



# e-PULSE

*Quarterly Web-magazine of IPPNW Students*

**Volume 1, Issue 1,  
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## **E-Pulse**

E-Pulse is an allegory of what students are and what students do to spread the message of peace and health throughout the world.

## **Current Issue**

This issue of e-Pulse tries to summarize what IPPNW students have been doing in last few months and plan to do in immediate future.

## **Message**

Hi, NSRs, RSRs, and Coordinators of different IPPNW student projects, we know many of you have been doing great jobs in different parts of the world. But, you have one more responsibility added; that is to inform your colleagues from around the world about your activities and plans.

## **Contribute**

This is your magazine. Comment, suggest or contribute articles or anything you like.

## **Contact us:**

[epulse.magazine@gmail.com](mailto:epulse.magazine@gmail.com)

## **Editors Speak...**

It was not until long ago that the importance of a periodic magazine was felt necessary among us. The realization of the importance led to the concept of e-pulse, the quarterly e-magazine of IPPNW students, which we hope shall help bridge the gap among us with the stuffs and news inside it.

IPPNW students network is an expanding group of students and to encompass the ever-increasing group our effort will be a significant one, we firmly believe. E-pulse is the magazine of all the IPPNW students which will avail with the recent happenings, upcoming events, reports and of course the free-lancers as well.

In this issue-the first one- we have tried to give it a framework which shall be followed in the upcoming issues. We have put on the profile of IPPNW Co-President Dr. Ron McCoy who has been an instrumental force behind the IPPNW in the present and in the past as well. We hope it will help lot of the new members to explore about how safe is IPPNW in the helm of such intellect.

It would be a redundancy to talk of the busy schedule of the medical life. However, we have endeavored to bring this issue with hope we shall have more hands and brains recruiting and supplementing our effort. We would love to have more interested ones to join our club of e-pulse.

Lastly, wishing you all the happy reading of e-pulse

Signing off....  
Editors

**Khagendra Dahal and Sandip Adhikari**

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# My trip to Karachi

*by Ankita Chowdhury*

How I wish I'd made a note of my emotional state before embarking for Pakistan! Are you wondering why? Only to make the comparison easier!

Today, I cannot bring back that apprehension, that fear of traveling to an enemy nation into my writing. I cannot quite pen down in appropriate words the anxiety, the nervousness mixed with excitement...those feelings are now so dim.....I've lost them.... and now it's like they never existed.

We crossed the Arabian Sea, but to my surprise ;-)) the water didn't change its form, neither taste, nor appearance; neither did the flora, nor did the fauna; nor did the hoardings, nor did the dust on the roads, and neither did the faces of the people. Nobody stared at me like I was a foreigner. My eyes were disappointed after an endless search for at least one person who'd look like: 'He's not from one amongst us'. It was hard to believe that I was not in Bombay, sincerely!

I don't know if I can find another country where I can speak in my own language, and be interpreted in theirs, without any alteration in the meaning. I even bargained with the shopkeepers myself over some earrings in my mother tongue, in a foreign land, with the currency still called Rupees, only the form of the note different. Nabiha was always there to ensure that I wasn't cheated.

I'd altogether forgotten that I was in a so called "Enemy Nation" until the security guard forbid us from getting of the coaster just to set our foot on the beach. But how could I allow myself to be deprived? We got into our friends' private car without a security guard and urged them to take us to the beach. I just wanted to feel the sand, smell the ocean and sniff the sea breeze, and no sooner than I had done that, that even without closing my eyes, I was back home, at Marine Drive in Bombay....it was just the very same feel. Had I touched the ocean waters(which were dangerously low), I'm sure, I would've felt the electricity connecting Bombay and Karachi., because my heart was already magnetically mesmerized.

If the description of just the first six hours I spent in Karachi, that too without giving any details, took two pages, imagine how much I can write about the next THIRTY hours; and imagine how much my friends, who spent five whole days in the captivating land of Pakistan, can write.

And to think of it, I had no past connections with Pakistan...No ancestral homes...No long lost relatives....But there were many in our delegation and millions back in my country with such ties. One doctor, while speaking of these relatives and Indo-Pak relations, broke down into tears and sobbed, and he sobbed with such painful sighs, he made the whole audience cry:-)

In the end what really matters are these little things that made such a difference. The way our Pakistani friends dissolved our fears, demolished those man made walls of hatred and enmity built by fanatics, and stretched our horizons of friendship and bonding, with being 'just themselves', no agency or known relative or someone of my kin has ever succeeded in doing before.

And now the icing on the cake: The officer at the check-in counter at Jinnah Intl. Airport upgraded our seats to first class and we found out only when we couldn't find our seats in the Economy class- with an announcement from the pilot, "We welcome aboard the two students from India who're returning from Karachi after attending an Indo-Pak Doctors' Peace Meet and we hope they enjoyed their stay in Pakistan".

And the people back home call them our enemies...what a disgrace....

*Ankita Choudhary  
NSR-IDPD*

P.S.: Read it at least twice to fathom the depth of my feelings. Every word in this write-up is true and heart felt!

