

Mayors for Peace News Flash (February 2013) No.38

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!

Mayors for Peace member cities as of February 1, 2013

5,536 cities in 156 countries/regions with 12 new members

<<Table of Contents >>

- Protest against North Korean nuclear test
- Request from Mayors for Peace to Japanese Government calling for a Nuclear Weapons Convention
- Second Mayors for Peace Japanese Member City Meeting held in Nagasaki
- German Mayors for Peace Annual Meeting held in Bonn
- Invitation to Mayors for Peace 8th General Conference in Hiroshima 2013
- Mayors for Peace delegation will be sent to second Preparatory Committee Meeting for NPT Review Conference
- Mayors for Peace North American Coordinator Addresses US Conference of Mayors
- Latin American and Caribbean leaders prepare to push for complete nuclear disarmament at upcoming UN Summit
- Financial contributions from member cities to the 2020 Vision Campaign - Update for January 2013
- Member City Activities (Kuki, Japan; Hannover, Germany; Rivas-Vaciamadrid, Spain)
- New poster exhibit commemorates 5,000-city milestone
- Please support the petition drive for a nuclear weapons convention
- Mayors for Peace member cities – 5,536 cities in 156 countries/regions

■Protest against nuclear test conducted by Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea conducted an explosive nuclear test on February 12, the only country to do so since 1998. President Kazumi Matsui of Mayors for Peace sent a Letter of Protest to Mr. Kim Jong-Un, first chairman of the National Defense Commission of DPRK to express resentment against their callous act and demand that they abandon their nuclear ambitions. Vice-President Tomihisa Taue, mayor of the city of Nagasaki and several member cities also sent letters of protest.

▼Text of Letter of Protest:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/statement/protest/130212_en.pdf

■Request from Mayors for Peace to Japanese Government calling for Nuclear Weapons Convention

Acting on a decision made at the Second Mayors for Peace Japanese Member City Meeting, Mayor Kazumi Matsui of Hiroshima, president of Mayors for Peace, along with delegates from the city of Nagasaki, visited Japan's Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida on February 1 and handed a letter to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe requesting Japanese government initiative for the early realization of a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

The letter urges the Japanese government to collaborate with countries seeking illegalization of nuclear weapons and to lead the way to negotiations for a Convention.

Foreign Minister Kishida said that the government shares with Mayors for Peace the intent to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons and will continue to pursue that common goal working in cooperation with local authorities like the city of Hiroshima, listening to voices from the two cities that experienced the atomic bombing and Mayors for Peace. In addition, he asked Mayor Matsui to offer support for the NPDI Foreign Minister Meeting to be held in Hiroshima next spring.

▼Text of Letter of Request:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/statement/request/130201_en/request_130201_en.html

■Second Mayors for Peace Japanese Member City Meeting held in Nagasaki

On January 17 and 18, the Second Mayors for Peace Japanese Member City Meeting was held in Nagasaki. Sixty-two delegates from 49 cities, including 20 mayors, discussed the promotion of Mayors for Peace activities in Japan and a newly proposed membership fee. The adoption of the final document included approval for changing the Japanese name of 'Mayors for Peace' from *Heiwa Shicho Kaigi* to *Heiwa Shucho Kaigi*. This new name is inclusive of the heads of all Japanese municipalities, not just cities.

■German Mayors for Peace Annual Meeting held in Bonn

The city of Hannover, Germany, duly convened the German Mayors for Peace to their annual meeting that took place in Bonn on November 21, 2012. The mayors and delegates were inspired by the keynote lecture by Alyn Ware (recipient of Right Livelihood Award 2009 and co-initiator of PNND) and exchanged information on their local action programs while studying the possibility of collaboration with an international campaign, 'nuclear-free.now.' They were also encouraged to join in with German Mayors for Peace Flag Day, which will be observed on July 8 as usual.

