



Annual Activities Report 2012

A summary of BASIC's activities for Advisors, Patrons, Donors and Partners

Introduction from the Chair

Throughout 2012, large scale endeavors at international and regional levels examined ways to advance international security and reduce threats of nuclear proliferation: in South Korea, heads of state meet at the second Nuclear Security Summit in March; the 2015 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty review process commenced with a Preparatory Committee meeting in Vienna in April; the NATO Alliance delivered a new Deterrence and Defense Posture Review in May; and throughout the year, regional actors in the Middle East and beyond endeavored to meet in Helsinki to establish a WMD-free zone. While some of these initiatives were unsuccessful in meeting intended goals or could have gone further to make progressive change, it was apparent that policy makers are engaging on tough issues and attempting to break through traditional barriers that have blocked progress on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament for years.

BASIC worked to maintain its tempo throughout 2012, looking for ways to keep moving multilateral nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament efforts forward in the United Kingdom, United States, Middle East, and Europe.

In 2012, BASIC identified ways to further engage, build trust, and promote fairness amongst decision shapers: in the UK, deepening and diversifying the United Kingdom's deliberations on Trident renewal; in the U.S., developing a platform for strategic, diverse discussion of U.S. nuclear policies; in the Middle East, edging forward the 2012 official conference on a WMD-Free Zone; in Europe, stimulating fresh debate about the NATO Alliance's reliance on nuclear weapons; and in Moscow, engaging on Russia's bilateral and multilateral disarmament agenda.

Looking ahead, a world free from the threat of nuclear weapons remains BASIC's long-term vision. However, we recognize that achieving this requires an open approach: one that takes into account not only a full range of perspectives, but also looks at the issue within the context of achieving sustainable security solutions.

Significant challenges exist for the disarmament and non-proliferation agendas. However, BASIC sees opportunities within every roadblock and

remains committed to creating new approaches in achieving this goal. We look forward to another challenging and successful year ahead.



Trevor McCrisken
BASIC Chair

Trevor McCrisken

Program Activities

Supporting the establishment of a Middle East WMD-free zone

1. Preparing for the 2012 conference: towards a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other WMD in the Middle East

Principal funders: UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Prospect Hill Foundation

BASIC, in partnership with the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs, held a conference in Cairo on January 29th on: 'Preparing for the 2012 conference: towards a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other WMD in the Middle East.' The day-long conference was the first such meeting in Cairo in support of the 2012 conference on the WMD-free zone since the January 2011 Egyptian revolution, and was designed to reach out to Egyptian experts and representatives of civil society.

The discussions focused on the following three areas:

- the relevance of the notion of nuclear deterrence and non-proliferation today;
- preparations for a successful 2012 conference from a political and technical point of view;
- the politics of a WMD-free zone in the Middle East – what does it hold for Egypt and others in the region, and what are the implications for regional relations in the post-Mubarak era.

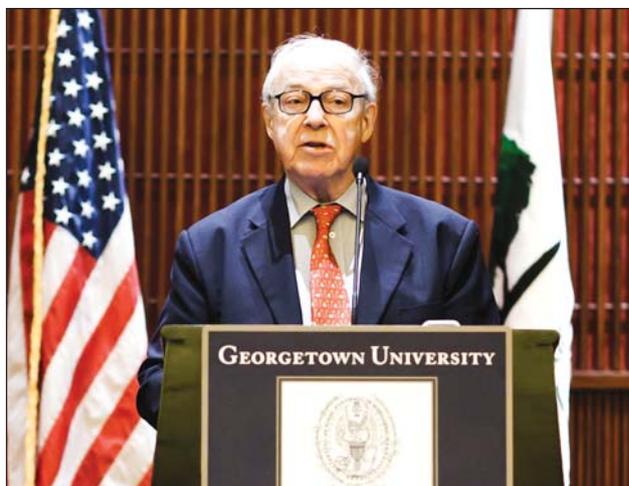
A follow-up press conference was organized by BASIC to enable further discussion and publicize the debate. As part of the project, Paul Ingram and Joseph Cirincione, President of the Ploughshares Fund, also visited the British International School, Cairo to engage with their 300 students on the politics of nuclear weapons, and met with senior Egyptian political figures such as Mohamed ElBaradei.

