

**Director's Message for 2009**  
**—A Year to Achieve True Advances in Disarmament—**

I wish you all a Happy New Year. I assumed the directorship of the Center for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (CPDNP) last November.

This year is bound to be a critical one that will determine the future of disarmament and non-proliferation. The op-eds “A World Free of Nuclear Weapons” and “Towards a Nuclear Free World” written by four U.S. foreign and security policy magnates—George P. Shultz, William J. Perry, Henry A. Kissinger and Sam Nunn – in January of 2007 and 2008 in *The Wall Street Journal* have generated a global momentum towards nuclear disarmament. With the coming inauguration of the new Obama administration, who expressed support for this proposal by the “four horsemen” and proclaims to realize “a world free of nuclear weapons,” expectation has risen for a significant reduction of nuclear weapons.

Last year, the declaration including strong commitment to support and strengthen the international WMD non-proliferation regime was adopted by the G8 countries at the Hokkaido Toyako Summit. Japan, in conjunction with Australia, established the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament in order to contemplate, from a long-term perspective, making progress towards a nuclear free world. As a member of the advisory committee for this Commission, I intend to exert myself to help draft a report containing bold and constructive recommendations for the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference. Active campaign for nuclear disarmament and abolition is also taking place in such fora as the NPT Article VI Forum, “Mayors for Peace” and “Global Zero.”

This year is sure to become a watershed for the promotion of the ratifications of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) as well. President-elect Obama has advocated early ratification of the CTBT during his presidential campaign. With the ratification of Colombia in January 2008, the number of remaining Annex 2 countries required for the treaty entry into force has now come down to a single digit (9 States). Such a positive stance of president-elect Obama gives a bright prospect not only for the ratification by the United States, but also for the entry into force of the CTBT. With its expertise in monitoring technology, the CPDNP will continue to assist the promotion of entry into force of the treaty supporting the argument that the CTBTO Preparatory Commission has sufficient verification capability.

The CPDNP has served as a Secretariat for the National Operation System of the CTBT tasked with nuclear test detection. The Five-year plan to construct base structure of the National Operation System is about to be completed. Certification by the CTBTO Provisional Technical Secretariat of the ten International Monitoring System (IMS) stations in Japan was also completed last year, following the completion of installation of three IMS

stations. The Center will strive to enhance the operation of the CTBT National Operation System by identifying and solving the problems of the Operation System built under the five-year plan, and make necessary upgrades to both hardware and software required for the evaluation and analysis of monitoring and observation data so that the National Operation System becomes fully prepared.

We cannot be overly optimistic about the prospects of the progress of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, however. There still exist a variety of challenges such as: early commencement of negotiation for a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) at the Conference on Disarmament (CD); North Korean and Iranian nuclear issues; threats from nuclear terrorism; and the impacts of the conclusion of U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation agreement accepted by the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). Without dealing with these issues pertaining to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation one-by-one, disarmament and non-proliferation could once again face a period of serious difficulty.

In the field of conventional weapons, the signing ceremony for The Convention on Cluster Munitions took place last year in Oslo. As a signatory State, Japan is expected to undertake the disposal of unexploded cluster munitions as well as to take additional steps necessary to provide substantial support for the victims. Considering that there are yet a number of countries opposed to the Convention still possessing cluster munitions, continuing international effort must be waged in creating the further framework to deal with the humanitarian concerns of cluster munitions. It goes without saying that antipersonnel land mines and small arms are also a serious threat to those living in conflict regions, and efforts by the international community should not be set back.

In this year of crucial importance, the CPDNP is prepared to work assiduously in advancing disarmament and non-proliferation, so that Japan may take active initiatives. We appreciate your continued guidance and encouragement in helping our activities at the CPDNP.

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Center for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation  
Director  
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