# Ban the bomb

*by Khagendra Dahal, IPPNW International Student Representative*

The International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War organizes meetings between countries with nuclear capability. Khagendra Dahal was part of the delegation that visited India and Pakistan

This is Wagah, the recently reopened Indian-Pakistani border. After being closed for 18 months because of escalating tension between India and Pakistan, it reopened in July 2003.<sup>1</sup> We can see hundreds of people walking through this border, which links Indian Punjab with Pakistani Punjab. A Pathan, one of the ethnic groups in Pakistan and Afghanistan, from Pakistan is hugging goodbye to a Punjabi from India--a touching scene. This recent opening of Wagah has given the opportunity to many people to reunite, especially long-separated relatives.

## Mission

I was one of the international delegates that comprised of physicians and medical students from Nepal, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Malaysia, the United States, and Russia. The delegation was organised by International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, which won the Nobel peace prize in 1985. Established in 1980 by doctors from the United States and the former Soviet Union during the peak of the cold war, the organisation advocates for peace, people's health, and nuclear disarmament.<sup>2</sup> My connection to the organisation was as national medical student representative of the Nepalese affiliate, Physicians for Social Responsibility. Four Nepalese--three doctors and myself--had joined the group.

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War sends delegation teams to all the nuclear capitals of the world. These teams talk with the decision makers--politicians, parliamentarians, diplomats, researchers, and economists--of the country.<sup>3</sup> They discuss the medical consequences of nuclear war and proposals for disarmament.

This time, the team was going to talk to the decision makers of India and Pakistan to put pressure on them to act judiciously on the issues of nuclear weapons, paving the way to nuclear disarmament of South Asia.

## Focus on South Asia

"South Asia is the most dangerous region in the world in terms of the nuclear arms race," says Ron McCoy, professor and president of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. Historical rivals India and Pakistan have nuclear warheads pointed at each other making the region the potential epicentre of a nuclear war. India and Pakistan have fought three wars since Pakistan was separated from India in 1947. The beautiful hilly region of Kashmir has been the difficulty between them since the partition.<sup>4</sup>

South Asia is poverty stricken. A third of South Asian people (around 433 million) are living in abject poverty.<sup>5</sup> Many people have no access to food, shelter, health, or education, and investment in nuclear programmes has made the situation worse.

## Meeting the decision makers in Islamabad

"Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, and working together success," was on the wall in the office of the federal minister of health of Pakistan. The health minister was well versed and supported what we were doing. We talked about the health impacts of exploding nuclear weapons and Pakistan's preparedness in case of accidental or intentional explosion.

Indian doctors should have joined the delegation to Pakistan but could not. They were denied visas and clearances, which are essential for a visit to Pakistan. When we reminded the health minister of this, he said, "Visas will not be a problem for such activities in the future."

Similarly we met the chairman of senate and the foreign secretary and talked to them about similar issues. They agreed to foster confidence building measures, including dialogue between the two countries at the level of people--doctors, artists, scientists, writers, journalists, and the general public.

One thing was clear from the meeting: Pakistani policymakers think they need a nuclear arsenal to secure themselves from India. They said that regional disarmament was unthinkable unless India disarms. Most people we met shared similar views.

## Meetings in Delhi

Part of the trip included meeting the "missile man of India," President APJ Abdul Kalam. We started by saying that nuclear war would be the final epidemic since all the health and medical infrastructures would fail. But, he challenged us: "As physicians you should not say there is no treatment of nuclear explosion; we can do bone marrow transplantation."

The president's love for children and young people is often shown on television. I asked him how he reconciles his love of children and his vision for their future with his nuclear weapons programmes. He said only, "I love children because the future of India lies in them," avoiding the nuclear issue.

We also met the leaders of some political parties. Most emphasised the "deterrence theory." This argument says that to prevent a country from firing nuclear weapons against them, they keep a nuclear arsenal saying they will reciprocate. Nevertheless, most parties said that they were hopeful about bringing lasting peace to the region.

What people think?

The people of India and Pakistan want the disputes between their countries to be settled peacefully: "We want no more wars but friendship," said one Pakistani when asked how he views the current relationship between India and Pakistan. But when it comes to the nuclear issues, India seems more liberal. The Pakistani people I spoke to were reluctant to unequivocally support disarmament. Most of them said that they should own nuclear weapons so long as India does.

What the medical community is doing

Doctors should talk about the health, medical, and environmental hazards of nuclear weapons and educate the medical community and policymakers about the consequences of nuclear war. The main argument is that nuclear bombs are not just bombs which are bigger in size and have a more devastating capacity than the others. Nuclear bombs do not discriminate between combatants and non-combatants; they destroy humanity.

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War has about 60 affiliates all over the world. Medical students can help to establish peace and disarmament by getting involved in their own country.<sup>6</sup> Students also have a project called Nuclear Weapons Inheritance Project that visits nuclear states and engages in dialogue with medical and other university students about nuclear weapons. The main objective is to create a group of students who understand the consequences of the nuclear arms race. Resources are diverted into nuclear programmes that could provide food, education, shelter, and health to many people.

Visit [www.ippnw-students.org](http://www.ippnw-students.org) for further information.

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# Indian Medics for Peace Health and Development

*Jammu and Kashmir, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2005.* The Indian doctors and medical students held a seminar on "PEACE, HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT – SOUTH ASIAN PERSPECTIVE" on 21st May 2005 at Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences (ASCOMS), Jammu. They resolved to work for peace, disarmament and harmony in the region. They demanded complete elimination of nuclear weapons from earth, south Asia to be declared nuclear free zone, check on proliferation of small arms & end to arms trade, end to all kinds of violence, resolution of pending issues between countries of south Asia through mutual dialogue and diversion of funds from arms race to health, education and development so that health as fundamental right is ensured to all citizens. The Seminar was organized by the Indian Doctors for Peace and Development (IDPD) as a part of its campaign 'Abolish Nuclear Weapons – Give Peace a Chance'.

