location in the eternal city of Hiroshima, has an inherent interest in the matters of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The office has held successful training on this issue in 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 bringing a number of Asian Ministerial representatives to the city to discuss the history, discourse, and future of the disarmament and non-proliferation debate.

Based on lessons learned from the previous five Cycles of the Programme, and considering the current situation in which the COVID-19 pandemic has introduced an unprecedented shift in world standards and people's lifestyles, the UNITAR Hiroshima Training Programme on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation 2022 Cycle (hereafter the 'Programme') was once again carried out 100% online. The Programme is being conducted with the financial support of the Hiroshima Prefectural Government and the City of Hiroshima.

Number of Participants by Year

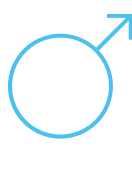


2022 Cycle Participants

The 2022 cycle of the Programme was delivered fully online to accommodate the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, 13 participants successfully completed the Programme. Of the 23 participants, 12 (52%) were female and 11 (48%) were male.

Gender Representation

 **52%** identified as female

 **48%** identified as male

Participants included 15 (65%) officials from the ministry of foreign affairs (or equivalent) and 8 (35%) from the ministry of defence (or equivalent), who are in charge of nuclear arms control or on the negotiation frontline. In the 2022 cycle, participants were from the following 11 Asian countries.

1. Cambodia
2. Indonesia
3. Kazakhstan
4. Kyrgyz Republic
5. Lao PDR
6. Malaysia
7. Maldives
8. Mongolia
9. Nepal
10. Philippines
11. Sri Lanka

Since 2015, the Programme has trained a total of 136 government officials from the region.

Programme Objectives

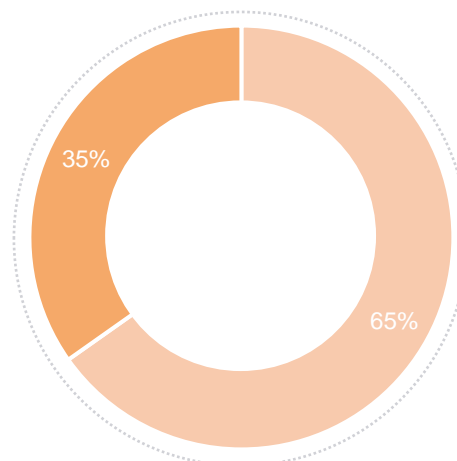
Designed especially for officials from Asian nations, the three goals of the Programme are to:

1. Increase the officials' understanding of the nuclear disarmament debate
2. Equip them with insights into their own communication practices to improve their ability to negotiate for disarmament
3. Learn about the structure and practice of negotiations at events concerned with disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons

The 2022 cycle focused especially on preparing trainees for the upcoming Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in August 2022.



Professional Affiliation



- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (or equivalent)
- Ministry of Defense (or equivalent)

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Program Structure and Methodology

In the four-week intensive Programme, participants learned through a combination of on-demand e-learning courses and live webinars with experts in the field, as well as a hands-on workshop at the end.

1. On-demand e-learning courses

Using the EdApp, a microlearning platform, participants completed on-demand e-learning courses designed to give a solid grounding in the topics that were then explored in-depth in the live webinars. Each course included bite-sized lessons accompanied by short exercises such as quizzes and true/false statements to reinforce their learning. The course topics included:

- Introduction and Programme Overview
- Pre-learning: UNODA – Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Regimes
- Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons and Consensus Building
- Confidence-Building Measures
- Gender Perspective on Disarmament
- Women peace and security
- Initiatives to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons
- Hiroshima's Road to Recovery
- VR Visit to Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park

2. Live webinars

As the participants worked their way through the EdApp courses, they took part in six webinars consisting of:

- Lectures by experts providing insights into the current global and regional state of the nuclear arms control debate
- Preparatory group work and final negotiation workshop

