

## Mayors for Peace News Flash (January 2013) No.37

Dear member cities and supporters of Mayors for Peace,

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Please find below recent news related to our activities.

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 member cities as of January 1, 2013

**5,524 cities in 156 countries/regions with 34 new members**

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### <<Table of Contents >>

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- Invitation Letter to the Mayors for Peace 8<sup>th</sup> General Conference in Hiroshima 2013 sent out
- 2020 Vision Campaign Action Alert: Monitoring your government's participating in the Oslo Conference
- UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Working Group Meeting in February
- Financial contributions from member cities to the 2020 Vision Campaign - Update for December 2012
- New poster exhibit commemorates 5,000-city milestone
- Please support the petition drive for a nuclear weapons convention
- Visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace last month
- Mayors for Peace member cities – 5,524 cities in 156 countries/regions

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### ■ Invitation Letter to the Mayors for Peace 8<sup>th</sup> General Conference in Hiroshima 2013 sent out

Mayors for Peace will hold its 8th General Conference from August 3 to 6, 2013 at the International Conference Center Hiroshima located in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park.

The General Conference is our highest decision-making body which meets every four years. At the next meeting we will decide our Action Plan and internal organization. In addition, we are planning to offer various cultural programs during the General Conference. A tea ceremony experience program is to be conducted by Ueda Soko School. This will be a *samurai*-spirited style tea ceremony which is the traditional culture that originated and developed in Hiroshima. An art exhibition of portraits of Atomic survivors and their children in Hiroshima will also be held at the site under the title of 'The Light – Portraits of the *Hibakusha*.' We hope many of our member cities will send delegations to the Conference.

We sent out the Invitation Letter in December 2012 to every member city by email with the preliminary Conference schedule. The advanced registration in the General Conference starts in early April. For those in need of visas to participate in the General Conference, we will create and send the documents necessary for the application after the registration is accepted.

### ■ 2020 Vision Campaign Action Alert: Monitoring your government's participating in the Oslo Conference

The nuclear threat to cities in particular and the world in general has faded from public and governmental consciousness since the end of the Cold War. This undermines the urgency with which governments work on eliminating the threat, thereby increasing the exposure of cities and the world to the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons use. An excellent initiative by the Norwegian Government, with the support of [34 countries](#), aims to challenge this complacency by revisiting the devastation of the Cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and by reviewing the state of scientific inquiry into the impact of nuclear war on the global climate, and the catastrophic consequences that may follow.

Your foreign minister has received an [invitation](#) to send a delegation to the Oslo Conference on the Consequences of Nuclear Weapon Use, 4-5 March 2013. The purpose of this Action Alert is to let our foreign ministers know the high expectations that city leaders have for the fulsome participation of their countries' delegations in the Oslo Conference. Please read this letter

[http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/2020VC/Home/frogn\\_oslo.doc](http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user_upload/2020VC/Home/frogn_oslo.doc)

from the Mayor of Frogn (Norway) and Executive Mayor of Mayors for Peace, Thore Vestby, urging member mayors to take action and providing a draft letter to the foreign minister

[http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/PDF-Dateien/Draft\\_letter\\_to\\_foreign\\_ministers\\_-\\_Oslo.pdf](http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user_upload/PDF-Dateien/Draft_letter_to_foreign_ministers_-_Oslo.pdf).

Please keep the 2020 Vision Campaign Secretariat ([2020visioncampaign@ieper.be](mailto:2020visioncampaign@ieper.be)) informed of whatever initiative you may take in this regard.

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/action-alerts/oslo-action-alert.html>

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### ■ UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Working Group Meeting in February

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The next meeting of the UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Working Group will be held in the Town Hall of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets on February 18. This meeting, organized by Vice President City Manchester, provides an opportunity for UK and Irish members of Mayors for Peace to discuss how to increase the membership and develop broader support for the organization. The meeting will also invite members of UK and Irish NGOs involved in the nuclear weapons discussion to share knowledge and plans for the future. Voluntary invoices were sent to UK & Irish members in 2012 and it is hoped that these meetings will further heighten interest in Mayors for Peace and encourage future participation from its members. For further information please contact Sean Morris in Manchester City Council - [s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk).

