



**Addressing Extremism, Regional Instabilities & WMD Risks:
A Symposium on the 20th Anniversary of the Awarding of
the Pugwash/Rotblat Nobel Peace Prize**

18 December 2015

Kohn Room, The Royal Society, London
6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG

Message from the President

I have great pleasure in sending my greetings and good wishes to the participants of the Pugwash gathering scheduled to be held in London on 18 December, 2015 on “Addressing Extremism, Regional Instabilities & WMD Risks: A Symposium on the 20th Anniversary of the Awarding of the Pugwash/Rotblat Nobel Peace Prize.”

The symposium, organized in cooperation with the British Pugwash Group, and co-sponsored by the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy, SOAS appropriately celebrates the 20th anniversary of the historic award of the Nobel Peace Prize jointly to the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs and to Sir Joseph Rotblat, and addresses a subject of urgent global concern today. In the Nobel Committee’s 1995 citation it was stated that,

“The Conferences are based on the recognition of the responsibility of scientists for their inventions. They have underlined the catastrophic consequences of the use of the new weapons. They have brought together scientists and decision-makers to collaborate across political divides on constructive proposals for reducing the nuclear threat.....

.....It is the Committee's hope that the award of the Nobel Peace Prize for 1995 to Rotblat and to Pugwash will encourage world leaders to intensify their efforts to rid the world of nuclear weapons.”

Pugwash has fulfilled this hope consistently addressing changing threats to global peace and security with the potential of escalating to the use of nuclear weapons through intent or accident; by nuclear weapon-armed states or non-state terrorist groups. At the same time we pursue a “dialogue across divides” to arrive at a peaceful resolution of conflict however complex the issues may be.

I look forward to the outcome of the symposium.

Jayantha Dhanapala
President of Pugwash