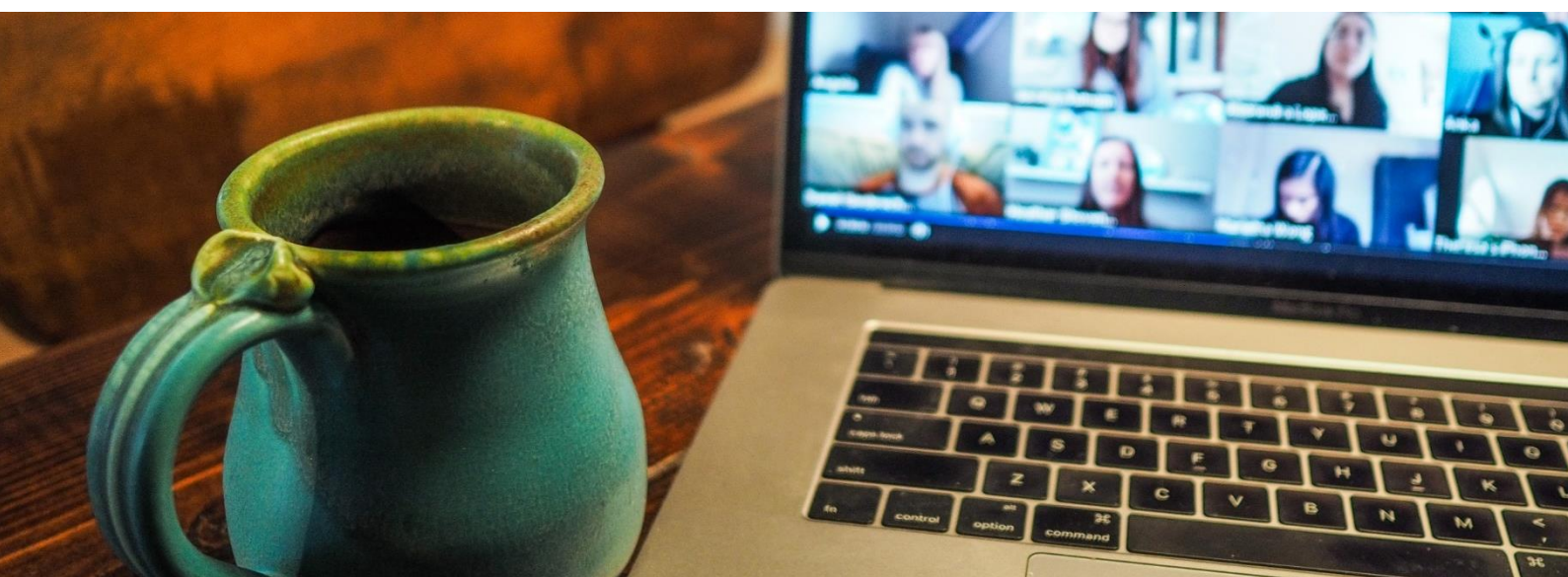
3. Negotiation workshop

Participants were assigned to a working group representing one of the three positions.

- Nuclear Weapon State (NWS)
- Umbrella State (UMB)
- Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

During the live webinars, participants engaged in one-hour group work to deepen their understanding of their group's positions, through reading materials and a series of assignments, with inputs from the experts.

The final event was an online conference simulation, where the three groups representing the three positions met and negotiated to draft a paragraph of an NPT Foreign Ministers Communiqué.

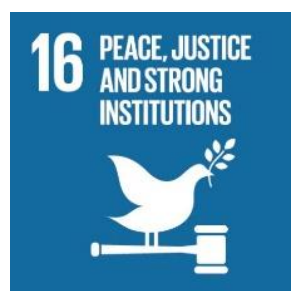


Needs Assessment

A needs assessment was essential to ensure that the Programme's training modules were in line with not only the recent trends in the international discussion on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, but also with the needs of the targeted group. The assessment included a review of feedback and evaluations from the Programme's previous cycle, a review of relevant literature, and interviews with thematic experts.

Experts

The global experts who gave lectures and guided the participants included Setsuko Aoki, professor at Keio University Law School, Japan; Tim Caughley, non-resident senior fellow with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research; Yoshizane Ishii, director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan; Chris KING, Deputy to the Chief and Senior Political Affairs Officer for the Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch in the Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA); Yuriy Kryvonos, director, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific; Gabiden Laumulín, Associate Expert (Junior Professional Officer) in the Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA); Keiko Ogura, a *hibakusha* (atomic bomb survivor); and Tariq Rauf, consulting advisor on policy and outreach to the executive secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization; Kunihiro SHIMADA, Principal Director of Hiroshima Organization for Global Peace (HOPe)



