

## Mayors for Peace News Flash (April 2012) No.28

Dear member cities and supporters of Mayors for Peace,

Thank you for your ongoing support for the activities of Mayors for Peace.

Please find below news related to the most recent activities of Mayors for Peace.

If your city has any news it wishes to share with others, please feel free to contact us!

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### ■ Mayors for Peace forges close ties with Kazakh cities and government

[Kurchatov, Kazakhstan, March 17]

On March 17, a conference organized by the governor of the East Kazakhstan Region was held within the former Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site or 'Polygon' in the scientists' town of Kurchatov. A European delegation of Mayors for Peace, headed by Mayor Luc Dehaene of Ypres (Belgium), Chairman of the Board of the 2020 Vision Campaign Association and Vice President of Mayors for Peace, and including Mayor Ivan Knez, Biograd na Moru (Croatia), Vice President of Mayors for Peace and Mayor Thore Vestby of Frogn (Norway), Associate Member of the Campaign Association, stayed four days and received a warm reception in Kazakhstan, opened a new Mayors for Peace office in Semey, and developed plans for activities at the East Kazakhstan Region level and nationally. The event closed with a membership ceremony that welcomed nine new cities into Mayors for Peace, including Kurchatov.

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/ac639f146e/mayors-for-peace-forges-close-ties-w.html>.

### ■ FLACMA approved with unanimity a Mayors for Peace motion

[Santiago de Chile, March 20]

The Executive Bureau of the Federation of Latin American and Caribbean Cities, Municipalities and Local government associations (FLACMA) approved with unanimity a Mayors for Peace motion calling for Latin America and the Caribbean to give "high priority and assign resources to involve local governments and civil society with the intention to 'convene a High Level conference to discuss and identify the ways and methods to eliminate nuclear weapons as soon as possible.'" This marked the start of the "VI Latin American and Caribbean Conference of Local Governments" attended by 1,500 delegates from 30 countries across Latin America.

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/40fb96b40a/flacma-demands-global-plan-for-disar.html>.

### ■ The agreement of cooperation signed with the COSUDAM and with the Association of Chilean Municipalities

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The agreement of cooperation between Mayors for Peace and the Association of Chilean Municipalities (ACHM) was signed during a signing ceremony on March 21 near the Chilean capital Santiago. On the following day, on March 22, Mayors for Peace also entered an agreement of cooperation with the Community of South American Associations of Municipalities (COSUDAM). Both organizations declared its support to Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign for the elimination of all nuclear weapons by the year 2020.

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

<Association of Chilean Municipalities (ACHM) >

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/080ee93698/association-of-chilean-municipalitie.html>.

<Community of South American Associations of Municipalities (COSUDAM)>

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/ce139f55c5/cosudam-calls-unasur-to-give-priorit.html>.

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**■ FENAMM Mexico welcomes 2020 Vision Campaign**

[Boca del Rio, Mexico, March 1-3]

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Mayors for Peace was presented in a video message to over 2000 Mayors and City Officials at the Annual Conference of FENAMM (National Federation of Municipalities of Mexico) at Boca del Rio, Mexico. The Conference, jointly organized by FENAMM and the Government of the State of Veracruz, is considered as the main gathering of local authorities in Mexico.

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/8dfc737f07/fenammmexico-welcomes-2020-vision-c.html>.

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**■ Representatives from Mayors for Peace Belgium participated in the SHAPE'2012 Summit**

[Brussels, Belgium, February 28-29]

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On the occasion of SHAPE'2012 in Brussels, organized by the SCK (Study Center for Nuclear Energy in Mol, Belgium) the president of Mayors for Peace Belgium and the Managing Director of the International Secretariat in Ypres went to the Opening Ceremony of the Conference. At the SHAPE'2012 Summit, representatives from all around the world discussed such topic as 'Why do states refrain from nuclear weapons?'

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/news/artikel/595a087ff7/shape-2012-sck-summit-brussels-1.html>.

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**■ Manchester hosts UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Working Group**

[Manchester, UK, March 29]

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The Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Harry Lyons, hosted the biannual UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Working Group in Manchester Town Hall on March 29. The meeting discussed how to develop the organization in the UK and Ireland given that Mayors in both countries have, on the whole, a more ceremonial than executive role. A long discussion took place on strategies to deepen and increase membership. The meeting heard that a number of members had agreed to pay voluntary invoices, which would be shortly sent to the 2020 Vision Secretariat. The successful promotion of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb exhibition would be encouraged, with it going to Fife, Rotherham, Newcastle, Dublin and to London boroughs in 2012. It was also agreed to investigate the development of an annual event and joint applications to charitable trust foundations for project funding.

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**■ Please support the petition drive for a nuclear weapons convention**

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The next step in abolishing all nuclear weapons by 2020 is to negotiate a nuclear weapons convention.

A nuclear weapons convention will prohibit the acquisition, development, possession, deployment and use of nuclear weapons and all related activities.

At our Executive Conference in Granollers, Spain in November 2011, we agreed to promote a global grassroots petition drive through which all member cities can call for an immediate start to negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention. As of April 1, 2012, we had collected a total of 390,544 signatures.

