

# Nuclear Connections Across Oceania: Coming Together to Address Nuclear Imperialism, Nuclear Colonialism, and Their Material Consequences

## Long Conference Programme

Friday 25th and Saturday 26th November 2022  
(NZDT/GMT +1300)

*Last updated: 24 November 2022*

### Day 1 – Friday, 25 November 2022 (all times listed in NZDT/GMT +1300)

**9:00 am** Mihi whakatau and opening remarks by Revd Dr Wayne Te Kaawa

**9:30 am** Housekeeping

**9:35 am** Conference introduction by Karly Burch, Mino Cleverley, and Suzanne Collins-Menzies

**9:50 am** Keynote by Hilda Halkyard-Harawira

**11:00 am** Morning tea

**11:20 am** Knowing, feeling and communicating nuclear imperialism and nuclear colonialism through poetry, maps, multimedia art, documentary, and more

**Session Organiser:** Karly Burch

**Session Speakers:** Mere Tuilau, Emily Simmonds, Sonja Mueller, Karly Burch, Lisa Viliamu Jameson, Toshiko Tanaka, Reiko Tashiro, Olivia Shimasaki, Sylvia Frain, and Katherine Aigner

In this session, we will share various methods for knowing, feeling and communicating nuclear imperialism and nuclear colonialism (two core themes of our conference). Through engaging with maps, poetry, multimedia art and documentary film, we will invite conference participants to reflect on the value of different learning tools and forms of expertise (artist, activist, academic, and beyond). Together we will explore the importance of learning tools which engage both our thinking minds and our hearts. These reflections will set the foundation for the rest of the conference, where various methods will be used to communicate the material consequences of nuclear imperialism and nuclear colonialism, as well as how we might work together to educate others about these issues so we can collectively transform these unsustainable relations of domination which threaten all life on Earth.

**12:30 pm** Lunch

**1:30 pm** Pacific voices

**Session Organiser:** Mino Cleverley

**Session Speakers:** Talei Mangioni, Georgina Oroi, Bulou Alanieta Vereivalu Uluitavuki Wavu, Ronny Ato Buai Kareni, Wayne Kijner, Eroni Donumaitoga Wavu, Joy Lehuanani Enomoto, and Mere Tuilau

This session brings critical, creative and frontline advocates together through the spirit of “Wansolwara,” a Tok Pisin term meaning “One Salt Water,” or “One Ocean, One People,” to explore trans-Indigenous historical and contemporary movements for self-determination, decolonisation and demilitarisation of Wansolwara which the panellists view as indivisible from the fight for a nuclear-free region. In conversation with our matua of the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific, the speakers will engage archival audio and visual materials to share through provocations, meditations and artistic expressions on the current issues that face our “sea of islands”. Through talanoa, speakers representing various movements including

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Youngsolwara Pacific, MISA4ThePacific, the Free West Papua Campaign, Pacific Youth for TPNW and ICAN Australia will reflect on the decolonial possibilities of Oceanic solidarities, the importance of accountability to Indigenous peoples and lands, and the commitment beyond and through inevitable conflicts and tensions that accompany coalition work. We believe that this is needed by organisers and allies alike in the collective struggle for peace and justice for our Wansolwara.

**2:50 pm**     **Afternoon tea**

**Meeting of the Indigenous peoples caucus (led by Mino Cleverley)**

**3:20 pm**     **A story of a Hiroshima hibakusha and her use of art with civil society to call for a world without nuclear weapons**

**Session Organiser: Jamie Cave**

**Session Speakers: Toshiko Tanaka and Reiko Tashiro**

Today, the average age of hibakusha is over 84-years, and opportunities for the world to hear their first-hand testimonies are dwindling. On the other hand, movements by hibakusha and international civil society for the abolition of nuclear weapons are accelerating. This session is an opportunity to hear the testimony of Toshiko Tanaka, a survivor of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima 2.3 km from the hypocentre at age 6. She will talk about her experience as well as her peace activities over the past 50 years calling for a world without nuclear weapons. Tanaka is an enamel mural artist and has participated in numerous art projects including by the United Nations and civil society. She will also discuss how the stories of hibakusha, and art, have the potential to change perspectives, leading to future possibilities for peace.

