

Project Completion Report 2023 Cycle

**HIROSHIMA TRAINING PROGRAMME ON NUCLEAR
DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION**

DIVISION FOR PROSPERITY
March 2023, Hiroshima, Japan



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 900 different global training activities per year for more than 370,000 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 programmatic 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.

Our programmes fall under six thematic pillars that support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

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

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.



March 2023

Acknowledgements

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research would like to express its deep gratitude to the **Hiroshima Prefectural Government** and the **City of Hiroshima** for its support of the UNITAR Hiroshima Training Programme on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation – 2023 Cycle.

We would also like to recognize:

- United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
- United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)
- Know Nukes Tokyo
- Mayors for Peace
- Otafuku Sauce Co., Ltd.
- Microsoft Corporation
- Green Legacy Hiroshima
- Keio University

Finally, we thank our resource persons, coaches, and mentors who graciously contributed their time and expertise to the programme.

We believe in the power of training to transform lives. And the support of organizations and individuals like you make it possible to bring training to those who need it most.

Thank you for joining us in delivering the hope of a better future.



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

In the 21st century, growing awareness of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of using nuclear weapons has prompted new actions towards the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. Yet, increasingly complex global and regional geopolitics – including the Russian invasion of Ukraine from February 2022 – make it ever more crucial that states coordinate to foster a common understanding that nuclear disarmament is necessary for global peace.

Against this background, the 2023 UNITAR Hiroshima Training Programme on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation was held in Hiroshima from 13 to 18 February. The Programme, which has been held almost annually since 2015, brings government officials from Asian governments to Hiroshima to build their understanding of the nuclear disarmament debate and the structures and practices of negotiations on disarmament and non-proliferation.

For the 2023 cycle, the Programme returned to its original, in-person modality after going entirely online for 2021 and 2022, during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Programme Objectives

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 2023 cycle focused especially on preparing the participants for negotiations on the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ, or the Bangkok Treaty).

Visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum



Demographics

Eighteen government officials from 10 Asian countries participated. Of them, 39% identified themselves as women and 61% as men. Sixty-six per cent were from the ministry of foreign affairs or equivalent and 33% from ministry of defence or equivalent.

Programme Structure and Methodology

In the one-week intensive Programme, participants were invited to Hiroshima and learned through lectures by experts from the field, a study tour and a final negotiation simulation. For the simulation, participants were assigned to three different positions on disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and negotiated to draft a paragraph of a Foreign Ministers Communiqué on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Summary of Outcomes

The Programme significantly helped increase the participants' knowledge: more than 70% of the participants indicated that their knowledge levels were moderate or high on the 12 topics after completing the Programme, as compared to 20% at the outset.

At the end of the Programme, 89% agreed that they gained new knowledge through the Programme and 94% rated it as useful overall. 100% indicated that the Programme content was relevant to their professional roles, and 94% expressed their intent to use the newly acquired knowledge in the future.

Lessons Learned

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

Holding the **training in-person** rendered the negotiation simulation livelier, giving participants an excellent experience of a real negotiation.

The participants got **immersive experience** of the devastating power of nuclear weapons. Virtual reality goggles allowed them to see the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park sites as they were when the atomic bomb was dropped. Participants heard the powerful testimony of *hibakusha* (atomic bomb survivor) and tasted *okonomiyaki* – a Japanese pancake – while learning about its role in the reconstruction of Hiroshima.

For future rounds of the Programme, a **hybrid programme** that combines in-person and online pre-learning may be considered to better cover the wide range of topics.

