

Opening Remarks

Nuclear Dangers from Hiroshima to Fukushima

Panel Discussion

Liu Institute for Global Issues
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, BC
May 3rd, 2016

Jennifer Allen Simons, C.M., Ph.D., LL.D.
President,
The Simons Foundation

My name is Jennifer Allen Simons and I am President of The Simons Foundation. I would like to welcome you to today's panel – the first of a two-day programme - the major event being the sold-out Poetry and Music performance at the Chan Centre by Japanese artists, Sayuri Yoshinaga and Ryuichi Sakamoto at 3pm today.

These two days was the initiative of, and is sponsored by, the Japanese newspaper, Asahi Shimbun; and organized and presented by the Centre for Japanese Research at UBC, the Liu Institute for Global Issues, also at UBC, and The Simons Foundation.

The final event is the screening of *Nagasaki: Memories of My Son*, starring Sayuri Yoshinaga with music by Ryuichi Sakamoto, at the Vancity Cinema at 7.30pm tomorrow evening. Ms. Yoshinaga and Mr. Sakamoto will be in attendance. The screening is free with a \$2 annual membership available at the door. I encourage you to attend.

I would like to thank Julie Wagemakers and Moira McQuade of the Liu Institute for Global Issues for their participation in the project and for providing the space for the panel presentation and the reception following the Poetry Reading. And also thank Christina Laffin of the Centre for Japanese Research, the other partner, who has worked tirelessly to organize and manage the two-day programme.

The subject of today's panel discussion is *Nuclear Dangers – From Hiroshima to Fukushima*.

It has been said that we now live in the *twilight* of the Atomic Age but indications are that the sun may never set. All the nuclear weapons states - rather than fulfilling their commitment to disarm - are upgrading their nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, and seeking new uses for nuclear weapons.

And because nuclear reactors do not emit harmful greenhouse gases, nuclear power is being promoted as environmentally friendly; despite the fact that it is impossible to dispose of nuclear radioactive waste; and despite the fact that man is unable to control nuclear technology thus posing life-threatening risks to humans and to the environment, as demonstrated by Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and now Fukushima.

The political and militarized industrialized world has failed to come to terms with the nuclear menace, both as weapons of war and for power generation; thus has failed to consider its moral responsibility to protect its citizens.

Humanity is a great risk from an accidental, mistaken or malicious or intentional nuclear denotation; and from the calamitous consequences of the man's failure to master nuclear technology for peaceful uses.

Our panellists will address the prospects for nuclear disarmament, the nuclear dangers posed by North Korea and what they mean for regional and global security; and also address the current policy debate in Japan on nuclear energy.

Our panellists are:

Dr. Fumihiko Yoshida who will speak on *The Prospects for Nuclear Disarmament from the Japanese Perspective*. Dr. Yoshida is Visiting Scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, D.C. Dr. Yoshida has a Ph.D. in International Public Policy from Osaka University; and was a member of the Advisory Panel of Experts on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation for Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He served as Deputy Director of the Editorial board of the Asahi Shimbun and Editorial Writer for the newspaper specializing in nuclear weapons and nuclear energy issues. And is author of *Dismantling the Nuclear Age, Century of Nuclear Deterrence, and Nuclear Weapons and the United States* – all three, unfortunately, published only in Japanese.

Paul Meyer who will speak on *The Prospects for Nuclear Disarmament: A Canadian Perspective*. Paul Meyer is Adjunct Professor of International Studies and Fellow in International Security at Simon Fraser University and is Senior Fellow at The Simons Foundation. He is a former career diplomat in Canada's Foreign Service and served abroad in six diplomatic postings including as Canadian Ambassador for Japan Ambassador, and Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

Dr. Brian Job whose subject is *The Nuclear Dangers Posed by North Korea and What They Mean for Regional and Global Security*. Professor of Political Science and Resident Faculty Associate of the Liu Institute at the University of British Columbia. His current teaching and specific research interests concern the evolving security order of the Asia Pacific, intra-state conflict, human security.

He is involved in regional Asia Pacific expert networks, particularly with the Council of Security Co-operation in the Asia Pacific. He is Senior Fellow of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada; and was visiting professor at the Aoyama Gakuin University, Tokyo, Nanyang Technical University, Singapore and the Australian National University.

Professor Yves Tiberghien, whose subject is *Nuclear energy in Japan: The public and political debate*, is the of the Director of the UBC Institute of Asian Research, Executive Director of the UBC China Council, Co-Director of UBC Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs and Associate Professor of Political Science. He is Senior Fellow at the Asia Pacific Foundation and the Global Summitry Project at the Munk School of Affairs. Professor Tiberghien specializes in East Asian comparative political economy, international political economy and global economic and environmental governance, with an empirical focus on China, Japan, Korea and South-East Asia. He is the author of several books, many articles and chapters on corporate governance reform, and on Japan's and China's political economy, global governance, global change politics; and is awaiting publication of his latest work, *The Political Economy of East Asia: Regional Transformation and Global Impact*.

Each panelist will speak for about 15 minutes and following the last speaker, the floor will be open for questions, comment and discussion. We will end promptly at 2pm.