

PNND Japan Report

October 12th, 2007

The PNND Japan was founded in July 2002 as a branch (section) of the Global PNND. It is a cross-party association of Diet members from both House of Representatives and House of Councilors.

At the time of its foundation, it had a membership of 64, and after several elections it has now a membership of 47. After every election the PNND Japan sent invitation letters to all MPs to solicit participation in PNND Japan. It has not yet done so since the election of the House of Councilors last July.

The PNND Japan held four General Assemblies in the past, and each of them included an element of study by inviting experts from academics or NGOs. Also the PNND Japan has held occasional seminars and symposia several times since its foundation. They include “Parliamentarian Forum for Nuclear Disarmament” in the Global Citizens’ Assembly in Nagasaki, Japan in 2003, co-sponsored by PNND Japan and global PNND, and “Open Lecture” by Phil Goff, Disarmament Minister of New Zealand.

Supported by the strong public opinion in Japan for speedy nuclear abolition, PNND Japan members share such aspiration. However specific approach to that goal varies according to parties. Current activities of the PNND Japan are aimed at building the basis for cross-party cooperation through information sharing and exchange of views, while responding to the needs for immediate actions. For instance, the PNND Japan took the initiative to issue its own statement, in addition to joining the statement of the global PNND, to respond the DPRK’s nuclear test in October last year as the test is directly related to the national security of Japan. Another area of concerns of the PNND Japan is the U.S.-India nuclear deal.

In the coming November, the PNND Japan plans to have its General Assembly with PNND Global Coordinator Alyn Ware as a guest speaker. During the leading period to the Assembly, we will send all Diet members the letter of invitation to the PNND Japan to get more members.

The PNND Japan wishes for closer cooperation with members of global PNND members.