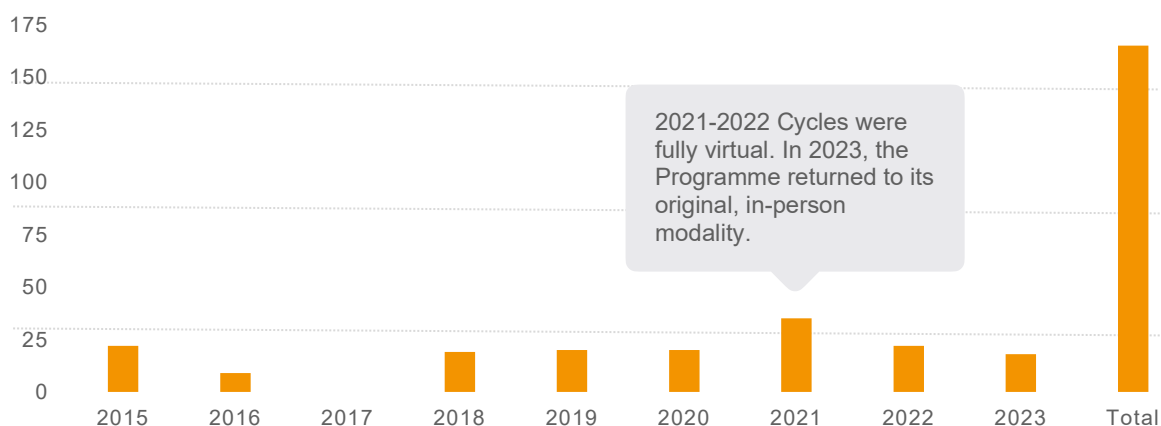
Programme Overview

The 21st century has been referred to as the era of nuclear power. Growing awareness of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of even a limited use of nuclear weapons has prompted new actions towards the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. Yet, increasingly complex global and regional geopolitics make it ever more challenging to achieve a peaceful world. In particular, the Russian invasion of Ukraine that began in February 2022, Russia’s overt nuclear threats, and the US positing the use of nuclear weapons to “restore strategic stability” make it ever more crucial that states communicate and coordinate to foster a common understanding that nuclear disarmament is necessary for global peace.

Against this background, the 2023 UNITAR Hiroshima Training Programme on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation was held in Hiroshima from 13 to 18 February. The Programme, which has been held almost annually since 2015, brings government officials from Asian governments to Hiroshima to build their understanding of the nuclear disarmament debate and the structures and practices of negotiations on disarmament and non-proliferation.

For the 2023 cycle, the Programme returned to its original, in-person modality after going entirely online for 2021 and 2022, during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Number of Participants by Year



2023 Cycle Participants

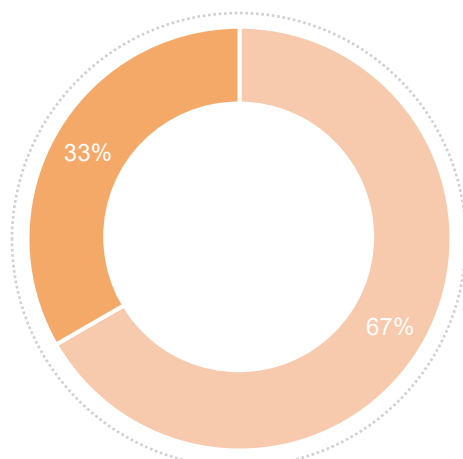
This year, 18 participants completed the Programme. Of the 18 participants, 7 (39%) were women and 11 (61%) were men.

Gender Representation



Participants included 12 (66%) officials from the ministry of foreign affairs (or equivalent) and 6 (33%) from the ministry of defence (or equivalent), who are in charge of nuclear arms control or on the negotiation front-line.

Professional Affiliation



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

They came from 10 Asian countries:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Cambodia | 6. Philippines |
| 2. Kazakhstan | 7. Sri Lanka |
| 3. Lao PDR | 8. Thailand |
| 4. Malaysia | 9. Timor-Leste |
| 5. Mongolia | 10. Viet Nam |

Since 2015, the Programme has trained a total of 165 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 2023 cycle focused especially on preparing the participants for negotiations on the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ, or the Bangkok Treaty).



Participants preparing for the negotiation simulation

Needs Assessment

A needs assessment was conducted to ensure that the Programme's modules were in line with the latest debates and trends in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation as well as the needs of the intended participants. The assessment included a review of feedback and evaluations from previous cycles of the Programme, relevant literature, and interviews with thematic experts.

Programme Structure and Methodology

In the one-week intensive Programme, participants were invited to Hiroshima and learned through lectures by experts from the field, a study tour and a final negotiation simulation.