2. Engaging with Gulf States on nuclear non-proliferation

*Principal funders of the event:
UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
Qatar Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

On March 21st -22nd, BASIC organized a conference at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Qatar, aimed at raising the profile of the Gulf States in nuclear non-proliferation efforts. The conference brought together almost 50 experts, analysts, diplomats, and officials from the region, the United States, and Europe to exchange views on the issue of nuclear proliferation, shortly before the 2012 PrepCom of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The conference included panel discussions on ways to reinforce the NPT and the 2010 NPT Action Plan –addressing Iran's nuclear program and a WMD-free zone in the Middle East; and peaceful uses of nuclear energy

*Read the conference report:
Themes Arising from BASIC Workshop
in Doha*
<http://www.basicint.org/sites/default/files/basic-dohareportmarch2012.pdf>



Hans Blix gives the keynote address at BASIC's conference in Doha, March 21, 2012



The audience during one of several panel discussions on nuclear non-proliferation in the Gulf at BASIC's conference in Doha.

3. Engaging with the Facilitator on progress towards the 2012 Helsinki Conference

Principal funder: Prospect Hill Foundation

In coordination with the Finnish Embassy in Washington DC, BASIC organized a dinner discussion on April 16th with Washington-based representatives of think tanks and NGOs and Jaakko Laajava, the Facilitator for the 2012 Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and All Other Weapons of Mass Destruction.

The aim of this dinner was to discuss progress on Amb. Laajava's engagement with regional governments over the past few months and share views on ways to address the challenges that threaten the success of the Middle East WMD-free zone Conference, that was due to take place at the end of 2012. In particular, the event provided an opportunity to address the prevailing skepticism in Washington about the 2012 conference.

4. Private roundtable discussion with regional experts on prospects for the WMD-free zone in the Middle East

Principal funder: UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office

On October 24 -25th, BASIC held a private roundtable event in Istanbul aimed at maintaining momentum behind the 2012 conference on a WMD-free zone in the Middle East. The event was held in coordination with the office of the conference Facilitator, and was attended by expert and government representatives from the region and beyond.

Discussions were broad, but were based on preparation for the Helsinki conference. Participants in this intimate roundtable engaged on countries' commitments to this process and the importance of involvement by all countries of the region.

Read the roundtable report:

Preparing for the Helsinki conference on a Middle East Nuclear and WMD-free zone
http://www.basicint.org/sites/default/files/istanbul_report_-_final.pdf

NATO's Nuclear Posture



Daryl Kimball (ACA), Ted Seay (BASIC), Dr. Fiona Hill (Brookings Institute), and Amb. Francois Rivasseau (EU Delegation) discuss tactical nuclear weapons and NATO's nuclear sharing arrangements at the NATO Shadow Summit.

Principal funder: William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

The role of nuclear weapons and NATO's contribution to arms control, nonproliferation and disarmament were among key issues for the Deterrence and Defense Posture Review (DDPR) in the run-up to the May 2012 NATO summit in Chicago.

During March, BASIC participated in two important roundtable events on NATO's nuclear posture.

The first event in Paris on March 5-6th, was jointly sponsored by BASIC, the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg (IFSH), the Arms Control Association (ACA), and the Institute de Relations Internationales et Strategiques (IRIS), and focused on the future of NATO's deterrence posture and the role of nuclear weapons. With a focus on NATO's future deterrence posture, particularly well placed in the run-up to the NATO Chicago Summit, this roundtable workshop discussed critical strategic issues with top level French and European officials.

Later in March we co-hosted a roundtable workshop with ACA, IFSH, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, and the Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO). This event involved discussions with senior Russian officials on tactical nuclear weapons and the NATO-Russia dialogue. It identified the barriers to breaking the stalemate on bringing these weapons onto the nuclear arms control agenda.

BASIC co-sponsored a Shadow NATO Summit in the week preceding the NATO Chicago Summit in May. The aim of this two-day conference was to:

- Bring civil society and policy experts together to discuss and share ideas on the future of NATO;
- Review the implementation of the new Strategic Concept, and NATO's involvement in Afghanistan and Libya;
- Discuss the deterrence and defense posture review, and NATO's nuclear posture and deployment;
- Examine NATO's partnership programs in North Africa and the Middle East, and relations with Russia;
- Consider ways to transform NATO to better connect with U.S. citizens.

