

# Report

Thinkers Lodge,  
Pugwash - Nova Scotia,  
12-13 July 2015

**Workshop: *Strengthening the young disarmament network***  
**Organised by: International Student/Young Pugwash**

The International Student/Young Pugwash (ISYP) network convened a workshop at the Thinkers Lodge on the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2015, inviting nine young students from Canada, the USA, the UK and Israel, to discuss ways in which the network of young disarmament advocates can be enhanced.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of July, after brief introductions (many participants were new to each other, and some to ISYP and Pugwash in general) and a welcome speech from Sandra Ionno Butcher – Executive Director of Pugwash Conferences and former Director of Student Pugwash USA for eight years – the participants shared their personal and national experiences. While some participants have been working with ISYP or Pugwash for a while, many were less experienced. However, they expressed a particular enthusiasm in enhancing activities in their respective countries and setting up student groups in their universities. It was agreed that the support of ISYP and national Pugwash branches is crucial in enabling national student and youth activities. Furthermore, participants discussed ways in which ISYP can become more active despite low resources. The idea of setting up an ISYP meeting when two or more students attend Isodarco or the NPT Prep Conference was pointed out.

On the second day of the workshop, participants focused on ideas and initiatives that would strengthen activities both at the national and international levels. Attention was given to the upcoming ISYP conference in Nagasaki on 30-31 October 2015; the conference represents an excellent opportunity to plan actions on the short and long term. As a group, we aim at encouraging existing Pugwash student groups, engaging with new audiences as well as ensuring continuity and sustainability of the network.

## ***Projects and initiatives discussed:***

### **1. Prior to the Nagasaki conference**

**a) Website** – the ISYP website is in need of upgrading. It is currently a Wiki-based website, maybe it can be linked to the International Pugwash website.

**b) Discussion forum** – In order to showcase the intellectual resources and wide geographic representation of the ISYP network, it was suggested that the new website hosts a forum section for short op-ed style pieces on the variety of topics of interest to ISYP. The management of the forum could be on a rotational basis by region, or one of the 9 Board members could manage it monthly.

**c) ISYP strategic goals** – Questions were raised as to whether ISYP had a project plan. It was considered by all to be a useful aim to try and set annual goals for activities or a plan for the interim before the next major ISYP conference. Equally, participants asked whether it would be helpful to coordinate small groups of people assigned to look after specific tasks (e.g. website, journal, outreach, etc).

## 2. During the Nagasaki conference

a) **Outreach in Nagasaki** – The group will ensure that a variety of activities will be undertaken in Nagasaki. An idea would be to film interviews with Hibakushas and high-school kids in Nagasaki and post them on the new ISYP website.

b) **ISYP Journal** – The web-based ISYP journal has been moribund since 2007 but its re-activation was discussed. Following conversations with its then editor, Arthur Petersen, there was encouragement that it could be re-launched. The, approximately thirty research papers presented at the Nagasaki Conference can be used to re-start the journal. However, its format will have to be discussed (it was previously peer-reviewed). There was enthusiasm from several participants to aid in the editing and selection process.

## 3. Longer term projects

a) **A workshop series at the Thinkers Lodge** – The workshop on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2015 was the first in a series of workshops, on a multi-year project, to reinvigorate and connect national points of contact across the globe. After discussions with members of the Thinkers Lodge Society and Pugwash Parks Commission there was much enthusiasm for ensuring that ISYP continues to hold meetings in Pugwash.

b) **Joint funding proposals** – The participants felt it would be an excellent initiative for ISYP to pursue funding for activities that would link national groups, either regionally or globally. One example was a Middle East regional discussion to be held in a neutral country.

c) **Other smaller ideas/products not requiring much funding** – these could be managed by willing volunteers or Board members, even on rotation as suggested above.

i) **Joint academic papers** – We should explore promoting articles jointly authored that can sustain the ISYP journal.

ii) **Website-based discussion/conversations/exchanges** – The isyp.org website could be a venue for short op-ed style pieces that engage on a topic or regional development.

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### Participants list (including nationality):

1. **Jamie Boley**, *University of Western Ontario (Canada)*
2. **Sandra Ionno Butcher**, *Executive Director of Pugwash, London, UK (US)*
3. **Poul-Erik Christiansen**, *ISYP Board and University of Ottawa, Canada (Denmark/UK)*
4. **Brandon Friedman**, *ISYP and Tel Aviv University (Israel)*
5. **Kyle Gracey**, *Vice-President of Student Pugwash USA and Carnegie Mellon University (US)*
6. **Emma Hansen**, *University of Toronto (Canada)*
7. **Yonatan Maher**, *University of Tel Aviv (Israel)*
8. **Kevin Miletic**, *British Student/Young Pugwash and SOAS, London, UK (Switzerland)*
9. **Jonathan Miller**, *ISYP, Boston (US)*
10. **Alexandra Tsamados**, *British Pugwash Student & Youth Coordinator, London, UK (France/Greece)*



Alexandra Tsamados  
SYP Coordinator  
British Pugwash