

A Proposal for Asian Non-proliferation Research Center (ANREC)

Tatsujiro Suzuki
Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry (CRIEPI)

BACKGROUND

Despite the positive developments of global non-proliferation regime, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), missile technology and conventional arms is still a major concern. It is especially important for countries in Asia to work together to reduce proliferation risk through enhanced, harmonized non-proliferation policies. So far, non-proliferation research in Asia is relatively limited, and there is a growing need for independent thinking and well established research programs in the region.

Given this background, the Study Group on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy and Non-Proliferation Policy recommended to establish an independent research center on non-proliferation in Japan, especially seeking participation from Asia.¹ The report noted that there are influential research institutions in the U.S. and in Europe but none exists in Asia. This proposal, based on the above recommendation, is intended to provide a more concrete concept of such a research center.

MISSION

The main purpose of the proposed center, tentatively called “Asian Non-Proliferation Research Center (ANREC)”, is to reduce proliferation risk in the region by providing better information and independent policy analysis on non-proliferation issues, as well as on other associated regional security issues. In order to achieve such objectives, the Center is intended to:

- Provide independent thinking and information on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and its associated policy issues,
- Provide public forum for experts, policy makers and industrial leaders, in order to facilitate policy dialogue and confidence building among countries in Asia,
- Provide educational opportunities for young researchers and policy makers who would like to become an expert in this field.

UNIQUENESS OF THE ANREC

The uniqueness of the proposed ANREC can be summarized as follows;

- *Independent policy research institute dedicated to non-proliferation:* While there are

¹ The Study Group on Peaceful Uses Nuclear Energy and Non-Proliferation Policy, “The Statement on the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy and Non-Proliferation Action Plan towards 21st Century,” March, 2000. (<http://www.jaif.or.jp/english/teigen.html>) As one of its recommendations, the group says; “Japan should take the initiative in establishing an ‘International Nuclear Non-Proliferation Research Center’ in Japan, a private organization, seeking the participation of international experts, especially from Asian nations.” The recommendation says that the proposed center also perform necessary technological developments, but this proposal only deals with policy research center as the group believes it would be better to establish a different organization dedicated to such purpose.

many prestigious research institutions in Japan as well as in other parts of Asia, very few institution is “independent” and dedicated to non-proliferation issues. The proposed ANREC is intended to keep its independent status as much as possible.

- *Meeting specific regional interests:* The proposed ANREC, originated and specialized in Asia, is intended to meet specific regional interests. For example, expected growth of civilian nuclear power program in the region is among the highest in the world. Therefore, balancing civilian nuclear energy policy and non-proliferation policy is especially important for the region. The proposed ANREC is intended to address such specific regional interests.
- *International research institution for joint cooperative research:* While many research institutions on security issues are typically “national” organizations, the proposed ANREC is intended to become a place where experts from different nationalities, cultural and educational background, work together for the shared objectives. This “international” environment itself will enhance confidence building in the region.
- *Capacity building capability for long- term objectives:* It is generally perceived that non-proliferation expertise in the region is relatively weak compared with those in the US and Europe. The proposed ANREC is intended to build such policy analysis capability on non-proliferation issues in the region.

MAJOR AREAS OF RESEARCH

The Center’s major areas of research can be the following three categories, while the initial focus will likely to be the area where Asian experts have relative strength:

- Regional Security, Threat Reduction and Confidence Building
- Technology/Material Control and Management
- National Policies and Programs Assessment

Regional Security, Threat Reduction and Confidence Building

The most important objective of non-proliferation policy should be to reduce incentives for countries or any groups to acquire WMD. Therefore the first priority of this Center’s research should be the one to improve regional security and to enhance confidence building. Possible research subjects include but not limited to:

- Future of KEDO Project and North Korean nuclear programs
- Feasibility study on Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in Northeast Asia
- Assessment of Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) in the Region
- Possible Regional Approach to Energy Security Issues in Asia

Technology/Material Control and Management

The second important objective of non-proliferation policy is to prevent the spread of sensitive technologies and materials. The initial focus will be on weapons usable materials, nuclear waste and nuclear safety, but can be expanded to other technologies such as missile and space technologies. Possible research subjects include:

- Improving management of accumulating spent fuel and plutonium
- Enhancement of material control and physical protection of weapons usable materials in Asia: Possible regional approach
- Dealing with spent fuel/radioactive waste from dismantled nuclear submarines in the region
- Analysis of advanced fuel cycle concepts: proliferation resistance and energy security

National Policies and Programs Assessment

Although decision to acquire or giving up WMD is primarily determined by international security concern, it is also important to understand how domestic policies and programs affect such decision. So the third category of research focuses on each country's national policies and programs that may affect such decision. Possible research subjects include:

- Historic analysis of national decision to withdraw from (or giving up) nuclear weapon programs (case study of S. Africa, Argentine/Brazil, Japan/Germany, S. Korea, and Taiwan.)
- Assessment of national civilian nuclear power program and its implication for non-proliferation

OTHER MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

In addition to independent policy research, the Center is intended to conduct various activities and produce outputs that can serve our mission. The initial focus of the activities will be on the following three categories:

- Policy Forum and Networking
- Information Service and Outreach
- Education

Policy Forum and Networking

The Center is intended to host a regular, informal, non-proliferation forum, aiming at establishing a "non-proliferation community" in the region. Track-2 type forum is important to link between policy makers and research community.