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

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The 2020 Vision Campaign received donations from 11 cities in 6 countries during the month of December coming to a total of 4,163.97 Euros.

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/home/artikel/63d3c58df346ddf089e6a51de9f50a7f/contribution-update-December.html>

▼ List of cities that made contributions in December:

[http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/2020VC/Home/december2012.pdf](http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user_upload/2020VC/Home/december2012.pdf)

▼ How to make contributions:

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

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### ■ Poster exhibit commemorates 5,000-city milestone

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To commemorate the 5,000-city milestone, please hold a poster exhibit in your municipality.

By holding these exhibits in as many cities as possible, we hope to directly inform millions of citizens regarding the impact of nuclear war, including the fact that even a limited war would cause catastrophic climate change resulting in global famine, and the role city leaders strive to play. Please do hold an exhibition and bring this problem to the attention of people in your city.

And while you're at it, please set up petition booths during the exhibition to collect signatures calling for an immediate start to negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention.

The posters are available in Spanish, Catalan, English, French, German, Russian and Japanese. You can download them from the Mayors for Peace website. We are also preparing an Arabic version. For detailed information, please refer to the instructions for downloading the posters in "The Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki -The 5,000-Member Milestone Exhibition,-" a document forwarded to our member cities. We would appreciate it if you could let us know when you hold the poster exhibition.

>>Posters: A2 size (approximately 24 by 36 inches); 19 posters.

>>This poster exhibit was created based on a mandate from the 8th Executive Conference held in Granollers, Spain in November 2011 and Japanese member cities' Conference in January 2012.

The first poster exhibitions were held in Vienna International Center and Vienna City Hall in April and May 2012 during the first Preparatory Committee Meeting for the NPT Review Conference to lead those taking place in all the member cities. More than 200 cities have already held or expressed their plan to hold this exhibition. Please be sure your city joins this movement.

▼ Related Information:

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

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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.

On behalf of Mayors for Peace, President Kazumi Matsui handed a certificate representing 478,303 signatures collected by April 30 to Mr. Peter Woolcott, chairman of the first Preparatory Committee Meeting for the 2015 NPT Review Conference in May 2012 in Vienna, Austria.

We will continue collecting signatures until 2015 and present them to the UN at appropriate times.

Please promote this petition drive in your city. For example, the City of Hiroshima has set up petition booths in the lobbies of City Hall and other municipal offices since April 2, 2012 and we have been collecting signatures at the venues of events organized by the city. Please let us know how your city is working on this petition drive so we can tell others.

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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### ■ Visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace last month

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President Kazumi Matsui of Mayors for Peace welcomed the visitors as follows in December and asked them to support for the activities of Mayors for Peace and cooperate with the membership expansion.

December 3 \* Mr. Ahmed Khaleel, Ambassador of the Republic of Maldives to Japan  
\* Mr. Grant Pogosyan, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to Japan  
\* Mr. Ahmet Shala, Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to Japan

December 5 \* Professors and students of DePaul University, Chicago, U.S.A.

December 18 \* Mr. Mackenzie Clugston, Ambassador of Canada to Japan

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### ■ Mayors for Peace member cities – 5,524 cities in 156 countries/regions

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Thanks to your invaluable support, on January 1, we added 34 new member cities, bringing total membership to 5,524. This means that in 2012, 398 cities joined Mayors for Peace. This growth was achieved without the benefit of any international membership drives in 2012.

As a result of sending a recruitment letter to all non-member cities/municipalities in Japan in November 2012, 23 cities joined. With the assistance of Ambassador Ahmet Shala, we have our first member from the Republic of Kosovo, the City of Vushtrri, thereby increasing the number of countries and regions in which we have members to 156.

We welcome further initiatives to promote membership and can provide support from Hiroshima as needed. Please invite your fellow mayors to join.

▼ Related information (PDF):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2013/newmembers1301\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2013/newmembers1301_en.pdf)

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