Speaking on the occasion Justice R.P. Sethi, former Judge Supreme Court of India the Chief Guest at the function pointed out that the US, as a sole superpower is trying to become global policeman and is dictating its terms defying all the norms and forms of international law and justice. It is therefore essential for people and governments all developing countries that only a peaceful atmosphere can help ameliorate hunger and poverty prevailing in their countries. One billion people die of disease every year and 40,000 infants are dying every day. Eradication of poverty, hunger and disease are essential for a lasting peace. Peace, prosperity and security are complimentary to each other. The subject is most relevant to south Asia as this is one among the most deprived region in the world. It is therefore necessary that both India and Pakistan give more attention to the basic needs of their people rather than falling prey to arms race and nuclear weaponisation. He lauded the role of IDPD for its efforts in promoting peace.

Dr L S Chawla, President IDPD said that doctors all over the world have been concerned with health of the society. History is witness to the unprecedented destruction caused by the atomic bombing by the USA on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. More than 200,000 people had died in those attacks. Present day weapons are several times more deadly than those, which are now a days termed as Toy Bombs. With present stockpile of 30,000 nuclear warheads life on earth can be destroyed 12 times over. World spends about Rs.16000 crores of rupees on arms every day. USA alone spends about Rs.7000 crores. The US is trying to be global policeman as is evident from its aggression on Iraq. This aggression was opposed by the IDPD. It is unfortunate we have also fallen trap in the arms race including nuclear. All along the border there are landmines, which cause loss of human lives due to accident and also loss of cattle. The land fertility is adversely affected. We need to address to the problems of hunger and poverty, which are the agents of mass destruction.

Dr Mahesh Maskey, the Vice President IPPNW South Asian region pointed out that almost all countries of the region at this moment are under the effect of violence. This is causing serious effect on health and education of the people. Referring to the situation in Nepal he said that human rights violation is at its peak in the country. Maoist violence can not be solved with force but by full filling basic minimum needs of the people. Restoration of democratic rights is the essential pre-requisite for peace in Nepal.

Earlier introducing the purpose of the seminar, Dr. Arun Mitra, General Secretary IDPD said that the 21st May has been chosen to hold this seminar because it falls between 11th and 28th May when India and Pakistan carried out nuclear tests in 1998 respectively. The IDPD has since been campaigning for complete denuclearization of the South Asian Region. Perpetual tension between India and Pakistan, terrorism in Sri Lanka, Maoist Violence in Nepal and increasing fundamentalism in Bangladesh have adversely effected, the development process in the region. This region is already one amongst the poorest as per the UNDP report, but it spends huge amount on the arms race. It is therefore essential that mutual cooperation among the countries of the region is strengthened; the issues/disputes are resolved through bilateral dialogue. Only a lasting peace-not the weapons is a guarantee for security. He also informed that whereas the IDPD carries out public awareness campaigns on the question of peace and health, we also lobby with the decision makers. One such Dialogue with Decision Makers (DWDM) was held in February-March 2004 in India and Pakistan.

A nationwide students' exchange program was organized on the occasion. Participation of students was highly impressive both in terms of in quality and number. Dr L.S.Chawla, Dr Mahesh Maskey, Dr Arun Mitra and Dr S.S.Soodan, the principal of ASCOMS College also addressed a press conference on the occasion.

# Russian Diary: European Students' Meeting

*by Ante Petterson, IPPNW European Student Representative*

The European student meeting of IPPNW-students was organized in St. Petersburg, Russia from 22 - 26 of April. The weekend proved a welcome break in the spring schedules of about 90 medical students from around Europe, and a chance to meet like minded (as well as not) people involved with IPPNW.

On Friday morning, the first priority was getting accommodated, finding breakfast, and getting hold of some toilet paper from the reception. All this was made quite a bit more interesting by the language barrier. Luckily, Ann-Polin and Vera were available as interpreters, and when they weren't around non-verbal communication (and some French) helped solve any problems. Before registration, there was panel discussion about young people's chances of participating in Russian politics. Attendance was a bit scarce since most delegations hadn't arrived yet, but as the discussion evolved, it became quite clear that the problems experienced among Russian youth were very similar to those seen in many other countries – young people aren't interested in political issues, and voting percentages stay low. Different reasons for this and ways of getting young people interested about politics were discussed with the help of Ann-Polin's interpretation, and it was agreed that information about political issues aimed at young people was essential.

After the discussion and registration, there was time for a little afternoon nap to augment the hour of bumpy sleep in a bus we had managed the previous night, after which the conference proper started with the opening ceremony. We heard talks by Boris Bondarenko and Igor Korneev, representatives of IPPNW in St. Petersburg, and Vera Brovkina from the Council for Peace and Conciliation. An impressive flashback from the past of IPPNW was the old casualty prediction chart for St. Petersburg, shown by Mr. Bondarenko, which showed that if a nuclear weapon was detonated over the center of the city, the technical school we were staying in would be in a zone spared from the worst destruction, leaving us responsible for taking care of wounded from the other zones. The visits to downtown St. Petersburg in the following days were given a whole new perspective by the display. After the ceremony, the activities in different countries were presented in a project fair

On Saturday we had the opportunity to see some of the sights of the city with the help of the guides, after which the day was continued by workshops. The first workshops were led by different Russian lecturers, while the second round was led by IPPNW lecturers and student activists. Some lecturers had trouble coming to the venue and for example the "peaceful nuclear energy"-workshop was replaced by a spontaneous discussion between Finnish and German students about whether nuclear energy had any future (and the finer points of Kaurismäki movies).