Strategic Alignment: Sustainable Development Goals

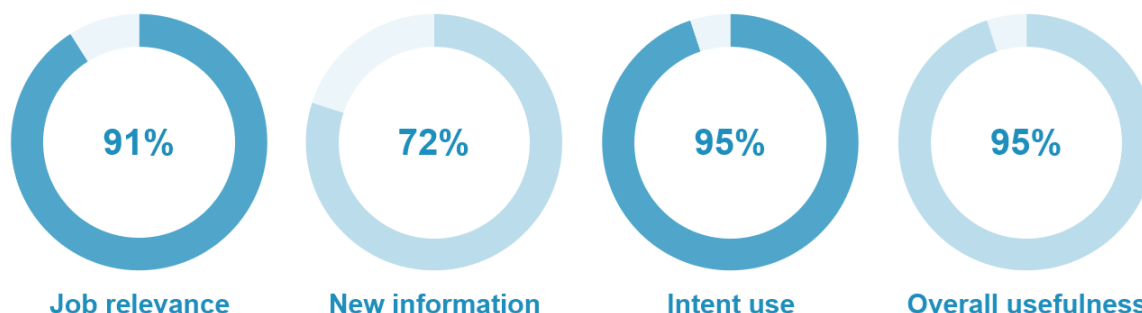
In accordance with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, this programme meaningfully contributes to SDG 16.

Outcomes

The outcomes of the Programme were measured by a post-programme survey submitted online by the participants on the last day of the Programme. The response rate was 74%. The survey assessed four areas, including UNITAR's standard programme evaluation indicators (job relevance, new information, intent to use, overall usefulness), the extent to which participants met learning objectives, effectiveness of the methodologies, and knowledge changes from before to after the Programme.



Job Relevance, New Information, Intent Use, and Overall Usefulness



UNITAR's standard programme evaluation indicators include "job relevance," "new information," "intent use" and "overall usefulness." The minimum target is positive feedback from more than 75% of the participants.

Thank you so much for the course, I've learned so much from it, I think course is well suited for people who already have some knowledge about nuclear disarmament, as well as for newbies.

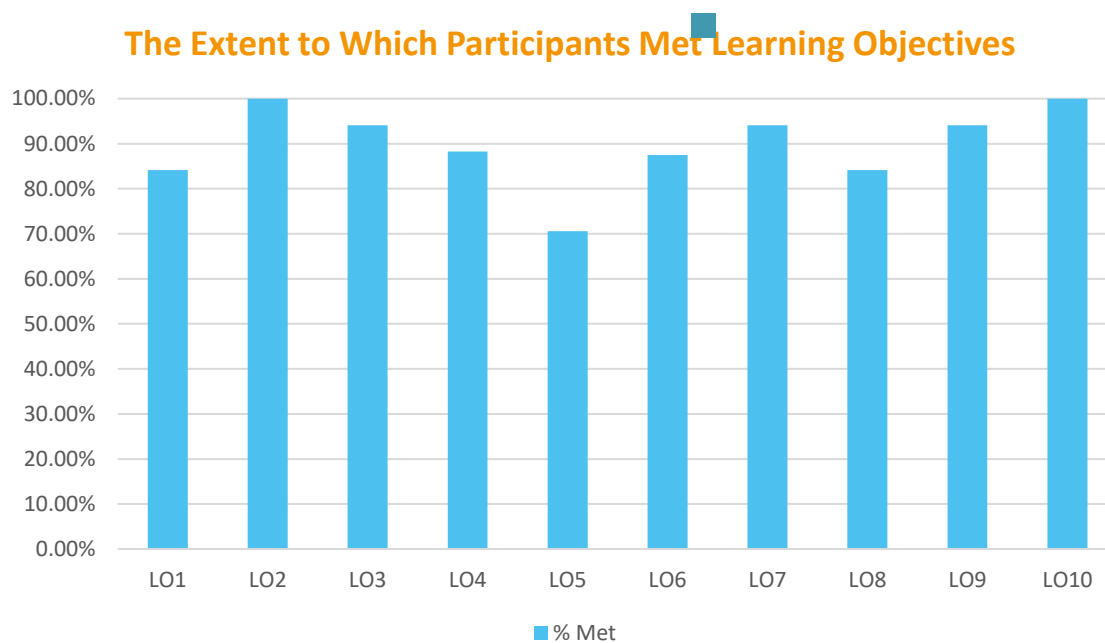
"Job relevance" evaluates to what extent the Programme was relevant to the participant's professional roles. Participants were asked whether they agreed with the statement "The content of the Programme was relevant to my job." The survey shows that 68.7% of the participants either agreed or strongly agreed with this statement.

