



CAMPAIGN TO STOP KILLER ROBOTS

Tokyo, Japan, 20th February 2019

Communique: Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots
Tokyo, Japan, 19-20 February 2019

Campaign to Stop Killer Robots members and guests from 10 states in the Asia-Pacific region met in Tokyo, Japan on 19-20 February 2019 at the invitation of Association for Aid and Relief – Japan (AAR-Japan).¹ Campaign staff and representatives from Steering Committee member the International Committee for Robot Arms Control (ICRAC) also participated.

The aim of the meeting was to learn more about the serious ethical, moral, technical, legal, proliferation, and security concerns raised by fully autonomous weapons, also known as lethal autonomous weapons systems or killer robots. The participants strategized on how to achieve the campaign's goal of a pre-emptive ban treaty to retain meaningful human control over the use of force.

The participants learned about the need for technology workers to be ethical in their work and ways to support tech worker activism. They considered the positive example set by KAIST in the Republic of Korea, which has committed not develop lethal autonomous weapons systems.

The participants reflected on some measures that have been proposed to address concerns over killer robots, such as ethical principles on artificial intelligence, political declarations, greater transparency and legal reviews of new weapons systems. They concluded that these and other measures that fall short of a prohibition will be insufficient to deal with the urgent threat posed by the introduction of fully autonomous weapons.

The participants reaffirmed the importance of tech, artificial intelligence, and robotics sectors in developing technology for peaceful purposes and civilian uses. They affirmed the urgent need for states from Asia and the Pacific to work to adopt a new treaty to prohibit development, production and use of fully autonomous weapons before they become operational. They acknowledged the need for further actions to address this issue at national, regional and international levels, inter alia:

- Increase national outreach to raise public awareness and encourage political support for the goal of banning killer robots. Build capacity and leverage broad national campaign networks that include civil society groups as well as academics, roboticists, scientists, and other experts;
- Foster greater cooperation by and between states from Asian and Pacific region towards the goal of launching negotiations of a new treaty. Encourage states to propose a negotiating mandate at the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) to create a new ban protocol;
- Grow the membership of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots in the region, especially in countries where there is not yet a Campaign contact in place;
- Consider a follow-up meeting in the region in late 2019.

¹ Bangladesh, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand