



## SGI Peace News

Newsletter introducing Soka Gakkai International (SGI)'s activities to promote a culture of peace

November, 2016 (Vol. 14)

### [“The Fierce Urgency of Nuclear Zero: Changing the Discourse.”](#)

Santa Barbara, US, Oct 24-25, 2016

The symposium, hosted by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (NAPF), brought nuclear disarmament academics and activists together for an intimate brainstorming session designed to elicit new and innovative thinking on how to arrive at nuclear zero. NAPF President David Krieger called to

“achieve a breakthrough in thinking and discourse on the path to zero nuclear weapons....The state of the world with its existential nuclear threats, however, is calling out for setting high goals and aiming to achieve them with a sense of urgency.”



SGI President Ikeda sent a message noting “(the challenge of nuclear weapons abolition) is a struggle to counter the core pathology of contemporary civilization—the all-too-casual disregard for life, its value and sanctity. The struggle for nuclear abolition is an effort to redirect the world toward an authentically human orientation.” [...and more](#)

### [Faith Communities Submit Statement in Support of the Negotiation of a Nuclear Weapons Ban in 2017](#)

New York, US, Oct. 12, 2016

At the 2016 UN General Assembly's First Committee (Disarmament and International Security), SGI, together with other faith based organizations submitted a public statement in support of the multilateral negotiation of a Nuclear Weapons Ban in 2017.



The statement urged the General Assembly to “heed the voices of the world’s hibakushas (atomic bomb survivors), vote in support of the resolution “taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations,” and ensure that civil society organizations including faith-based organizations’s participation in negotiation processes.” The statement was endorsed by thirty-five groups and individuals [...and more](#)

## [Roles of Faith-based Organizations in Disaster Risk Reduction](#)

Geneva, Switzerland, Oct. 10, 2016

In commemoration of the International Day of Disaster Reduction, SGI, the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith & Local Communities (JLIF&LC) and the World Council of Churches (WCC) co-organized a roundtable on “The contribution of FBOs (faith-based organizations) to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction” at the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva.



Twenty-two representatives from organizations including FBOs, governments, UN agencies, IFRC, NGOs and academic institutions attended. Denis McClean of UNISDR remarked that faith-based networks represent an invaluable “spiritual capital.” Jose Riera-Cezanne of UNHCR emphasized that the role played by faith leaders, religious institutions and FBOs in providing resilience in the face of hardship and adversity has acquired remarkable recognition in humanitarian communities. The official report can be read from [here](#).

Delhi, India, Nov. 2, 2016

The Pre-Conference titled "Toward a Better Partnership with Faith Groups" was held at the 7<sup>th</sup> Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) in Delhi, mainly organized by SGI in cooperation with ACT Alliance.



The participants discussed inputs to AMCDRR from faith groups perspectives. In particular, it was agreed that "social capital," which faith-based organizations and local faith communities often cultivate on a day-to-day basis, does not instantly fade but rather functions in emergency situations, while enormous economic capital is lost due to disasters. This was the first time that faith groups have been recognized as an official stakeholder and were given the opportunity to submit inputs to the conference. The AMCDRR adopted the Asian Regional Plan for Implementation of Sendai Framework on November 5...[more](#)

## [Mobile App “Mapping” Launched to Promote and Implement SDGs](#)

New York, US, Nov. 10, 2016

Earth Charter International (ECI) and SGI sponsored a UN panel discussion on “Youth Boosting and Implementation of SDGs” hosted by the Sri Lanka Mission to the UN.



In his opening remarks, Dr. Nabarro, UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on the 2030 Agenda, stressed the universality of the 2030 Agenda, and emphasized that young people must be part of sustainable development. He singled out the significance of youth as carriers of the message of the SDGs to the world, and the instrumentality of the new technology in that process.

Moderated by Maher Nasser, Director of Outreach Division of the UN Department of Public Information, the discussion saw an active exchange of ideas regarding the key role to be played by youth in the implementation of the UN's seventeen SDGs. Tadashi Nagai from SGI and Dino De Francesco of ECI delivered a presentation on the new interactive mobile app "Mmapping" to enhance the engagement of youth participation aimed at educating and promoting SDGs in daily life through its function of photo shots and mapping.

Click [here](#) for more on Mmapping.

***This bimonthly SGI Peace News provides recent updates on SGI's public educational activities to help raise awareness on issues such as nuclear disarmament, human rights, sustainable development, interfaith cooperation and humanitarian assistance.***

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