"How to resist the manipulators" by psychologist Vilena Dyakovan aimed at teaching different methods of reacting to provocations and insults causing psychic suffering in a way that did not give the "manipulator" pleasure or accomplishment. The methods presented included partial or full acknowledgment of the critique (for instance, "you are ugly") given ("that's true, I'm ugly"), appealing to personality ("This is the way I look and it makes me who I am"), asking for motives behind the attack ("why do you say such a thing?") and exceptionally odd behavior. It turned out that 'manipulators' were actually what we'd recognize as bullies. A third workshop held by Russian organizers was "Stress caused by threat of nuclear accident or terrorism", held by Elena Shatalova and Tatiana Alferova.

Roman Dolgov's "Small Arms"-workshop concentrated on antipersonnel mines. We received basic information about different types of mines and their usage, the treaties regulating mines, and the politics dealing with the issue. Antipersonnel blast mines are an unnecessarily cruel weapon (though for some reason not prohibited as such), since they are designed to maim and cripple rather than kill and 90% of landmine victims tend to be non-combatants.

The NWIP (Nuclear Weapons Inheritance Project) workshop was held by student activists from IPPNW. The workshop on Saturday gave basic information about nuclear weapons, the project, and how people's attitudes can be changed, while on Sunday the theory was put into practice as we role-played Dialogue-meetings between groups playing NWIP activists and groups playing nuclear weapon-state youth. It turned out that convincing the "Pakistani" or "Russian" youth that their nukes were harmful for them and the world in general wasn't an easy task, and that there were a lot of pitfalls where the discussions might get stuck which should be avoided in a real situation. The role-play taught many important things about the Dialogue-method and was also a very fun experience, which would ideally had been repeated with a chance to avoid the mistakes made and some more facts about weapons, if not for a lack of time. Overall, the NWIP-workshop recruited a lot of interested students from many countries into the project.

On Sunday morning, the workshops continued with the aforementioned second NWIP-workshop, information about the MedEx-project by Alex Rosen, and "Health, Development and Conflict/Peace through Health", which concerned the UN millennium goals and how their effects were intertwined, by Caecilie Buhmann. The afternoon was spent with

workshops dealing with basic skills needed in running an organization, namely fundraising, planning, teambuilding and spreading information.

On Monday, the planned program was a visit to the nuclear power station in Sosnovyj Bor, but sadly the trip was cancelled due to a complex situation involving changed policies and translocated leading boards. Instead, we were to go on a trip to the Nuclear Physics institute in Gatchina, but in the end, we spent the morning gridlocked in traffic, and eventually decided to split up and spend the day in the city. A larger group visited the Museum of Military Medicine, ate filled pancakes, and went on a search for souvenirs and the famed Russian ice-cream (which lived up to its reputation). People had started dropping off during the morning, and eventually, it was time for our group too to thank the hosts for an interesting stay and begin our journey back to our home country.

Among the sleep deprived memories of the conference, I can also place a Russian cultural night and an international night, neither of which my images are very clear of, an elevator incident or two which made some people choose the stairs for the rest of the conference, writing down the number of one's room on the hand (though I eventually learned mine was pjat-tri-tjiriti), learning to dance to drum 'n' bass the Russian way, and faint recollections of being elected European Student Representative for the next 1-2 years to come. In addition to the information gained from the workshops, it was very interesting to see how different the activities of IPPNW-affiliates in different countries are, and perhaps steal or borrow an idea or too from other chapters.

Last, I'd like to thank the organizers for the conference and all the participants for the homely atmosphere. Next year in Napoli, not to mention Helsinki...!

*Ante Peterssen  
European Student Representative, IPPNW*

# Nepalese Students Hold Their National Meet

"Health is a social issue determined by social, economical and political factors. Everything that determines health in turn is determined by politics"- a medical student expressed his view demanding political stability and social justice as major requisite for Health. He urged to view health through social window going beyond the pure Biomedical and techno-dependent boundary .Opinions against the uprising militarism and malignant proliferation of nuclear weapons were voiced and nuclear weapon states and others were asked to comply for NPT and CTBT.

Over sixty students from more than half a dozen of medical colleges and health science institutes participated in the NATIONAL HEALTH STUDENTS' MEET organized by student chapter ,Physicians for Social Responsibility' Nepal (PSRN) on May 28, 2005 at Dhulikhel Medical Institute. With the establishment of PSRN in 1996, student chapter has been actively working in raising and consolidating voices of young medical and health science students for social justice, peace and nuclear disarmament. It involves in creating and sensitizing students in broader aspect of health compounded by interlinked chain of poverty, hunger, injustice, social discrimination and conflict. As a part of the campaign, to involve students from across the country, this program was organized to introduce PSRN, IPPNW and their activities and establish an effective Networking and Communication mechanism.