1. Lectures

Participants completed 12 modules designed to give them a solid grounding in the topics that were then explored in depth. The topics of the modules were:

- The current state of the global nuclear debate, including key challenges and opportunities
- The 2022 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT): Assessment and next review cycle
- The Vienna Conference on Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons
- The First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: Action Plan and next steps
- The "AUKUS" Agreement and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Safeguards: Challenges
- The Bangkok Treaty and Negative Security Assurances
- Interactions between UN disarmament and non-proliferation bodies
- Hiroshima's road to recovery and initiatives to eliminate nuclear weapons
- Effective negotiation and communication strategies in conflict resolution
- New technologies and their impacts on nuclear disarmament
- The nexus of cybertechnology, AI and nuclear technology
- Japanese diplomacy on nuclear disarmament

2. Study tour

On the second day of the training, participants visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park as well as the Hiroshima Peace Museum to experience the humanitarian impact of the atomic bombing and the resilience of the people of Hiroshima in recovering from the devastation. At the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, the participants wore virtual reality goggles that allowed them to see the moment of the bombing and get a feel for the reconstruction.

I would like to thank you UNITAR and team for organizing such an informative and well-rounded programme for us. This programme has not only taught us about the catastrophic effect of nuclear weapons but also how fragile the world is so long as these weapons of mass destruction exist.

3. Negotiation workshop

The final event was an online conference simulation, where participants were divided into three groups representing the three positions:

- Nuclear weapon state
- ASEAN states 1
- ASEAN states 2

The groups met and negotiated a draft paragraph of the Bangkok Treaty.

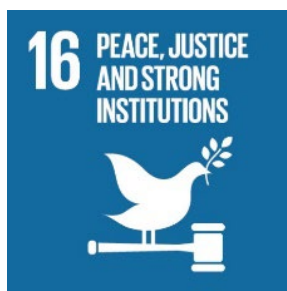
During their preparations, each group was mentored by experts who answered questions and concerns as well as gave advice to guide them through the simulation.

Experts

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The global experts who gave lectures and guided the participants were:

- Setsuko Aoki, Professor at Keio University Law School
- Nassrine Azimi, Co-founder/Coordinator of Green Legacy Hiroshima Initiative
- Tim Caughley, Non-Resident Senior Fellow with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
- Takehiro Kagawa, Secretary-General of Mayors of Peace
- Michael Karimian, Director of the Digital Diplomacy Team in Asia and Pacific, Microsoft
- Yuriy Kryvonos, Director, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific
- Keiko Ogura, a *hibakusha* (atomic bomb survivor)
- Tariq Rauf, Consulting Advisor on Policy and Outreach to the Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization



Strategic Alignment: Sustainable Development Goals

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

Participants in front of the Atomic Bomb Dome



Outcomes

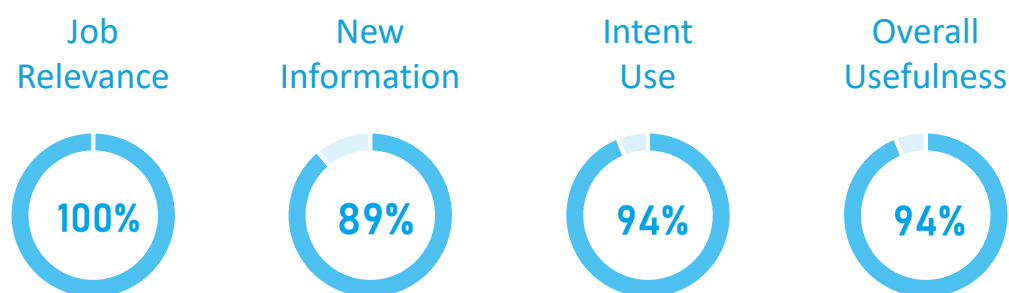
The outcomes were measured by a post-programme survey, which the participants completed online on the last day of the Programme. The response rate was 100%. The survey asked participants to assess four areas: (1) UNITAR’s standard programme evaluation indicators (job relevance, new information, intent to use, overall usefulness), (2) the extent to which participants met learning objectives, (3) effectiveness of the methodologies, and (4) knowledge changes from before to after the Programme.