Reiko will discuss the challenges and hopes she experiences and shares with second-generation hibakusha as well as their various activism being uniquely positioned to pass on hibakusha stories and work within civil society towards nuclear abolition.

**4:00 pm**     **Break**

**4:10 pm**     **Panel: Nuclear politics**

**Session Organisers: Karly Burch and Matt Fuller**

**Panellists: Sina Brown-Davis, Commissioner Ariana Tibon Kilma, Hinamoeura Cross, KDee Aimiti Ma'la'I, and Marco de Jong**

This panel will bring together speakers from across the Pacific to critically discuss the political (policy) dimensions of nuclear imperialism and nuclear colonialism across Oceania. Panellists will draw connections between historical and current nuclear events, and describe various policy interventions taking place at grassroots, governmental and intergovernmental levels. They will also connect ongoing trajectories of nuclear imperialism and nuclear colonialism to issues such as climate change, development, and sustainability.

**5:20 pm**     **Closing remarks and karakia**

**5:30 pm**     **Finished**

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### **Day 2 – Saturday, 26 November 2022 (all times listed in NZDT/GMT +1300)**

**9:00 am Housekeeping**

**9:10 am Karakia and opening activity**

**9:40 am Nuclear events and their aftermaths - Part 1: the Maralinga nuclear testing site, the Rainbow Warrior, uranium pollution, and New Zealand and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)**

**Session Organiser: Matt Fuller**

**Session Speakers: Katherine Aigner, Steve Abel, Matt Fuller, and Edwina Hughes**

This is the first of two sessions focusing on nuclear events and their aftermaths. The title illustrates how nuclear events never end: their social, material and political implications last for generations and, thus, require diverse, intergenerational knowledge to understand and address. This session gathers speakers from various backgrounds to discuss the aftermath of, and responses to, a number of nuclear events. These include: intergenerational educational campaigns by Indigenous Australians in response to the atomic bomb tests at the Maralinga nuclear testing site in Australia; the story of the Rainbow Warrior's final mission to Rongelap Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands in May 1985 before it was bombed by the French Government in Aotearoa New Zealand that same year; the campaign to ban Depleted Uranium weapons in Aotearoa New Zealand in 2012; and the emergence of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and what the New Zealand government must do to better uphold and implement its treaty and domestic law obligations.

**10:40 am Morning tea**

**11:00 am Nuclear events and their aftermaths - Part 2: the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster**

**Session Organiser: Karly Burch**

**Session Speakers: Miku Narisawa, Alayna Ynacay-Nye, Yumi Chiba, and Tomoki Fukui**

This session will consist of two conversations among people who live and work in Northeastern Japan, the site of Japan's 2011 triple disaster: an earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster at Tokyo Electric Power Company's (TEPCO's) Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. These speakers bring knowledge from their experiences as academics, activists and community members. The first conversation is between Miku and Alayna. Miku experienced Japan's 2011 triple disaster (earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster) first-hand in her hometown of Miyagi. Alayna's PhD studies brought her to Miyagi to study fisheries governance in the aftermath of these disasters. The second conversation is between Yumi and Tomoki. Yumi is an activist from Fukushima prefecture who established the Network to Protect Children from Irradiation following the onset of TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster. Tomoki's PhD studies brought them to Fukushima to explore reconstruction efforts in response to the 2011 nuclear disaster. These dialogues will provide conference participants with a nuanced understanding of what happens on the ground in the aftermath of a nuclear disaster and the

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unsustainable power relations which can restrict community responses to nuclear pollution. They will also highlight some opportunities to address these power imbalances which we hope to discuss with conference participants.