After the brief introduction of PSRN and IPPNW, presentations following interactive discussions were made on: Health and Human Right, Pen for Peace, Nuclear Hazards, Medical Ethics and Health Status and Delivery System in Nepal. The malicious spectrum of consequences and threats posed by nuclear weapons were highlighted reminding the black history of Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombing in 1946 which engulfed more than 200,000 lives and rendered the cities uninhabitable for ever.

During the program students challenged the doctrine of "War for peace" with the novel doctrine "Pen for Peace". Role of pen as a means to create awareness, educate people, help them understand the reality and stand for their rights were discussed among others. A video show on "Effects of War in Afghanistan's Environment" was screened. Role of health students /professionals within and beyond the profession's boundary was discussed and a networking module, with one student representative from each college, was formulated to work in coordinated and integrated fashion. Paper presentation on "Medical life", game play and photo show reflecting social outlooks were also the part of the program. The forum provided a stage for students to put forth their ideas, discuss and express their solidarity for healthy, peaceful, just and nuclear free world.

# The IPPNW Program Director casts light on the NPT

## What is NPT?

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which came into force in 1970, has been the single most important measure the world has taken to date to prevent the global spread of nuclear weapons and to lay the foundation for their elimination. At the heart of the NPT is a three-part bargain: in exchange for a promise by the non-nuclear weapon states to forswear the acquisition of nuclear weapons (Article II), the nuclear weapon states (NWS) at the Treaty's inception (the US, the Soviet Union, the UK, France, and China) made a commitment to nuclear disarmament (Article VI); as a further incentive, those states wishing to use nuclear energy for "peaceful purposes" would receive technical assistance (Article IV). There are 189 NPT member states, although the decision by North Korea (DPRK) to withdraw from the treaty, which has not been formally accepted, would reduce the number to 188.

## Why is it important?

The NPT has been largely successful in curtailing the spread of nuclear weapons around the world, and lays the foundation for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. Without the NPT, it is likely that many more countries would now have nuclear arsenals of their own, and even more would have nuclear weapons development programs that could produce warheads in a short time.

## What roles did IPPNW play in the recent NPT review conference?

IPPNW sent a delegation of more than 20 physicians, medical students, and staff from at least 9 countries to the Review, where they took part in the May 1 demonstration in Central Park, several NGO panels on disarmament and non-proliferation topics, and formal and informal meetings with member state delegations and embassies. IPPNW medical students presented a panel on disarmament education using the Nuclear Weapons Inheritance Project as a model, and organized several "Target X" events in Times Square, where they educated pedestrians about the medical consequences of nuclear war and the importance of the NPT.

IPPNW worked closely with the NGO community and with representatives of civil society -- particularly the Abolition 2000 network, Mayors For Peace, indigenous communities, youth groups, and *hibakusha* (atomic bomb survivors) -- to write and coordinate a series of presentations, including civil society recommendations on implementing commitments to disarmament and non-proliferation goals. These presentations were made during a formal NGO session of the Review on May 11. IPPNW also helped coordinate two NGO press conferences that were held during the Review to draw attention to the voices of civil society.

## What was the outcome of the conference?

Despite tireless efforts at diplomacy, the 2005 Review was declared a failure by the conference president, Sergio Duarte of Brazil, and by most of the member states who offered concluding statements. The final document was nothing more than a procedural report of the meeting, listing participants, the meetings held, how financial costs would be covered, and other technical matters. On the other hand, many useful proposals were submitted to the Conference on ways to enhance the Treaty and the contributions to the Review by NGOs and other representatives of civil society cannot be overestimated. More than 1,750 NGO delegates were registered with the UN at the start of the Conference. The May Day demonstration drew an estimated 40,000 people and attracted substantial media coverage, and the symbolic presence of *hibakusha* – was very strong. The mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki provided a clear vision for the elimination of nuclear weapons by 2020 in their presentations on behalf of Mayors for Peace. The single most important lesson of this Review is that NGOs, as representatives of global civil society, must help to create the political will that states need to complete the task of creating a nuclear-weapons-free world.

*John Loretz*  
IPPNW Program Director

# IPPNW Co-President Dr. Ron McCoy talks about the NPT, IPPNW and himself

**e-Pulse:** Tell us a little about IPPNW: when did this organization begin and the impetus for its creation? What role has IPPNW, as the only international medical organization dedicated to the abolition of nuclear weapons, played in the global movement?

**McCoy:** IPPNW was founded in 1980 at the height of the Cold War, when the momentum of the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe threatened to propel the two protagonists to nuclear war and 'mutual assured destruction.' As the only international medical organization dedicated to the abolition of nuclear weapons, IPPNW has unique credibility, professional authority and public trust when it advocates the abolition of nuclear weapons. The publication of medical research into the catastrophic effects of blast, radiant heat and ionizing radiation on the population of Boston, in the event of a nuclear war, based on the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, had a dramatic impact on the consciousness of a world teetering on the brink of nuclear war in the 1980s. For this work in public health education, IPPNW received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985 and continues to play this role in all disarmament forums. Since then, IPPNW has grown into a global federation of national physicians' groups that affirm the Hippocratic principle - first, do no harm. In that context, IPPNW seeks to understand the economic and social causes of violence and war and the need to prevent war. IPPNW argues against the greater reliance on military power by the powerful and wealthy to advance narrow national interests and strategies that depend upon nuclear weapons.