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

UNITAR Standard Evaluation Indicators: Job Relevance, New Information, Intent to Use, Overall Usefulness

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

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

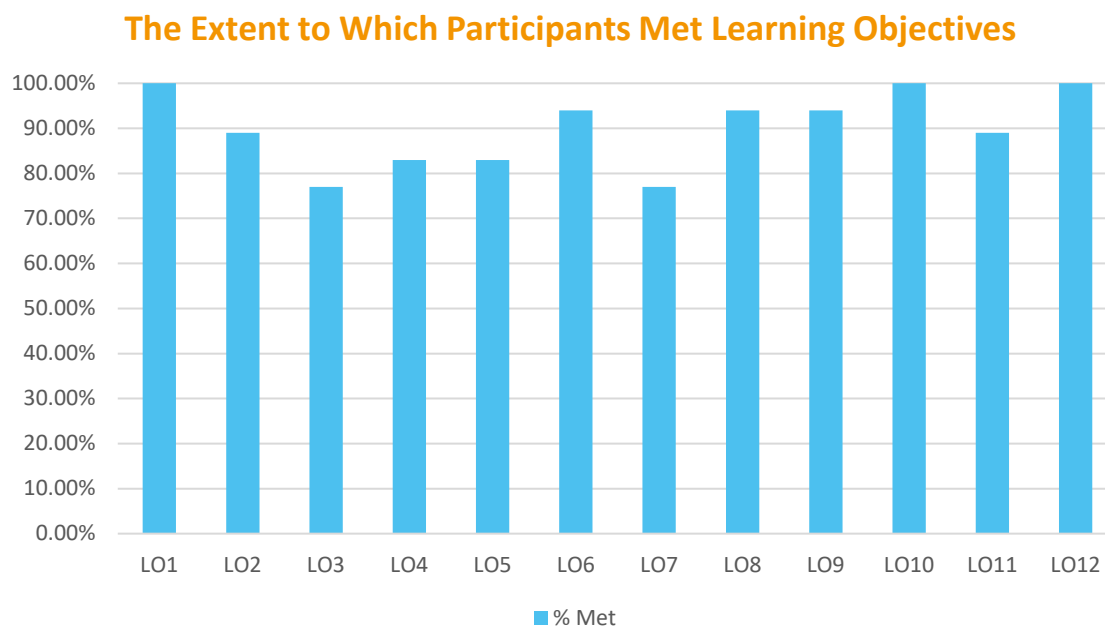


- **“Job relevance”** evaluates to what extent the Programme was relevant to the participant’s professional roles. Participants were asked whether they agreed with the statement “The content of the Programme was relevant to my job.” All participants either agreed or strongly agreed with this statement.
- **“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 89% of the participants either agreed or strongly agreed with this statement.
- **“Intent to 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 94% 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 94% of the participants either agreed or strongly agreed with this statement.

All four categories 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.

Noting that the response to “new information” was somewhat below the other scores, for the next cycle, the UNITAR may consider modifying the content to explore each topic in further depth.

Learning Objectives Met



Participants were asked to what extent they felt they reached each of the Programme’s 12 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:

1. Describe the current state of the global nuclear debate, including key challenges and opportunities
2. Outline NPT 2022 Review Conference: assessment and next review cycle
3. Describe the Vienna Conference on Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons
4. Discuss the First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: Action Plan and next steps
5. Outline the AUKUS Agreement and IAEA Safeguards: Challenges
6. Discuss the Bangkok Treaty and Negative Security Assurances
7. Outline the interactions between UN disarmament and non-proliferation bodies
8. Recognize Hiroshima’s road to recovery and initiatives to eliminate nuclear weapons.
9. Outline effective negotiation and communication strategies in conflict resolution
10. Describe new technologies and their impact on nuclear disarmament
11. Outline the nexus of cyber technology, AI and nuclear technology
12. Discuss Japanese diplomacy on nuclear disarmament

