

Call for Input: Examples of initiatives to foster peace-seeking spirit

Report Form

Date of report (mm/dd/yyyy) 06.27.2018

Name of municipality VOLGOGRAD

Name of country RUSSIA

Title of peace education initiative	Day of Hiroshima in Volgograd
The initiative was implemented by (Choose one ✓)	<input type="checkbox"/> School <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality <input type="checkbox"/> NGO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joint initiative by: 1) Volgograd branch of the Russian Peace Foundation, 2) City of Volgograd, 3) “Volgograd-Hiroshima” Friendship Society, 4) International Friendship Club
Theme/Aim	Raising awareness about Japanese culture and the friendly links about Volgograd and Hiroshima; Promoting mutual understanding between Russia and Japan.
Participants (age, school grade, number, etc.)	25 children aged 9-14; 19 adults of unspecified age; 8 students aged 16-20.
Location	Volgograd branch of the Russian Peace Foundation (8, Krasnoznamenskaya Street, Volgograd)
Date(s) of initiative	the 27 th of June 2018

Please answer the questions below clearly and concisely.

1. Please describe the initiative. For classroom lectures and events, please provide a timeline of the event. For other types of initiatives, such as a competition, please describe the process in detail.

A Friendship Day dedicated to Hiroshima, the Japanese twin-city, was held at Volgograd branch of the Russian Peace Foundation on June 23 -- the eve of the football match between Japan and Poland. The event was organized as two consecutive hour-long interactive presentations and then an hour of free attendance. The platform united international guests and football fans, members of youth and civil societies, school and university students.

The Friendship Day started at 10 am with middle school pupils, who were given a presentation about the many-years-long friendship between Hiroshima and Volgograd, of which the children heard from the Honorary Citizen of Volgograd and Hiroshima, Chair of Volgograd branch of the Russian Peace Foundation Yury Starovatykh and the head of the local International Friendship Club Olga Bezborodova. Among the presentation’s guests of honor was the Deputy Minister of the Japanese Embassy in Russia Tokuro Furuya.

When the children left at 11 o’clock, the second presentation was read out to college students by the members of “Volgograd-Hiroshima” Friendship Society. They spoke about Japan-themed places in Volgograd (Hiroshima Street, and the blooming sakura trees personally planted in 2002 by the Mayor of Hiroshima Tadatoshi Akiba), about the Memorial Ceremony held in Volgograd every year on August 6 at 8:15 as a tribute to Hiroshima victims of the A-bomb, the International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future jointly organized by Volgograd and Hiroshima in 2012 and 2016, and the School Alternative Festival of Japanese Language and Culture (“Japanese Cupboard” for short).

For the third hour, members of “Volgograd-Hiroshima” Friendship Society and the Volgograd branch of the Russian Peace Foundation kept the venue open for passers-by who were usually going to the Fan ID accreditation center located up the same street.

Not only have Volgograd citizens listened to lectures on the Japanese culture, but also experienced it firsthand. Everyone who wanted to try on a real kimono and learn how to make paper cranes could do it on the spot.

To bring the Friendship Day to a worthy conclusion, its participants went to the Local Youth Center and put on its flagpole a carp streamer – a symbol of Hiroshima. Deputy Minister of the Japanese Embassy in Russia Tokuro Furuya took part in this event together with Volgograd children.

2. Please tell us about the response from participants.

The overall response was unanimously positive. Many of the attendants did not know that there were so many Japanese-themed places and events in Volgograd and wanted to find out more about them after the end of the Friendship Day.

3. Please tell us about positive outcomes that resulted from the initiative.

Visitors learnt new information about Japan, Hiroshima, and the atomic bombing.
Students had a chance to practice their Japanese and signed up for the Japanese language course.

4. Please tell us about the challenges encountered in the initiative if any.

There were none.

5. Please identify any materials used in the initiative (books, videos, slideshow, etc.).

A Power Point presentation prepared by the Volgograd branch of the Russian Peace Foundation, a selection of books about Hiroshima and the bombing provided by the City of Volgograd, a poster about the cooperation between Volgograd and Hiroshima.

6. May the Mayors for Peace Secretariat post the material mentioned in Question 5 on its website? (if there are no copyright or other problems in sharing them publicly)

Yes *Please attach the material(s). No Don't know.

If you would like to submit photos and other materials, please send them in a separate file.

Please, see the attached file.

Photos of the event: the Day of Hiroshima in Volgograd



A word of greeting by Mr. Tokuro Furuya.



An exercise in folding paper cranes after a lecture about Sadako Sasaki.



School pupils after signing the carp-streamer



The carp-streamer has just gone up in the sky.



Japanese language enthusiasts with a Japanese exchange student.