

“WHAT’ S NEW” from the Embassy of Japan in Luxembourg

We have enjoyed a glass of hot wine watching the “Buergbrennen” , and now we are waiting for the coming of spring. This spring is also important for approaching a world without nuclear weapons.

The US President Barack Obama's speech in Prague dramatically changed the global trend towards nuclear disarmament.

Last Friday, Luxembourg, along with some other NATO members, has proposed the removal of all remaining US nuclear bombs from European soil.

Japan also wishes to play a meaningful role in consolidating this trend, especially in the perspective of the Nuclear Security Summit and the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in May.

Last December, the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND), co-chaired by former Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi and former Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, published a report proposing valuable ideas to achieve the objective of a world without nuclear weapons. (<http://www.icnnd.org>)

We have to absolutely prevent terrorists from getting access to nuclear weapons and fissile material and stop states like Iran and North Korea from going nuclear.

We must also try to reduce the strategic value of these weapons for the “haves” . In this regard, the Minister for Foreign affairs of Japan, Katsuya Okada echoed this report in his Foreign policy speech on 29 January 2010 saying “I find worthy of attention such ideas as prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states, or making deterring others from using such weapons as a sole purpose of retaining nuclear weapons, as the concrete means to take a first step” towards this goal.

The International Conference on Preventing Nuclear Catastrophe was held in Luxembourg in May 2007. While recognizing the role of nuclear deterrence in the real world where nuclear weapons exist, Japan and Luxembourg can further cooperate in this field.

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