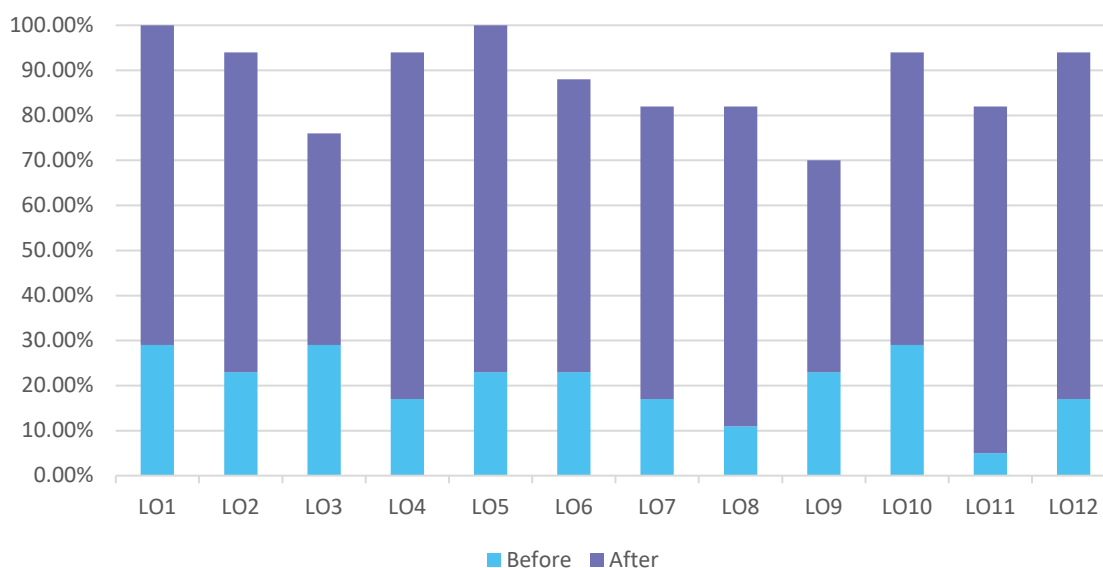
The survey indicates that more than 75% of the participants thought they “mostly” or “fully” met all of the objectives.

The response was remarkably positive on “10. Describe new technologies and their impact on nuclear disarmament”, a new topic introduced in this year’s Programme. The reason may be that increasing dangers of new technologies combined with nuclear technology is now a concern of high interest among states.

The programme was very helpful for my future. I will always be happy for coming back to Hiroshima. Thank you.

Knowledge Changes: Before/After Programme

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 on the 12 topics in the learning objectives on a scale of 1 (“low”) to 5 (“high”) before and after the Programme. 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.

This program is good for sharing information about nuclear weapons with other countries and to know the experience of Hiroshima’s people.

Overall, the survey results indicate that the Programme significantly helped increase the knowledge of the participants in the targeted areas. Over 70% of the participants said that their knowledge levels became either “moderate” or “high” on eight out of the 12 topics after completing the Programme. Given that less than 20% 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.

The learning objective “9. Outline effective negotiation and communication strategies in conflict resolution” was the single topic that was below the target. Considering these findings, future cycles of this Programme may need to consider spending additional time and resources on this topic.

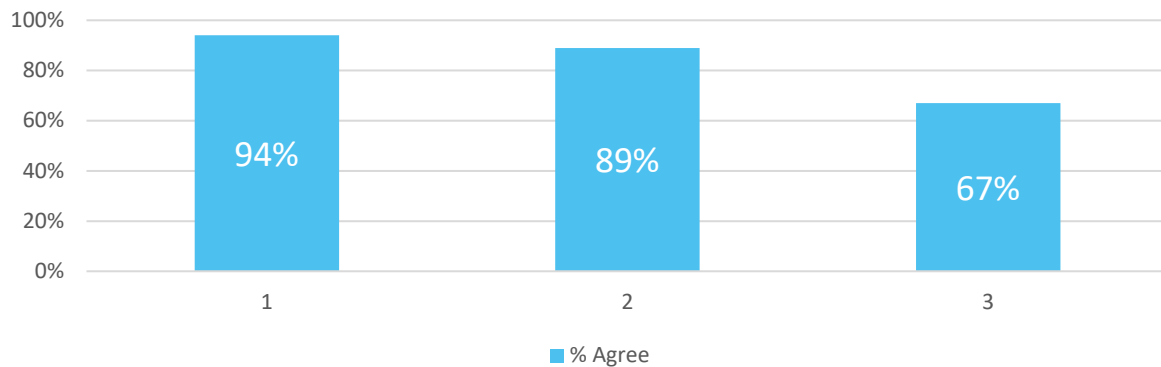


“This training programme equips you with information, but also, I can meet other diplomats and be inspired by them”

