

Prospectus of Establishment

Japan Action Network on Small Arms (JANSA) is a network of Japanese NGOs that are members of International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA). IANSA, Based in London, consists of about 500 participant groups in nearly 100 countries at present.

JANSA hereby declares its intent on the establishment to:

(1) commit to countering all the issues caused by small arms with the complete settlement of the problems in view. While respecting values of diverse organizations sharing same concerns in the world, we shall utilize the characteristic of our own civil society for the purpose.

Currently, small arms deprive lives of 500,000 people a year at rate of one person a minute. Of those victims 90% are civilians, and among them 80% are women and children. Furthermore, with the widespread availability of small arms, their compactness and handiness has enabled more children to be soldiers in the war front. At present, more than 300,000 children under 18 are fighting in the battlefield as soldiers. Consequently small arms, claiming innocent lives of the socially vulnerable of women and children, have become one of the biggest threats to 'Human Security'

To make matters worse, small arms have complicated post-conflict process in escaping poverty in the disputed areas: of the national budgets, more is allocated to arm purchase than to poverty programs. Inundation of small arms has destabilized the societies with increasing crime rate and deteriorating civil order, and has made it difficult for people in those areas to gain steady incomes. Further, poverty and wealth gap can be sources of people's frustration and seeds of discord, which will potentially lead to new conflicts and terrorist activities.

Thus influx of small arms, while creating 'vicious circle of poverty and disputes' by prolonging condition of poverty and causing new disputes, has been a major obstacle to sustainable development

(2) play an active role domestically in raising awareness and making policy proposals for the issues of small arms. With Three Basic Principles of Arm Export: the policy that restricts conditions for exporting arms: Japan has not ever exported military weapons abroad. It has also actively involved the issues by introducing resolutions to call for reduction in small arms to the U.N. General Assembly every year. JANSA recognizes Japan has to fulfill a significant role and responsibility in international efforts against small arms as a political and economical big power of one of G8 members.