"New information" evaluates to what extent the Programme imparted new knowledge to the participants and was assessed by the statement "The information presented in this Programme was new to me." The survey shows that 81.2% of the participants either agreed or strongly agreed with this statement.

"Intent use" evaluates to what extent the participants intend to use their newly acquired knowledge in the future and was assessed by the statement "It is likely that I will use the information acquired." The survey shows that 86.5% of the participants either agreed or strongly agreed with this statement.

"Overall usefulness" evaluates to what extent the participants see the Programme as useful and was assessed with the statement "Overall, the Programme was useful." The survey shows that 100% of the participants either agreed or strongly agreed with this statement.

The responses to “New information” “Intent use” and “Overall usefulness” exceeded the minimum target of 75% positive feedback, which allows us to conclude that the Programme provided a helpful learning experience aligned with the participants’ needs. However, the response to “Job relevance” was below the target. In the next cycle, the Programme may consider modifying the content to deliver more information relevant to the participants’ professional roles.



The survey asked participants to what extent they felt they reached each of the Programme’s 10 learning objectives. Again, the minimum target is positive feedback from more than 75% of the participants.



Learning objectives

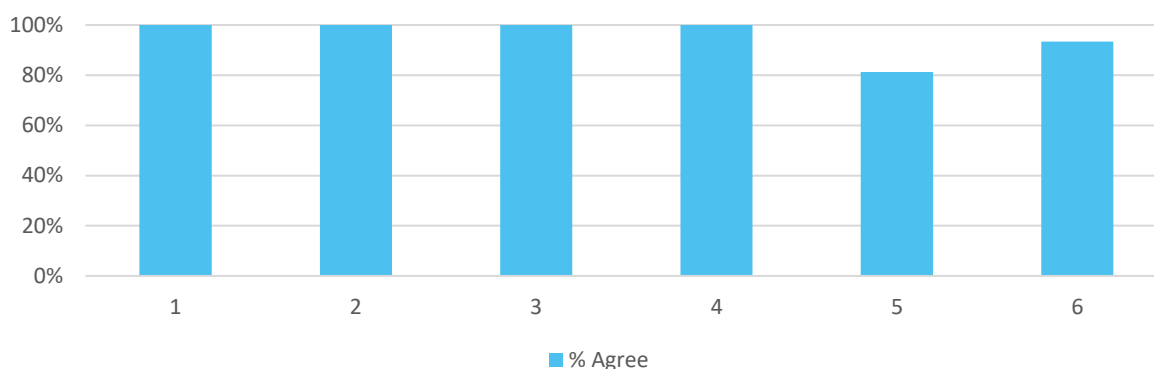
By the end of the Programme, participants will be able to describe:

1. The current global nuclear debate, including key challenges and opportunities
2. The history of the nuclear non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), potential outcomes of the August 2022 NPT review conference, and its future
3. The impact of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) on the current nuclear discourse
4. The contributions made by nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZ) to nuclear non-proliferation; the role of regional NWFZ
5. Experiences of confidence- and security-building measures that are relevant for the Asia-Pacific region, Bilateral Agreement between the United States and the Russian Federation for building confidence (INCSEA), including the Incidents at Sea Agreements, the Prevention of Dangerous Military Activities Agreement (PMDA), and the Nuclear Risk Reduction Centers (NRRCs)
6. Decision-making in multilateral disarmament forums; the consensus rule
7. Humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons
8. Effective negotiation and communication strategies used at international forums
9. Japan's diplomacy on nuclear disarmament
10. Hiroshima's road to recovery and initiatives to eliminate nuclear weapons

The survey indicates that more than 75% of the participants “mostly” or “fully” met all of the objectives. The response was remarkably positive on “11. Hiroshima's road to recovery and initiatives to eliminate nuclear weapons”. The reason may be that in addition to a lecture by a thematic expert and a *hibakusha* (atomic bomb survivor), a newly designed virtual tour of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park may have allowed participants to acquire a feel for the city which remarkably recovered from its devastation and continues to send a message of hope and peace.