Khanh An Nguyen Le
Viet Nam

Effectiveness of Methodologies

Effectiveness of the Programme Methodologies



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

1. The assessment methods were useful in helping you achieve the Programme’s learning objectives.
2. The UNITAR staff responded effectively to your questions.
3. Using Slack helped you communicate smoothly between group members.

The use of Slack as a communication tool between group members scored less than the minimum target of 75%, indicating that the Programme may reconsider how to use it or even using a different platform in the future.

The Final Negotiation Simulation



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Lessons Learned

The 2023 cycle ran smoothly and ended successfully, despite it being delivered fully in person for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic. Opportunities and challenges for future iterations of the Programme are as follows.

Opportunities

- **Providing opportunities for learners to meet like-minded colleagues helped to extend their knowledge in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and advance dialogue and coordination among states.**

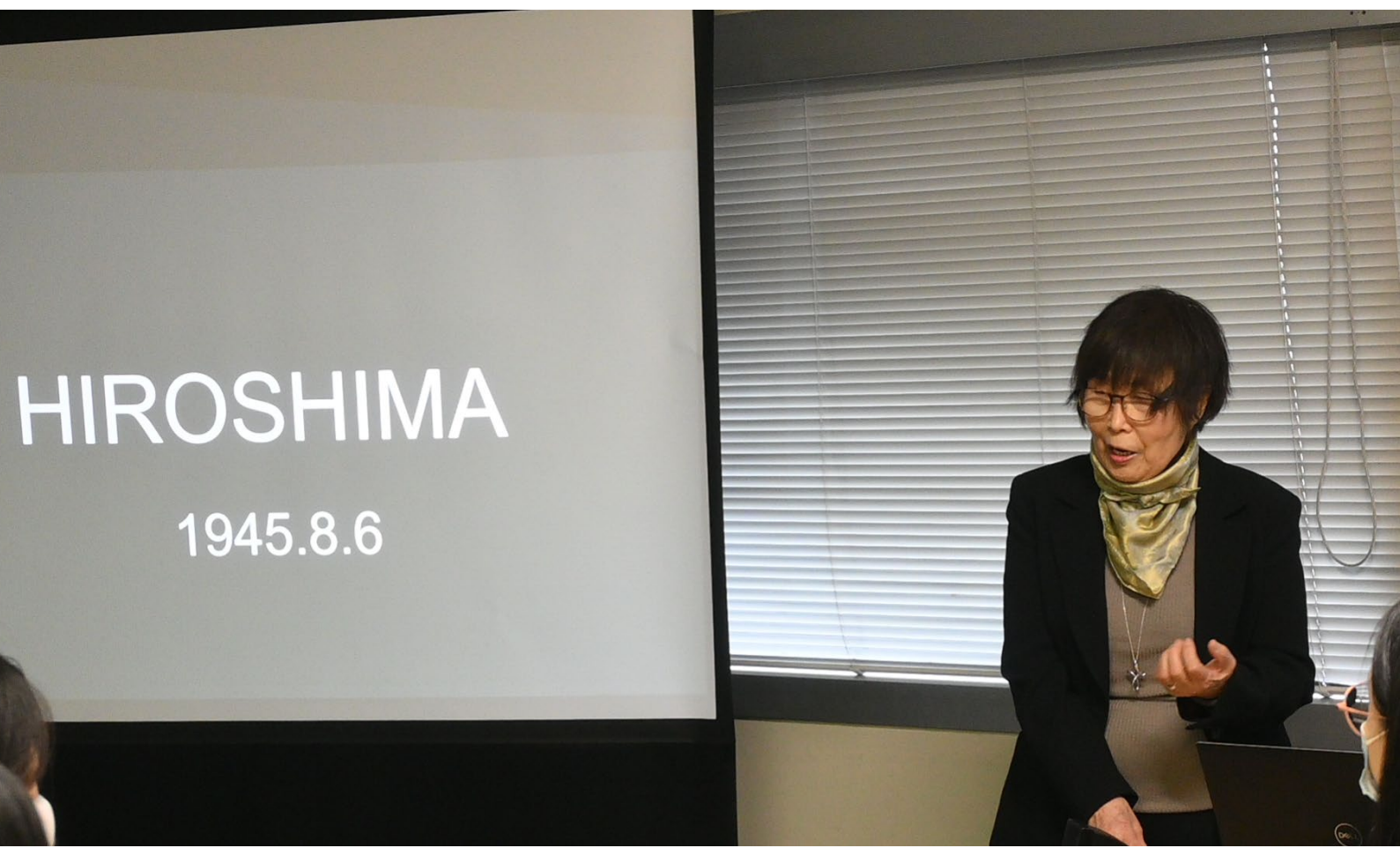
The Programme provided a comprehensive learning experience that aligned with the participants' professional roles and needs. Participants highlighted how the Programme provided a networking opportunity with others in similar professional roles. These relationships are expected to further advance dialogue and coordination among states in the Asian region and foster a common understanding that regionally aligned movements are some of the best ways to achieve nuclear disarmament and global peace.