**e-Pulse:** What is the greatest priority for your organization at this Conference?

**McCoy:** The greatest priority at the 2005 NPT Review would be for both nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states to show good faith by complying with their legal obligations under the NPT and taking a balanced approach to the mutually reinforcing imperatives of nuclear disarmament and nuclear nonproliferation. The nuclear weapon states must renounce both the use of nuclear weapons and the development of new nuclear weapons, and proceed immediately to de-alerting. Non-nuclear weapon states must renounce all ambitions to acquire nuclear weapons and fulfill their obligations in the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, under Article IV and the Additional Protocol.

**e-Pulse:** In your view, what would be the best outcome of the Conference? And, the worst?

**McCoy:** In the case of the worst scenario, how will the international community handle the crisis of nuclear weapons, if the Review Conference should fail to significantly strengthen the regime? The best outcome of the Conference would be for the nuclear weapon states to generate the necessary political will to strengthen the NPT by immediately building on the 13 Practical Steps agreed at the 2000 NPT Review, all of which flow from their fundamental "unequivocal undertaking" to eliminate their nuclear arsenals. The worst outcome of the Conference would be for the nuclear weapon states to repudiate their commitments made at the 2000 NPT Review and for stalemate in the NPT process to deteriorate further, leading to further unraveling of the NPT and withdrawal of more States Parties from the NPT, as in the case of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. If this crisis were to happen and there was no way to build a bridge between nuclear disarmament and nuclear proliferation after 35 years of diplomatic gamesmanship, the international community would be faced with the realization that it must look beyond the NPT and take a new approach by emulating the Ottawa process and adopting a framework for the abolition of nuclear weapons through a Nuclear Weapons Convention, which is now more feasible through advances in verification technology and compliance procedures. This will take advantage of the substantial conceptual work that has already been done on the legal, technical and political requirements for achieving and maintaining a nuclear weapons free world. In fact, a Model Nuclear Weapons Convention has been submitted and circulated in the United Nations. A political judgment will be needed on whether the verification regime will offer sufficient levels of assurance, acknowledging at the same time that no verification system can provide absolute certainty. It is inevitable that some risk of attempted breakout will have to be accepted, if the greater benefits of a safer nuclear weapon free world are to be realized. In a globalizing world where the effectiveness and destructive force of conventional weapons are increasing, the development of an illegal nuclear force would be self-defeating. Nuclear disarmament is primarily a positive obligation to undertake the technical process of dismantling and eliminating nuclear weapons, whereas nuclear abolition is a positive obligation to eliminate nuclear weapons, combined with a normative process of prohibiting the acquisition, transfer, use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. In other words, nuclear abolition is the synthesis of the two competing approaches in the NPT process - disarmament and non-proliferation. The concept of an abolition framework is therefore closer to what the nuclear weapon states have already agreed on disarmament and it encompasses their concerns about proliferation. It may be an easier framework with which to engage the nuclear weapon states than one which focuses mainly on disarmament. An independent Ottawa-style conference on nuclear abolition would generate considerable media

coverage and political pressure on all nuclear weapon states, declared and undeclared, to abandon nuclear weapons and embrace abolition. Whatever the reasons or concerns that have led some States to develop nuclear weapons and doctrines in the name of security, nuclear weapons pose an unacceptable threat to human civilization and must be abolished. Nuclear weapons are weapons of genocide and totally annihilate populations. For 35 years, the NPT has failed abysmally to rid the world of nuclear weapons. The majority of the people of the world want nuclear weapons abolished. It is time to look for new ways to translate the will of the majority into democratic action to overturn the malfeasance of the few.

**e-Pulse:** How did you get interested in disarmament and nonproliferation issues?

**McCoy:** I've had an interest in international relations for a very long time that goes back to the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of the Second World War and the liberation of Malaysia from Japanese occupation. It was only after reading John Hershey's book, *Hiroshima*, years later that I began to understand the true nature of nuclear weapons. In 1986, when I read about the activities of IPPNW and its British affiliate, Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons, in the *British Medical Journal*, I became a member of MCANW and began my involvement in nuclear disarmament. A year later, I founded the Malaysian affiliate of IPPNW and have been its chair since. My work in IPPNW has grown over the years, first as Malaysian international councilor and later as vice-president, co-president and president of IPPNW. I've had a close working relationship with the Malaysian government on disarmament and was a member of the Malaysian government's delegation when it made its oral submission on the legal status of nuclear weapons to the International Court of Justice in 1995. I was a member of the Canberra Commission on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons in 1996.

**e-Pulse:** Dr. McCoy, thank you for this interview.

# Be aware, Your City is the Next Target!

Do you know that the IPPNW students have started targeting different cities in the world with nuclear weapons? Shocked? Don't be. They are not trying to destroy the cities with the nuke heads as was done in the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki almost 60 years ago but are simply trying to make people aware of the threats of nuclear weapons that loom over them through a project called "Target X" (go to <http://www.ippnw-students.org/Target> for details). They have started it from New York last May and soon will be reaching other parts of the world if you are ready to help them in their effort.

Using public demonstrations to show the still existing danger of a nuclear attack, medical students can contribute to the international campaign to ban nuclear weapons and help raise awareness for this issue in their local community. A large red "X", painted on the central square of your city, with white-coated medical students standing around it, handing out information material and engaging in discussions with passersby can achieve what seminars, conferences never can.

So, now your cooperation is sought to help to install "an orchestrated Target-X", in as many cities over the world as possible, on coming 6th of August. They are hoping that media will be interested in this project if they will be able to have 10-15 major cities with the targets as a part of the project, and might broadcast them ideally on August 9, with pictures from the various cities. This, of course, does not mean that you cannot participate if you live in a small city. Ever single Target-X project is important, in order to send the message out to the people of the world!