Networking of independent experts, research institutions and NGOs is particularly important. The Center will host small workshops, seminars by itself, and it will also help Asian experts to travel abroad to participate in various meetings and conferences outside the region. Possible workshop proposals include:

- Annual Non-proliferation Workshop in Asia (Asian version of Carnegie's non-proliferation conference)
- International Seminar on "Science and World Affairs" (for young scientists who are interested in international security issues)
- Track-2 workshop on Non-proliferation and Threat Reduction in Asia

Information Service and Outreach

There is a growing need for the international community to receive regular, updated information on non-proliferation issues from Asia. The Nautilus Institute in California, with good intelligent network, has been providing excellent news service through internet. The Center will coordinate with the Nautilus Institute and provide additional quick updated information service as well as in-depth analysis of recent events and policies.

On the other hand, it is also important for national policy makers, researchers, journalists and NGOs in the region to receive well-explained, concise information and analysis of recent developments in non-proliferation area outside the region. The Center is intended to provide such information service in native language in each member country (it will start with Japanese).

Possible publications include the following:

- Policy Journal specialized in non-proliferation in Asia ("Non-Proliferation Review in

- Asia” in collaboration with MIIS’s “Non-Proliferation Review”)
- Issue Brief (working paper series, “Policy Alert”, etc.)
- Newsletter (collaboration with Nautilus Institute): Tracking major issues (Tracking KEDO, nuclear waste programs, submarines, national civilian nuclear programs, etc.)

Education

The Center will collaborate with universities and other educational institution to develop a special educational program specialized in non-proliferation area. It is intended for not only young students but also for teachers, policy makers and industry representatives. Possible program include the following;

- Collaboration with “Certificate for Non-Proliferation” program (MIIS)
- Fellowship Program (for post-doc, politicians, bureaucrats, etc.)
- Handbook on non-proliferation (for Journalists, High-school teachers, etc.)

ORGANIZATION

The Center is a non-profit, non-partisan, independent international organization established in Japan. It is important to emphasize the international characteristic of the organization. Its Board members as well as research staff consist of various national background. Funding also comes from international sources. Its official language will be English.

Board of Directors

This is the decision making body of the Center. Members consist of senior experts from countries in the region, initially starting with countries in Northeast Asia where national nuclear energy programs are well established, but will welcome participants from the rest of the world.

Advisory Board

In addition to Board of Directors, the Center will establish an Advisory Board to ensure the high quality of the output. The Advisory Board will review outputs and give advice to major activities of the Center.

International Affiliation

The Center intends to establish a close collaborative relationship with relevant organizations in the world. Possible candidate organizations include:

US

- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Non-proliferation project
- Center for Energy and Environmental Studies, and RANSAC, Princeton University
- Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University
- Cooperative Monitoring Center at Sandia National Laboratories
- Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS)
- “Managing the Atom” Project, Harvard University
- The program on Arms Control, Disarmament and International Security (ACDIS) at the University of Illinois

Asian regions

- Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI) (S. Korea)

- National Development Institute (S. Korea)
- Nuclear Policy Study Group, Seoul National University (SNU)
- Center for American Studies, Fudan University (China)

Europe

- Peace Research Institute of Frankfurt (Germany)
- University of St. Andrews (UK)
- PIR Center for Policy Studies (Russia)

Funding

It is important that funding source should be diversified so that the Center will not depend on any particular organization of vested interest. The Center plans to raise fund from various sources, including:

- Japanese Foundations (Japan Foundation, Center for Global Partnership, Toyota Foundation, Nippon Foundation, etc.)
- US Foundations (especially recently established Nuclear Threat Initiative, W. Alton Jones, Carnegie and other charitable Foundations etc.)
- Government sources from the region
- Industry sources (such as utility industry)

Its initial annual budget is estimated at around \$1 million/year, with 4-5 full time staff with one full time Director.

SCHEDULE

Preparatory organization will be established before the summer of 2001, while fundraising activities will start soon. The Center is intended to start its official operation from April, 2002.

(要約)

アジア核不拡散研究センター構想

原子力平和利用・核不拡散政策研究会は、昨年の国際シンポジウムの開催に合わせて「原子力平和利用と核不拡散：21世紀の行動計画」と題して提言を行った。提言の一つに、「民間機関としての『国際核不拡散研究センター』を、日本に設立するべく、主導的な努力を払うべきである。このセンターは、政策研究のみならず、必要とされる技術開発も実施することにより、総合的な視野から、国際社会に対して勧告、助言を発信することを目的とする。このような研究所は欧米にはあるが、アジアには存在しない。欧米に現存する同種のセンターと提携し、関連情報の集積・発信を行い、合わせて人材の養成も行う。」と記述されている。このキーノートスピーチは、この提言を「アジア核不拡散研究センター」として、具体的な実現に向けて進むべく私見を述べたものである。センターのミッション、特徴、研究分野、成果の目標、組織、資金などの項目にわたり記述され、1年以内にその活動を始めたいと結ばれている。(事務局による抄訳)