We are planning to submit signatures collected so far to the UN at the first Preparatory Committee Meeting for the 2015 NPT Review Conference in May 2012 in Vienna, Austria.

We will continue this petition drive even after that.

Please actively promote this petition drive in your city. For example, the City of Hiroshima set up petition booths at the lobby of the city hall and other municipal offices on April 2 as well as venues of events organized by the city. Please inform us of your city's efforts in this petition drive as well.

Let's gather millions of signatures and make our voices heard. (The petition is available for printing or online at the links below.)

▼ Petition form (PDF):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/petitionform\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/petitionform_en.pdf).

▼ Online petition:

<https://www.ssl-hiroins.city.hiroshima.jp/pcf/en/form.htm>.

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### ■ Announcement on new poster exhibits commemorating the 5,000-city milestone

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To commemorate exceeding the 5,000 city-milestone, please hold a new poster exhibit in your city/municipality around August 2012!

Through holding the exhibit in as many cities/municipalities as possible, we hope to directly inform millions of citizens on the impact of nuclear war that will cause catastrophic climate change resulting in global famine, and the role city leaders strive to play. We would deeply appreciate your kind consideration on holding a new poster exhibit in your city/municipality.

The posters can be downloaded from the Mayors for Peace website.

We will announce details when the new posters will be completed later on.

>>Posters: A2size 18 sheets plus a sheet of related information.

>>This poster exhibit is based on the agenda that Mayors for Peace would create a new poster exhibit available to all our member cities and encourage the use of the poster exhibit, adopted at the 8th Executive Conference held in Granollers, Spain last November.

▼ Related Information:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/poster/index01.html>

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### ■ Mayors for Peace website renewed

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Mayors for Peace website has been renewed to be more user friendly. You can easily download material and data on Mayors for Peace. Please utilize them for your city's activities and for inviting your neighboring municipalities/sister cities that are not yet members to join Mayors for Peace.

▼ Mayors for Peace website:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/index.html>.

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### ■ Financial contributions from member cities to the 2020 Vision Campaign - Update for March 2012 [Ypres, Belgium]

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The 2020 Vision Campaign received donations from 12 cities in 5 countries during the month of March coming to a total of 5.339,63 Euro.

We would like to extend our gratitude to our member cities for this generosity in supporting our efforts to realize a nuclear-weapon-free world by 2020.

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/members/contributors/artikel/0d3d8e6d76/contributions-update-march-2012.html>.

▼ List of cities that made contributions in March:

[http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/2020VC/Members/Contributors/Contributions\\_March\\_2012.pdf](http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user_upload/2020VC/Members/Contributors/Contributions_March_2012.pdf).

▼ How to make contributions:

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/members/contribute-to-mayors-for-peace.html>.

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### ■ Newly arrived information on "Member Cities' Activities" webpage

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New information from Nishinomiya, Japan is now available (Japanese only). Nishinomiya conducted such peace projects as A-bomb exhibition, a parent-child bus tour to Hiroshima, peace lantern floating and peace gathering during the fiscal year 2011, which was between April 2011 and March 2012.

Please visit the "Member Cities' Activities" page on our website and get an idea for your city's peace activities. The URL of this page has been renewed.

▼ To see the "Member Cities' Activities" webpage, click the link below:  
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/index.html>.

<<Please Send Information on Your City's Peace Activities >>

Let us also introduce the peace related activities of your city!

We can create a link to your city's website or the website of the peace event.

We need comprehensive information including the date, venue, organizers and details of the event.

Thank you for your cooperation.

▼ Please send the name/title of the activity along with the link to the address to: [mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp](mailto:mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)

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**■ Mayors for Peace Newsletter No. 32 issued**  
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Mayors for Peace News Letter No.32 was issued in March, featuring the 8th Executive Conference as well as other activities of Mayors for Peace since October 2011.

▼ Mayors for Peace News Letter No. 32 (PDF):  
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/newsletter/32.pdf> .

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**■ Mayors for Peace member cities – 5,221 cities in 153 countries/regions**  
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Thanks to your invaluable support, as of April 1, the number of member cities reached 5,221 with 86 new members. As a result of sending a recruitment letter to all non-member cities/municipalities in Japan in February, 34 cities from Japan joined.

As a result of the recruitment drive on the FLACMA conference, 29 cities, including 10 from Chile, seven from Argentina, seven from Paraguay, two from Ecuador and one each from Bolivia, Dominican Republic and Uruguay joined.

Nine cities from Kazakhstan joined thanks to the kind assistance of the Administration of the East Kazakhstan on the occasion of the conference held in Kazakhstan in March.

Five cities from Colombia joined as a result of their meeting with the mayor of Nagasaki when a mayoral delegation from Colombia visited Nagasaki in February.

As our recruitment drive will continue, we would be most grateful if you could invite your fellow mayors who are not yet members to join us.

▼ Related information (PDF):  
[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2012/newmembers1204\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2012/newmembers1204_en.pdf).

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**If you have any comments, questions, or would like to unsubscribe  
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