- **Delivering the training in person allowed for effective negotiation simulation.**

When the simulation was held online in the 2021 and 2022 cycles, ensuring the learners' participation was a challenge. In contrast, this year, holding the training in person meant that participants were able to engage in lively discussions and gain practical experience during the final negotiation simulation.

The in-person modality ensured that each participant was committed and therefore maintained a quality simulation environment. With all participants present the whole day, each group was able to discuss strategies and prepare themselves for the discussion, thus effectively emulating a real negotiation process.

Testimony by Hibakusha, Keiko Ogura



- **Addressing the needs of the region may have helped improve Programme relevance to participants.**

In the post-Programme survey, 100% of the participants agreed that the Programme was relevant to their professional roles. This is much higher than the response from the previous training, in 2022. The excellent outcome may reflect the fact that this year's Programme concentrated on the Bangkok Treaty, which better fit regional needs than the usual general overview of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

- **Using a mix of technology and methods allowed for a deeper understanding of the history of Hiroshima and the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons.**

In past cycles, the study tour of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park was self-guided. This year, the tour consisted of a guided tour and made use of virtual reality goggles. The goggles allowed participants to see each site as it was at the time the atomic bomb was dropped, giving them a life-like experience of the devastating power of nuclear weapons.

Participants also got hands-on experience of Hiroshima's history by visiting Okosta, a restaurant specializing in *okonomiyaki* – a Japanese pancake – which played a significant role in the reconstruction of Hiroshima. Okonomiyaki is now known as the symbol of the reconstruction.

Visit to Okosta and experiencing making okonomiyaki





Challenges

- **Delivering the training in-person suggests that a hybrid format may be better**

Delivering the Programme fully in-person offered substantial benefits, including the advantage of physically visiting Hiroshima and meeting *hibakusha* in person. However, a hybrid format that combines online and in-person training modalities may be an option to consider for future cycles. One suggestion is to design a Programme with the following two components:

- Online pre-training: Participants study the essential topics through an on-demand e-learning course first. They can also get to know the group members online first, to enhance their collaboration in the following in-person negotiation simulation.
- In-person training in Hiroshima: Participants participate in an in-person workshop in Hiroshima, equipped with the knowledge they need for the simulation. This would allow more time to be allocated for practice rather than lectures.

- **Icebreaking could take place earlier in the training for smoother collaboration among group members.**

It was observed during the first few days of preparation for the simulation that communication among group members became more active as rapport developed. This suggests that more weight could be put on icebreaking and placed as a priority in the beginning of the training.



“Support from countries such as Japan is really helpful because it gives the opportunity for officers to have a comprehensive exposure to understand the subject.”

Mohd Ishrin Bin Mohd Ishak
Malaysia