So, what do you need to do in order to be part of this great project? You have to be about 4-6 people, find out what restrictions your city-government has for installations like this, and if you have to register, write to us an e-mail saying that you would like to participate and go to the Target-X website to get more information, handout materials, etc. You have to take pictures best with a digital camera while you set an installation and send the pictures to us right away and also to the press (together with other pictures we send to you). Then, see if your local and regional newspapers, television might be interested in the project.

This might sound like a lot of work. But the great thing about Target-X is that it is actually really easy to set it into action. And, you don't have to be a medical student in order to participate (even though you might find that on the website). It's more important that you are motivated, know a little bit about the subject (and maybe read some of the things you can find on the IPPNW students website) and are young at heart.

Visit [www.ippnw-students.org/Target](http://www.ippnw-students.org/Target) for more infos...

# The Second Round of Refugee Camp Project

After the great launching of the first round of refugee camp project (ReCap) last year in Palestine, it is ready to enter into the second round this August. ReCap is a project to familiarize the medical students of the situation of a refugee camp and to help the refugee children by teaching them language or other skills.

The program, usually, begins with a four-day conference and workshop in Abu Dis to familiarize the participants with the culture, politics and history of the country. Here, they know about Palestinian medical students and doctors, ask all the questions they might have and experience hands-on the situation in the Palestinian territories.

Once equipped with the new knowledge on Palestine, the group will then move to the refugee camps. The work there will mostly consist of working and playing with the children with the help of language lessons, music lessons, art therapy and drama, as well as computers and sports. The participants will also develop workshops on topics of their choice (First aid, dental hygiene etc.) to help the children of various refugee camps in the Bethlehem area.

For three days of the week the group will go to the hospitals and refugee clinics by rotation and attend morning rounds in order to observe the health care delivery and analyze the shortcomings and necessary interventions.

Do you think you are interested in this project? In this one-month project, we are looking for energetic, enthusiastic and honest student leaders who are ready to make a difference. This is supposed to kick off on August 15<sup>th</sup> and there are different ways you can help.

For details look on: <http://www.ipnw-students.org/ReCap/> or email to: [ps.recap@gmail.com](mailto:ps.recap@gmail.com).

# South Asian Medical Team for Dialogue&Reconciliation

With two rival countries pointing their nuclear warheads to each other, South Asia region continues to be a potential epicenter of nuclear calamities in the world. However, for some time now, the hostilities between these two countries have weakened due to enormous effort from civil society, I/NGOs and people from all sectors of society and also to some extent, due to sanity in the part of politicians from both countries.

The nuke issues in SA shouldn't be viewed in isolation but these are the manifestation of traditional power relations in the region and this is compounded by changing power balance in post September 11 world. The nuke issues in SA are graver than it may seem to many people since it absorbs a great deal of development resources of poverty-stricken people who are largely illiterate about the dreadful consequences of nukes.

Politicians have been able to cajole these innocent people and have filled in these people a fake sense of security purchased by enormous investment in nuclear and conventional arsenals. In turn, these innocent and poor people are robbed off their breads from their mouths and clothes from their body and their children deprived of light of education. Ironically, they are made to rejoice hyping about the false sense of being strong with the nuclear weapons.

Being raised under constant threat of an imminent nuclear warfare, the role of physicians and the medical students from the region can't be undermined .Having this at the back of the mind a novel project has been framed named South Asian Medical Team for Dialogue and Reconciliation which sets its goals for the advocating nuclear abolition starting from the South Asia region and hence providing it a regional touch and the concern. The project is recently in the pipeline and a major undertaking of the South Asia Regional Centre of IPPNW in Kathmandu, Nepal.

# Busy NWIP

NWIP has been as busy as ever after the world congress in China in last September. After the conference, a group of students immediately went to US for dialogues with students in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. In March 2005, a group of NWIP-students went to Russia for dialogues and training sessions. At the same time, another group had three workshops during the student PSR conference in Chicago, USA.

NWIP energetically worked during the European Student Conference in St. Petersburg (April 22nd-25th). Inga Blum, Martina Grosch, Camilla Mattsson, Thomas Silfverberg, Rune Dahl, Simon Achter, Jenny Immerstrand and Caecilie Buhmann all attended the conference and ran workshops on Nuclear Abolition and organized a presentation on the Nuclear Weapons Inheritance Project for the Project Fair.

Then NWIP took part in the important Nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, which took place in New York in May. Besides, the NWIP students had a panel discussion with delegates at the conference about the issue of Nuclear Inheritance and the medical point of view on Nuclear Abolition. During the conference IPPNW students successfully organized the first part of the installation in New York as part of the "Target X project".

In Germany, NWIP students organized a Nuclear Awareness Campaign Day for medical students in Hamburg and are involved in a process of introducing nuclear issues into the high school curriculum. In addition, NWIP has been playing an important part within the German student movement, organizing workshops at student conferences and recruiting new student members for NWIP.

In Pakistan and India, NWIP students are currently organizing the upcoming NWIP delegations to their countries this August and would love to have some help. Similarly students in China are working to arrange the first delegation of NWIP to China next year.

In coming September, the NWIP students will be participating in a roundtable with the NATO officials in Brussels. For details see: [www.ippnw-students.org/NWIP](http://www.ippnw-students.org/NWIP).