**12:00 pm Lunch**

**1:00 pm Panel: Stopping the wastewater discharge at TEPCO's damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant: connecting and building resistances across Oceania**

**Panel Organiser: Karly Burch**

**Panellists: Yumi Chiba, Bedi Racule, Talei Mangioni, Joey Tau, Duncan Currie, and Futoshi Aizawa**

**With support from: Tomoki Fukui, Miku Narisawa, and Alayna Ynacay-Nye**

This panel will bring together speakers from the Pacific and Japan to critically discuss the Japanese government's plans to discharge/dump wastewater from Tokyo Electric Power Company's (TEPCO's) damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean beginning in early 2023—for a period of approximately 30 years. Panellists will share diverse expertise and experiences to paint a nuanced picture of the colonial and imperial power relations that make it possible to “discharge” nuclear waste into the Pacific Ocean and to categorise nuclear pollution as “safe”. These discussions will tie together histories of Japanese imperialism and historical cases of nuclear waste dumping in the Pacific Ocean, as well as how difficult it can be to question the nuclear “safety” narrative—particularly within Japan where one can easily be accused of spreading “harmful rumours” for speaking out about the possible harms of nuclear pollution. The panel will also discuss issues of transboundary harm and the lack of consultation with grassroots organisations and people throughout the Pacific and Japan regarding the wastewater discharge. These discussions will also explore how ocean stewardship is an important aspect of physical and cultural well-being for people in the Pacific and Japan. Our panel will provide the space for panellists and conference participants to collectively imagine opportunities to work together to prevent further nuclear pollution of our shared Pacific Ocean.

Stopping the discharge of wastewater is an urgent issue. In response to this urgency, we have organised our panel around four main goals:

1. To collectively call on the Japanese government and TEPCO to stop the wastewater discharge;
2. To raise awareness and share resources on current efforts against TEPCO's wastewater discharge taking place across Oceania;
3. To collaboratively design a Statement of Solidarity based on our conversations; and
4. To collectively urge the government in Aotearoa New Zealand to uphold its commitments to a nuclear-free Pacific through taking a leading role in: (1) urging the Japanese government to halt the discharge of wastewater into the Pacific; and (2) upholding the sovereign rights of its Pacific neighbours and grassroots organisations in Japan who are calling on the Japanese government to halt the discharge of nuclear pollution into the Pacific.

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**2:20 pm Afternoon tea**

**Meeting of the Indigenous peoples caucus (led by Mino Cleverley)**

**2:50 pm Interactive workshop: Nuclear connections and next steps**

This workshop will provide the space for conference participants (in person, at hubs, and online) to break into smaller groups to digest and discuss the various things they have learned throughout the two days of the conference. As an action-oriented workshop, conference participants will be asked to individually or collectively imagine what they want to do with the knowledge they have gained and relationships they have built during the conference, and to come up with some concrete next steps on how to make that happen. While some groups might be more explorative in their approach, others might focus on a particular topic suggested by conference participants. The following are some examples of workshop topics that have already been suggested by conference presenters:

- drafting a set of resolutions from the conference
- drafting a statement of solidarity against TEPCO's wastewater discharge at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant
- creating a working group that will collaboratively design educational materials about nuclear issues for high school students

We would like our conference participants to keep the workshop in mind as they engage in conference sessions and chat with others during the breaks. The workshop will begin with a short introduction, which will include an opportunity for in person conference participants to propose different topics they would like to discuss in a smaller group. Conference participants can then choose a topic they would like to engage with, or simply create a group with those around them to allow action steps to emerge organically. Online participants will be invited to engage in individual self-reflection or to self-organise into independent chat-groups or video calls during this session.

**4:00 pm Break**

**4:10 pm Open discussion: Nuclear connections and next steps**

In this final session, workshoping groups from Session 8 will be invited to share the outcomes of their discussions. Representatives from each group can share interesting connections that were made during their group discussions, and any action steps that emerged. This will be an opportunity for groups to invite others to engage in their planned activities, and to ask for any particular support they may need in taking these next steps. We plan to document these reflections and concrete action steps and share some of them on our conference website.

**5:10 pm Closing activity and karakia**

**5:30 pm Finished**