



Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey

Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), Dr. Lassina Zerbo, to Speak at Critical Issues Forum Spring Student Conference to be Held in Nagasaki to Discuss Nuclear Test Ban, Nuclear Disarmament, and Youth Education

US and Russian High School Students to Join Japanese students in Nagasaki for the Critical Issues Forum (CIF) Spring Conference

On April 3-5, 2017, students from the United States and Russia will join Japanese students at a conference on nuclear disarmament in Nagasaki, the second city that experienced nuclear devastation. This is the first time for CIF to hold the spring conference in Nagasaki, and the second time to do so in Japan, after the 2015 Hiroshima Conference.

The James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey (MIIS) is cosponsoring the conference as part of its annual [Critical Issues Forum \(CIF\)](#), in partnership with Kwassui High School in Nagasaki, Nagasaki Council for Nuclear Abolition, the City of Nagasaki, Nagasaki Prefecture, Nagasaki University, Research Center for Nuclear Abolition, and Nagasaki Foundation for the Promotion of Peace.

At the CIF student conference students and teachers from six US high schools, four Russian high schools in closed nuclear cities, and seven Japanese schools in Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Kanagawa, Osaka, and Tokyo are scheduled to deliver presentations on the topic, “Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and its Role for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons.”

At the public symposium on April 4 from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM at the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum Hall, Dr. Lassina Zerbo, the Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) is scheduled to deliver the keynote address. Dr. Zerbo is well-known for his commitment to youth education as a way to promote the entry into force of the CTBT by establishing the CTBT Youth Initiative. The overarching theme of the public symposium is, “Youth Education and Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and Their Roles for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons.”

The Mayor of Nagasaki, Mr. Tomihisa Taue who has taken strong leadership in nuclear disarmament, is also planning to participate in the public symposium. In addition, a student from each country will discuss youth education and CTBT, and its role in nuclear disarmament.

Over the course of the 2016-2017 academic year, CIF students have focused their research on the concept of nuclear test bans and creating a world free of nuclear weapons. Specifically, CIF students have investigated the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), as the United States, Japan, and Russia have an important role to play in facilitating this Treaty’s entry into

force. The CIF project has enabled students to explore the concept of international nonproliferation and disarmament regimes more broadly, and also how the CTBT will facilitate momentum toward a world without nuclear weapons.

Like previous CIF conferences, the 2017 CIF conference also promises unique opportunities for participants to engage with leading experts in the field of nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament. Experts from Japan's leading research institute in the field of nuclear disarmament, the Research Center for Nuclear Abolition at Nagasaki University, will also give a lecture at the CIF conference.

CIF students will have the opportunity to learn about the impact of nuclear weapons when they visit the atomic bomb museum and listen to *Hibakusha* or atomic bomb survivors. We anticipate that this exposure will strengthen their determination to work toward nuclear disarmament to ensure that Nagasaki is the last city to experience nuclear devastation.

The CIF conference and public symposium are the culmination of a semester-long program for high school students that is designed to develop critical thinking skills and to engage students and teachers on issues related to international peace and security. All participating students are expected to present and exchange their findings on their chosen topic in a creative and innovative way, followed by an open discussion. Students will also engage in interactive, cross-cultural activities during the conference and will have the opportunity to interact with members of the Nagasaki Youth Delegation that were inaugurated in 2013, with an aim to develop professionals who will work for nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation.

This year's CIF program is funded by the [United States-Japan Foundation](#), a New York-based organization supporting activities to deepen friendship and understanding between American and Japanese citizens, and the Tom and Sarah Pattison Fund. For more information on the CIF program, please visit the CIF website at sites.miis.edu/criticalissuesforum, and view this short video <https://youtu.be/tcDfru0x4fQ>.

Preliminary Schedule

What: Critical Issues Forum

When: April 3-5, 2017

Where: Nagasaki, Japan

Monday, April 3: Conference day 1, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Kwassui High School

Tuesday, April 4: Conference day 2, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Kwassui High School

Tuesday, April 4: Public Symposium, 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM at Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum Hall

Wednesday, April 5: Conference day 3, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum Hall

Participating Schools

United States

Choate Rosemary Hall, Wallingford, CT

Harker School, San Jose, CA

Dr. Olga Mohan High School, Los Angeles, CA

Pacific Grove High School, Pacific Grove, CA

Punahou School, Honolulu, HI
Rock University High School, Janesville, WI

Japan

Hiroshima Jogakuin Senior High School, Hiroshima
Kaisei High School
Kansai Soka Senior High School, Katano
Kwassui High School, Nagasaki
Nagasaki Higashi High School
Soka Senior High School, Tokyo
Yokohama Senior High School of International Studies

Russia

School № 41, Novouralsk
School № 39 Ozersk
School № 125 Snezhinsk
School № 164, Zelenogorsk

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The [James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies \(CNS\)](#) strives to combat the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) by training the next generation of nonproliferation specialists and disseminating timely information and analysis. CNS at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey is the largest nongovernmental organization in the United States devoted exclusively to research and training on nonproliferation issues. CNS news releases and photos are available at <http://www.nonproliferation.org>.