

Remarks at Awards Ceremony of
Eisaku Sato Essay Contest

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Mrs. Sato, Mr. Nishihara, Distinguished Winners of this year's Eisaku Sato essay contest, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the United Nations University including its governing Council whose members from many parts of the world are now present here, I would like to express our great pleasure at the privilege of taking part for the third time in this awards ceremony.

First, I would like to extend my greetings to Mrs. Sato. Your husband, the late Prime Minister and the 1974 Nobel Peace Prize, was a man who strove to contribute to free the world from nuclear fears. I, therefore, express my admiration at your efforts to perpetuate his vision of peace and particularly so through this annual essay contest. You are not only doing so as the wife of the late Prime Minister but also in your own personal capacity, and I appreciate it all the more.

My sincere congratulations go to the seven winners of the contest whose essays are of particular relevance to the United Nations University as the essay theme was "What the UNU can do

in research for global disarmament and security". This theme has been at the very centre of three of our seminars during the last quarter of 1982. Your essays are hence a valuable input for the UNU, and I must thank you for this spirit of dialogue and cooperation.

The desire for peace is of course very much on our minds in these times of increased nuclear danger, economic confrontation through protectionism and other forms of economic reprisals, perspectives of persistent high levels of unemployment and slow economic growth in the developed countries of the North and general pessimism among the younger generation. Indeed, it is not uncommon for young people to even accept the eventuality of not living their natural life spans.

The complex interrelationships of these problems has been clearly perceived by Mr. Inoue, winner of the Grand Prize and Secretary-General of the Japan Chuo UNESCO Association. I congratulate you for the understanding you have shown in your essay for economic internationalism, disarmament as a weapon for peace, and women's participation as a means for strengthening democracy and peace, for the two are inseparable.

At the UNU, such problems are a very central focus, and we are seeking to promote global discussions on these issues. A study of peace in the context of the present global transformation is a major new activity of the University's recently broadened work plan. The world has lost political control over the nuclear arms race

and arms trade. A labour force of more than one hundred million is paid directly or indirectly by defence ministries. Twenty-five million men and women are in the armed forces, 10 million in the paramilitary and another 4 million civilians are employed in government defence departments. Moreover, 500,000 scientists and engineers - one out of five in the world - are engaged in military research and development, and the arms race represents an annual expense of 600 billion dollars, a rough and maybe underestimated approximation according to experts. I do not need to stress the economic implications of this situation and how it impacts on the lives and fears of people everywhere. It is, therefore, with no surprise that we see people telling governments and experts to go back to their drawing boards and come up with better solutions. New political and cultural constituencies are establishing themselves and we at the UNU are studying their development from their starting point as movements based on single issues to those with a broader global outlook. The crux of the problem is that of a greater popular participation in a framework of freedom and democracy. The UNU is trying to be the common platform for this global approach toward peace.

It has only recently become clearer that we will have to learn that the only viable new approaches to old and difficult problems as well as newly emerging ones are of an interconnectional and interrelational nature. Sciences are intertwined and it is with this in mind that we at the UNU advocate interdisciplinarity,

multidisciplinarity, and multidimensionality. I could say it more prosaically by stating that before the end of the century we will have to learn to live in a world with six billion people, with a graying population, and with fewer resources. Hence, it is clear that conflict resolution must be part and parcel of this multidimensional process of peace.

Let me also congratulate Mr. Yamada of Tokyo University for his First Prize essay in Japanese and hope that it will be an encouragement in his quest for peace and at a level of academic excellence. He has correctly identified the issue that the UNU might add to its peace-oriented activities. The list of global problems can easily be expanded.

It is the first time that English language essays are receiving prizes. I welcome this very much and would like to congratulate the other first prize winner, Mr. Pradip K. Ghosh, who is at the Centre for Advanced Study of International Development at Michigan State University in the U. S. A. I am sorry that he could not be with us tonight. He has stressed the incompatibility of the uncontrolled arms race and the New International Economic Order. I would go even further and add that because of this uncontrolled arms race, the world could plunge deeper and deeper into an international disorder. Mr. Ghosh has put forward twelve propositions focusing on the armament and development problematique for a "unique university" with a "strategic advantage". This is in line with the expectations of people in the UNU which we try to meet - the road to peace is far more sinuous and difficult than

the short cut to violent confrontations.

My warm congratulations also to Mr. Bin Okai, Mr. Sadao Kamata, and Ms. Hiroko Haga for their essays in Japanese and to Mr. Sylvano Mahiwo for his in English.

Taken together, this year's Sato Prize winners provide valuable insights on the problems of global disarmament and security which we of the UNU welcome very much.

Thank you.