Thank you very much for the training. I look to have face to face training opportunity in Japan related training in the future.

Effectiveness of the Programme Methodologies



To assess the effectiveness of the Programme's methodologies and structure, the participants were asked to rate the following five statements on a scale of 1 ("strongly disagree") to 5 ("strongly agree"):

1. The methodology used in this Programme included online lessons, webinars and videos
2. Using EdApp as a mobile microlearning platform to impact new knowledge, tools and resources to learners.
3. Responding to questions to learners
4. Stimulating learner engagement in online discussions and webinars
5. Using Slack helped to communicate smoothly between group members
6. How useful were the assessment methods in helping you achieve the programme's learning objectives?

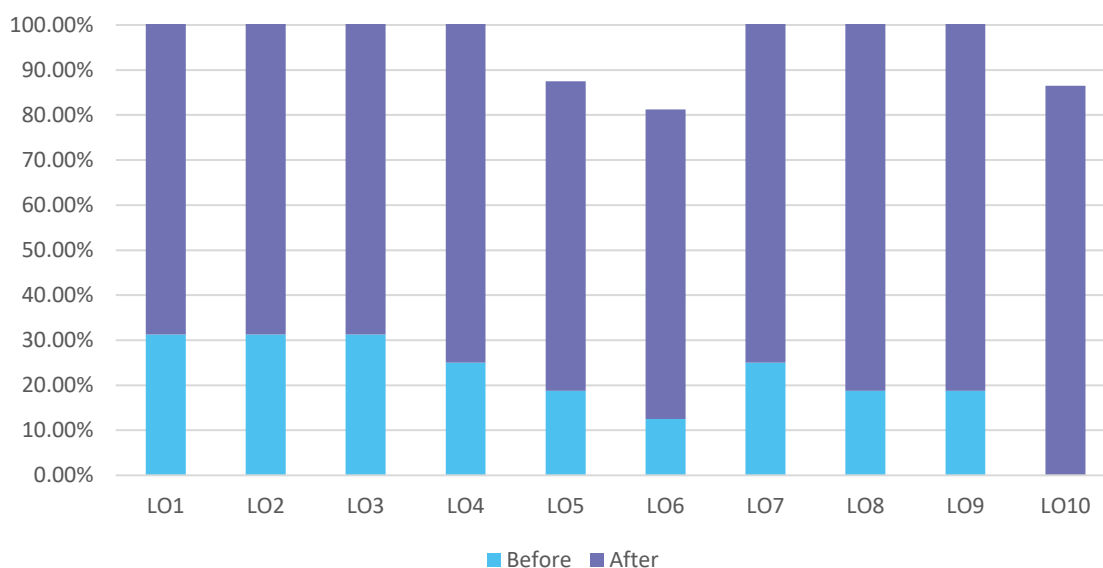
*The minimum target was positive feedback from more than 75% of the participants.

The results show that more than 75% of the participants agreed or strongly agreed with the statements on the effectiveness of the methodologies showing the strength of on-demand e-learning. On the otherhand, the use of Slack as a communication tool between group members posed challenges, indicating possibility of using a different platform.

This is a very good program for me to understand on the background, Nature and the importance of nuclear abolition.



Knowledge Changes: Before/After the Programme



The survey assessed changes in the participant’s knowledge from before to after the Programme. Participants rated their knowledge of the 10 topics described in the learning objectives on a scale of 1 (“low”) to 5 (“high”). The minimum target is for more than 75% of the participants to evaluate their knowledge level as 4 (“moderate”) or 5 (“high”) after the Programme.

Overall, the program has been very helpful and I have learned a lot from it. It is likely that this information will be useful in my department.

Overall, the survey results indicate that the Programme significantly helped increase the knowledge of the participants in the targeted areas. More specifically, over 75% of the participants said that their knowledge levels became either “moderate” or “high” for eight out of the 10 topics after completing the Programme. Given that less than 32% of the participants evaluated their knowledge levels as “moderate” or “high” before participating in the Programme, the Programme played a crucial role in improving their knowledge in this field.

“5. Experiences of confidence- and security-building measures” and “6. Decision-making in multilateral disarmament forums; the consensus rule” were the two topics which marked below the target. It was the less familiar topic for the participants before taking the Programme, with only less than 19% of the participants evaluating their knowledge level as either “moderate” or “high” before joining the Programme. Considering these findings, future cycles of this Programme may need to consider spending additional time and resources on this topic.