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Security and Non-Proliferation

BASIC collaborates closely with the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Global Security and Non-Proliferation. In 2012, the following APPG meetings were organized:

- March 13: “Turkey and its role and vision for security in the Middle East” with Ambassador Unal Cevikoz of Turkey speaking on Turkey’s views on the Middle East Peace Process including prospects for establishing a WMD Free Zone in the Middle East;
- March 22: “China’s Engagement with Conflict-Affected States: Risks and Opportunities for Building Peace” with Ivan Campbell, Saferworld Senior Conflict and Security Advisor and co-author of the report; Daniel Large of the South African Institute of International Affairs’ China in Africa programme; and Dr Xiao Yuhua of the Institute of African Studies (IAS) at Zhejiang Normal University;
- April 24: “Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation: an agenda for 2012” with Lord Browne of Ladyton, former British Defence Secretary, Convenor of the Top Level Group, and Co-chair of the BASIC Trident Commission;
- June 20: “Towards a more secure and WMD-free Middle East” with Ambassador Jaakko Laajava, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland and Facilitator for the 2012 Conference on the establishment of a Middle East WMD-free zone; and Mark Fitzpatrick, director of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Programme at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS);
- June 21: “Pakistan: what prospects for involvement in multilateral nuclear negotiations?” with Moeed Yusuf, South Asia adviser at the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington, DC and steering committee of the Pugwash South Asia Dialogue; and Professor Anatol Lieven, from the War Studies Dept at King’s College London and author of ‘Pakistan: A Hard Country’;
- October 18: “Future prospects for the non-proliferation regime” with Ambassador Thomas Graham Jr., non-proliferation expert and former U.S. diplomat;
- December 5: “The Trident Commission: work in progress” with Bruno Tertrais, Senior Research Fellow, Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique, France, and author of ‘Entente Nucleaire’, a briefing prepared for the Trident Commission; Professor Keith Harley, Emeritus professor of Economic, University of York, and author of ‘Defence-Industrial Issues: Employment, Skills, Technology and Regional Impacts’, a briefing prepared for the Trident Commission; and Lord Browne of Ladyton, Co-chair of the Trident Commission;
- December 11: “Prospects for President Obama’s Prague Agenda during his second term” with Deepti Choubey, Senior Director for Nuclear and Bio-Security at the Nuclear Threat Initiative.

BASIC Trident Commission

Principal 2012 funders: Allen & Nesta Ferguson Foundation, Mulberry Trust, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Polden Puckham Foundation, W.F. Southall Trust, Westcroft Trust

The Trident Commission was initiated in 2011 as an independent and cross-party Commission to examine the UK's nuclear weapons policy and the issue of Trident renewal. The Commission met on a number of occasions throughout 2012 in order to discuss the core issues in regards in the UK's nuclear policy debate, and examine external developments affecting deliberations on Trident replacement. The Commission published two more briefing papers in 2012, as a part of an ongoing series of briefings that will help to inform the final report of the Trident Commission. The authors of these briefings were joined by Trident Commission co-chair, Lord Des Browne of Ladyton, at an event in Parliament sponsored by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Security and Non-Proliferation in December.

There is a high level of awareness in London of the Commission's work and eager anticipation of the final report among government decision-makers, the UK policy community and the media. Thought-provoking evidence has been received from interested parties on all sides of the debate, including former and current parliamentarians, academics, NGOs, lobbying groups and religious groups - indicating broad public and cross-party interest in the Commission's work, as well as an appetite for deeper public debate on Trident replacement. The Commission's final report is due to be released in the second half of 2013.

Defence-Industrial Issues: Employment, Skills, Technology and Regional Impacts, by Professor Keith Hartley, covers issues related to employment, skills, technology, and regional economic concerns.
http://www.basicint.org/sites/default/files/trident_commission_defence-industrial_issues_keith_hartley_0.pdf

Entente Nucléaire, by Bruno Tertrais, focuses on the scope for future cooperation with France over the procurement, deployment, doctrine and control of nuclear weapon systems between London and Paris.
http://www.basicint.org/sites/default/files/entente_nucleaire_basic_trident_commission.pdf

Strategic Dialogues

Principal funder: The Prospect Hill Foundation

On May 8th, BASIC, in association with the Hudson Institute and in collaboration with Peter Huessy of the Air Force Association and Geostrategic Analysis, held the first in a series of "Strategic Dialogue" breakfasts on Capitol Hill to help raise the level of awareness of "big picture" issues related to nuclear weapons and security policy. Dr. Chris Ford of the Hudson Institute and Dr. Barry Blechman of the Henry L. Stimson Center exchanged their views on "Nuclear Deterrence: Who Needs Nuclear Weapons and Why?" before a group of about sixty people at the Capitol Hill Club. The group included think tank experts, Hill staffers, government officials, and interested public.

