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RESEARCH INITIATIVE: NUCLEAR ENERGY

INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP

Meridian 180's Nuclear Working Group was formed in 2016 and is composed of members from Finland, Japan, Korea, former Soviet Republics, and the U.S. from academia and the private sector, including eight research universities. Members include science & technology experts, anthropologists, policy specialists, citizen activists, international law authorities, private attorneys representing nuclear accident survivors, as well as lawyers representing the nuclear power industry.



Nuclear Working Group members presenting to European Union policymakers (photo by Michael Chia)

With 55 countries operating 250 civil research nuclear reactors and 31 countries home to more than 440 nuclear energy reactors, nuclear energy is a cross border issue with wide ranging impact on individuals, communities, businesses, and national economies. Founded in the aftermath of the Fukushima nuclear disaster, Meridian 180 has brought a wide range of inquiry to the debate about nuclear energy, with the goal of moving beyond polarized arguments about the benefits and risks, and toward designing a comprehensive and sustainable framework for nuclear energy planning and policy that is applicable to nation-states around the world.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

WHITE PAPER: Nuclear Accident Compensation Schemes, Spring 2018. As part of the Einaudi Center's Global Perspective imprint at the Cornell University Press, Meridian 180's Nuclear Energy Working Group will release a comparative study of U.S., Soviet/post-Soviet, and Japanese nuclear accident compensation schemes that reveals the ad hoc and rapid way victim compensation is cobbled together after nuclear accidents. Among its recommendations, the report underscores the critical need for a comprehensive, democratic and transnational planning process for nuclear accidents compensation policies before the next nuclear disaster.

POLICY BRIEFING: Do We Know the True Costs of Nuclear Energy? Brussels, Belgium, May 2017. Members of Meridian 180's Nuclear Energy Working Group discussed current practices and necessary reforms in the fields of nuclear safety and risk preparedness with the input of European Union policymakers, citizen activists, and nuclear energy sector leaders.

MEDIA BRIEFING: Nuclear Accident Compensation Schemes, Tokyo, Japan, March 2017. On the 6th anniversary of the Fukushima nuclear accident, Japanese media are briefed on the limitations and inadequacies of current nuclear accident compensation schemes in the U.S., Soviet/post-Soviet countries, and Japan.



Cornell Law School



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GLOBAL SUMMIT: Developing Proposals for Risk Mitigation in the Asia-Pacific Region, Okinawa, Japan July 2016. This 2-day meeting gathered academics and experts from a wide range of disciplines to identify risks and future crises facing the Asia-Pacific Region, including nuclear energy. From this international conference was born the Meridian 180 Nuclear Working Group, a group of activists, lawyers, and academicians focused on an international approach toward nuclear energy policy.

ROUNDTABLE Five Years After Fukushima: What Have We Learned from Nuclear Accidents? March 2016. Experts from Yale University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies in Japan discuss safety and energy issues surrounded the nuclear accidents at Fukushima, Chernobyl, and Three Mile Island.

DIGITAL CONFERENCE: Nuclear Energy and Climate Change December 2015–January 2016. The Fukushima nuclear accident brought new urgency to the linked debates over the future of nuclear energy and the need to decarbonize energy production. In this forum, participants sought to identify outstanding research questions about nuclear power, in specific light of four interrelated debates about nuclear power: climate change and the world’s energy need, disasters and accidents, nuclear proliferation and terrorism, and economics and global justice. Convened participants from China, Japan, Korea, and United States from 14 unique research universities and the private sector.

DIGITAL CONFERENCE: A Grand Coalition for a Rise in the Consumption Tax Is the Only Way, March –May 2011. Organized by a University of Tokyo professor serving as a specialist for the Japanese National Cabinet, this digital conference brought together experts from Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea, and the US to examine possible political and economic reforms for the Japanese government to initiate in response to the twin disasters of the Great Tohoku Earthquake and Fukushima nuclear disaster.

DIGITAL CONFERENCE: A Cry from the Scene March –May 2011. Meridian 180 first forum was prompted by the Great Tohoku Earthquake and the subsequent Fukushima nuclear disaster, and focused on the possibilities and threats in the areas of religion, science and the public accountability of government officials after disasters. Convened academicians from the disciplines of law, religion, and anthropology as well as government officials and members of the private sector from Japan, China, Taiwan, the US, and Korea.

For more information, please contact Meridian 180 at admin@meridian-180.org

Meridian 180 is a multilingual forum for transformative leadership. Its global membership of 800+ thought leaders in academia, government, and business work together to generate ideas and guidance on the most important problems of our time. Collaborative work takes place in English, Japanese, Korean, and Chinese languages on a digital platform and through live meetings and multidisciplinary working groups. Born out of the nuclear disaster in Fukushima, Japan, Meridian 180’s current focus includes global financial governance, environmental governance, and data governance. Meridian 180 is a partnership of Cornell Law School, Ewha Womans University (South Korea), University of Tokyo (Japan), University of New South Wales (Sydney), and Cornell University’s Einaudi Center for International Studies. More information is available at <http://www.MERIDIAN-180.org>.