“Peace is something that everyone aspires for. But I think the challenge is agreeing on a path towards peace and agreeing on a timeline towards that direction.”

Diane Shayne Lipanaa
Philippines



Lessons Learned

The 2022 cycle of the Programme ran smoothly and was completed successfully, despite having to be delivered fully online for the first time, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Programme illuminated opportunities and challenges for future iterations of the Programme.

Opportunities

- **Providing opportunities for learners to meet like-minded fellows helped extend their knowledge in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and advance dialogue and coordination among states**
 - As shown in the Outcomes section, the Programme provided a comprehensive learning experience aligned with the participants' professional roles and needs. Some participants highlighted how the Programme provided a networking opportunity with people engaged in a similar professional roles. The Programme contributed to advancing dialogue and coordination among states in the Asian region and fostering a common understanding that nuclear disarmament is the best way to preserve global peace.
- **Combining self-paced e-learning and live webinars enriches the Programme content**
 - The Programme could provide more content to the participants by combining self-paced e-learning courses with live webinars. The participants could virtually visit historic places in Hiroshima and learn about the atomic bombing and the city's recovery, whereas in previous in-person cycles, it was not possible to cover as much material due to time limitations. Future cycles should continue to update the courses to align with participant needs and global developments in the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation field.

- **Using the “flipped classroom” model improves knowledge retention**
 - To go entirely online, the Programme used the “flipped classroom” model, where students reviewed the lesson content on their own through EdApp and the live sessions were used for engagement with the experts and each other.
 - Participants studied the background of the topics through the e-learning courses before the live webinars.
 - Participants asked questions to the experts in the live webinars.
 - Participants revisited the e-learning courses to deepen and reinforce their understanding.
 - This maximized the use of the live interactions and contributed to better knowledge retention.

- **The experience of delivering the training fully online suggests that a hybrid format may be better**
 - Delivering the Programme fully online had substantial benefits. However, the advantage of physically visiting Hiroshima and meeting *hibakusha* in person will remain irreplaceable. The experience of the 2022 online cycle suggests that a hybrid format, combining online and face-to-face training modalities, may be better for future cycles. One suggestion is to design a two-tailed Programme, with a selection process:
 - Participants study the essential topics through the on-demand, e-learning course first
 - UNITAR selects only those participants who demonstrated excellent results in the e-learning and invites them to Hiroshima
 - Another suggestion is to have the participants select online or face-to-face training, since the preference may vary between participants.





Challenges

- **Programme relevance to participants can be improved**
 - The post-Programme survey indicated that the extent to which the Programme was relevant to the participants did not meet the minimum target. This may be due to the selection process where participation went through nomination rather than voluntary application. This can be avoided by emphasizing Programme content and objectives when calling for application.
- **Technical problems can disrupt online training**
 - While online training is, in some aspects, more efficient than conventional in-person training, both participants and the UNITAR admin team experienced technical difficulties during the Programme. Some participants commented that their internet connections were interrupted so frequently that they could not hear the lectures most of the time. Such technical problems are critical but difficult to avoid. Since many participants are based in developing countries with issues with infrastructure, and internet connectivity differs by country and location, future cycles may need to pre-research and prepare strategies to address the technical limitations.



“We had this real-world experience. They gave us the history, the disarmament and non-proliferation issues, who are the main players, what are their positions, and what’s the current stance.

Amaraa Erdenebaatar
Mongolia

- **Engaging the participants in online training can be more difficult compared to in-person training**
 - In general, participants tend to be more passive during webinars compared to in-person training, where reactions of others are sensed easily. It was even more difficult when participants had to turn off their webcams because of their low bandwidth. Even though the participants enrolled in this Programme with their supervisor's approvals, ensuring participants' full engagement was a challenge. To keep the participants motivated and increase their engagement, frequent follow-up during the Programme and detailed instructions are essential.
- **Time differences need to be considered for online delivery**
 - Time differences were another challenge for the Programme. The Programme was limited to countries in Central Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia and East Asia so that reasonable training hours could be set. While online training can potentially increase the number of participants and participating countries, time zones of participants, experts and the admin team need to be considered.