Thanks to Inga, Camilla and Martina for all their great work and wish NWIP remained as busy as ever. If you want to participate in any of the upcoming events, then email:

Camilla [camillanwip@yahoo.se](mailto:camillanwip@yahoo.se), and Inga [ingablum@gmx.de](mailto:ingablum@gmx.de).

# Student Exchange Project in New Clothes

As the first session of MedEx, Medical Student Exchange Project of IPPNW students could not work out as was planned, more flexible, more versatile and more attractive model has been tried out. MedEx (Medical Exchange), which was supposed to give medical students from all over the world the chance to practice abroad for a certain amount of time will now use IPPNW's greatest asset - socially responsible doctors all over the world - to facilitate medical exchanges; at the same time strengthening local groups and international networks of medical students.

From now onwards, local student groups or IPPNW physicians will have to register with the MedEx project and offer placement at their university hospital, clinic, private practice etc. To help in this process, a MedEx site has been designed which consists of three components: accommodation for incoming students, a clinical rotation and a social project.

Any student interested in participating in the exchange can download the application form from the website. MedEx team will put the applicant in contact with the local organizers. While students are generally expected to pay for their travel to the exchange site themselves, financial aid can be applied for and the local organizers also try to minimize costs for incoming students, for example by offering free accommodation.

Looking that it's very simple process, a few new countries have recently joined the MedEx family. Local student groups in Dublin and Cologne have sat down and organized placement in a local hospital, arranged for possible accommodation and have decided on a social project so that Germany and Ireland have now joined the list of MedEx sites, which already included the Philippines, Egypt, Zambia, Kenya and Canada. Each exchange is unique and very different.

So, now it's time to sit down with your local student group and decide whether you would like to also offer a MedEx placement. The more people participate, the broader the program will be, the more networking will be possible and the more the IPPNW student movement will grow together.

For more information go to: [www.ippnw-students.org/MedEx.html](http://www.ippnw-students.org/MedEx.html).

# In the Pipeline

## Delegation to North Korea

As a part of its Dialogue with Decision Makers (DwDM) projects, IPPNW is planning a delegation team to North Korea. It is scheduled to start on coming 24<sup>th</sup> August. It will be a team of doctors and medical students from different parts of the world. The team is supposed to talk to the doctors and medical students and other people at decision making while in Korea. This delegation is aimed at building strong relations with the IPPNW Korean affiliate and giving lectures on the medical consequences of nuclear war and the ways ahead for disarmament in North Asian region.

If you think yourself interested in joining the team, please contact Drs Stephan Kolb and Lars Pohlmeier at their emails: [Stephan.Kolb@klinikum-nuernberg.de](mailto:Stephan.Kolb@klinikum-nuernberg.de) and [lena.selig@gmx.de](mailto:lena.selig@gmx.de).

## North Asia Conference in Hiroshima

The IPPNW is holding its North Asia Conference in the historical city of Hiroshima, Japan this August 20 -21. Doctors, medical students and people working on peace and disarmament issues will participate in the conference. This conference is aimed at paving ways for disarmament in North Asia by helping settle the disputes between different countries in the region.

The conference will be held in the Hiroshima Memorial Museum. If you want to participate in the conference, please contact Sachiyo Oki ( [jppnw@hiroshima.med.or.jp](mailto:jppnw@hiroshima.med.or.jp) and Ryoma Kayona ( [ryoma@mx.cncm.ne.jp](mailto:ryoma@mx.cncm.ne.jp)).

## South Asia meeting to be held in India

The Indian affiliate of The IPPNW, Indian Doctors for Peace and Development (IDPD) is hosting a South Asia meeting in Patna, India. The occasion is the observation of 60<sup>th</sup> Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day. The representatives of different affiliates from the region will participate in the conference which is scheduled for August 6 – 9.

If interested to participate in the conference organized by IDPD, please contact: Dr Arun Mitra, the general secretary of IDPD, [idpd@yahoo.com](mailto:idpd@yahoo.com).

## IPPNW students to meet in Nigeria

The IPPNW students from Africa are meeting this December in Nigeria. In the city of Jos, the students will talk about the possibility of strengthening IPPNW students' movement in Africa region. They also will talk on how to make the African priorities match with that of the IPPNW movement in the region.

The meeting is being hosted by IFMSA, Nigeria. If you are interested on this please contact: Alex Rosen ([alexro80@web.de](mailto:alexro80@web.de)) or log on: [www.ippnw-students/jos](http://www.ippnw-students/jos).

# Next Issue

## **Hiroshima Special**

The next issue will be exclusively dedicated to the commemoration of 60 years of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We will try to focus on the horrible atomic bombings at Hiroshima and Nagasaki and their dangerous consequences. We will also try to bring out articles which will evaluate and give insight on the movement for peace and disarmament worldwide.

All the interested readers/writers are requested to send articles related to Hiroshima, Nagasaki and the disarmament movement.

The next issue will also highlight the activities which are being planned to commemorate the atomic bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki worldwide. So, if you, your organization or your national affiliate of IPPNW is trying to organize programs to observe this day on August 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, please email that to us, we will publicize your programs.

So, please send anything – memories, experiences, insights, achievements or activities planned - you have in conjunction to this important day to us at [epulse.magazine@gmail.com](mailto:epulse.magazine@gmail.com) .