On September 18th BASIC held its second Strategic Dialogue in which Dr. Janne Nolan, Research Professor at George Washington University and Senior Fellow at the Association for Diplomatic Studies, and Dr. Chris Ford engaged in dialogue on:

- The need for an improved understanding of what a nuclear posture is, and its purpose;
- Considerations as to whether the United States has a responsibility to lead on nuclear disarmament;
- Questioning the utility of targeting based on counter-value or counterforce;
- Considerations of modernization and the future of the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

BASIC's third Strategic Dialogue on nuclear weapons and security policy was held on November 13th. Amb. Linton Brooks, senior fellow with the Center for Strategic and International Studies and former head of the National Nuclear Security Administration, and Hans Kristensen, Director of the Nuclear Information Project at the Federation of American Scientists, shared their views on "Nuclear Modernization: What Does it Mean and What Is Required for U.S. Security?"



Paul Ingram introduces the speakers at BASIC's Strategic Dialogue series on Capitol Hill.

Organization and Staffing

BASIC bade a sad farewell to Program Director **Anne Penketh** in September. Anne helped enhance BASIC's profile within the U.S. and broadened our networks throughout the Middle East. Anne led BASIC's work alongside Ambassador Jaakko Laajava's team to prepare for the official conference on a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other WMD.

In October, BASIC welcomed former UK diplomat **Rebecca Cousins** as the new Program Director in Washington, D.C. Previously, Rebecca represented the United Kingdom on a range of issues, including nuclear non-proliferation, the Middle East peace process, sanctions, and regional policy. She has a wide variety of experiences in strategic engagement with government, academia and civil society, and creative use of project work, online tools and social media. Rebecca was also awarded an MBE for leading and communicating the consular in-country British response to the 2011 Japan earthquake and subsequent Fukushima nuclear incident.

BASIC also depends upon the dedicated **interns & work placement students** who have worked with BASIC. In 2012 they were: Alex Schulte, Brendan McGovern, Cormac Mc Garry, Helen Martin, John Biberman, Philip Kirby, Richard Abott, Shivani Handa, and Tirion Davies.

Stuart Warner, the Director of Financial Fluency Ltd., joined BASIC's executive board in 2012. Stuart teaches financial management and has almost 20 years of experience in the financial sector, including having worked with Price Waterhouse Coopers and Apollo Global. Stuart will serve as the UK Treasurer for BASIC.

In September, BASIC's London office welcomed a new researcher, **Tim Street**. Tim is working on a collaborative PhD studentship with the University of Warwick Doctoral Training Centre (DTC), funded by the ESRC. Tim has been working on peace and disarmament issues since 2005. Most recently, he worked with Nuclear Information Service, compiling information and analysis on the UK's Atomic Weapons Establishment. Before that he worked for Campaign Against Arms Trade and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

BASIC in the Media, Publications, & Updates

Selected BASIC appearances in the media:

Paul Ingram was quoted in Bloomberg Business Week regarding the E3+3 (P5+1) talks with Iran in Moscow, June 18th

C-SPAN broadcast of various segments of the Shadow NATO Summit, May 14th

After attending BASIC's conference in Doha, The Guardian Diplomatic Editor quoted Paul Ingram in his article 'Nuclear Weapons conference could bring Iran and Israel closer together' on March 23rd

Selected Publications:

'Russia in the Middle East' by Shivani Handa - November.

'Dissecting the DDP' by Ted Seay - July.

'Norway's Approach to NATO's Deterrence and Posture Review' by Julie Ronbeck - April.

Newsletters & Updates:

Throughout 2012, BASIC posted more frequent briefings, including three regular email newsletters:

This Week: A look at what's next in the nuclear world.

Getting to Zero Update (quarterly):

Comprehensive survey of developments in nuclear arms control, missile defense and nuclear postures and programs of key states.

Iran Update (monthly): Summaries of developments related to Iran's nuclear program.

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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/British-American-Security-Information-Council/110216572421260>

BASIC Board in 2012

Dr. Trevor McCrisken (Chair), Assoc. Prof in U.S. foreign policy at the Univ. of Warwick.

Amb. Robert Barry (Secretary), former U.S. Ambassador to Bulgaria and Indonesia, Head OSCE Mission in Bosnia (1998-2001).

Dr. Andrew Cottey, Jean Monnet Chair in European Political Integration, Cork Univ.

Amb. James Goodby, former arms control diplomat, with Brookings, Hoover and MIT.

William D. Hartung, Center for International Policy

Elizabeth Kinder, musician, documentary maker and feature writer.

Amb. James Leonard, former U.S. Rep to the Conference on Disarmament.

Prof. James O'Connell, founder head of Bradford University School of Peace Studies.

Prof. Joanna Spear, Director, Security Policy Studies Program, Elliott School, George Washington University.



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