▼ Related Information: <http://youtu.be/esrgdHJq4vo>

■Invitation to Mayors for Peace 8th General Conference in Hiroshima 2013

The 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace will focus on future directions, including measures to strengthen our organization through membership fees and regionalization to stimulate local activities in accordance with local needs, as well as the next phase of the 2020 Vision Campaign aiming for the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020. We are also setting a forum for dialogue among Foreign Ambassadors to Japan, peace-related NGOs, civil societies and atomic bomb survivors to build campaign momentum. At this conference, booths will be provided for member cities and NGOs wishing to present their activities for peace. We hope these booths will help to communicate the peace message from Hiroshima. This conference is the best opportunity for member cities to voice the demand of their citizens for world peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons in an appeal to the international community.

Please participate in this important conference, and please bring at least one of your sister cities, regardless of their membership. We want to see as many of our member cities as possible in Hiroshima. A General Meeting of the 2020 Vision Campaign Association will be held as well. Representatives from Mayors for Peace affiliated cities are welcome to attend the General Meeting as observers.

Term: August 3-6, 2013

Venue: International Conference Center Hiroshima

Registration: available from early April

■Mayors for Peace delegation will be sent to second Preparatory Committee Meeting for NPT Review Conference

The second Preparatory Committee Meeting for the NPT Review Conference will be held in Geneva from April 22 to May 3. We will organize a Mayors for Peace delegation including mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that will attend the first days of this meeting. Participating in the NGO session and talking informally with ambassadors and UN officials, we will gather vital information about international developments in the field of disarmament and will communicate our "mayors' perspectives." Member cities are welcome to join this delegation. If you plan to participate, please let us know your intention as soon as possible.

■Mayors for Peace North American Coordinator Addresses US Conference of Mayors

Mayors for Peace North American Coordinator Jackie Cabasso addressed the International Affairs Committee of the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) at its annual winter meeting in Washington, DC on January 18. Citing rising

international tensions, huge financial expenditures, and recent studies showing that even a very limited nuclear exchange could lead to global famine, she stressed the urgent need to abolish nuclear weapons. On the positive side, she reported on encouraging developments in the United Nations and the continuing growth of Mayors for Peace. Praising the USCM for adopting a strong Mayors for Peace resolution at its June 2012 Annual Meeting, "Calling for US Leadership in Global Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and Redirection of Nuclear Weapons Spending to Meet the Urgent Needs of Cities," Ms. Cabasso closed by encouraging U.S. mayors to attend this August's Mayors for Peace General Meeting in Hiroshima, stating, "If you haven't been to Hiroshima, it will change your life." The USCM is the national association of cities with populations over 30,000.

▼ Text of Ms. Cabasso's speech:

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user_upload/2020VC/Home/USCM_Int_Affairs_Com_JC_remarks.pdf

■ Latin American and Caribbean leaders prepare to push for complete nuclear disarmament at upcoming UN Summit

Mayors for Peace welcomes the renewed commitment of the 33 Heads of State of Latin America and the Caribbean to work towards a world free of nuclear weapons. The leaders reaffirmed the priority objective to reach a world free of nuclear weapons [in the Santiago Declaration](#) adopted on January 28, 2013 at the First Summit of CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States). The regional summit emphasized "the commitment to participate actively and share a common position at the High Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament, to be held in New York City, on September 26, 2013."

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/33c2ef57f062d9f17650d40f805ba81d/latin-american-and-the-caribbean-lea.html>

■ Financial contributions from member cities to the 2020 Vision Campaign - Update for January 2013 [Ypres, Belgium]

The 2020 Vision Campaign received donations from 13 cities in 4 countries during the month of January coming to a total of 5,290.93 Euros.

We would like to extend our gratitude to those member cities for their 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-January.html>

▼ List of cities that made contributions in January:

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user_upload/2020VC/Home/January_2013.pdf

▼ How to make contributions:

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

■ Member City Activities

*The city of Kuki, Japan, declared itself a 'City of Peace and Respect for Human Dignity' on December 21, 2012. The city intends to advance development with full respect for human rights, enabling each one of its citizens to live safely and happily. For the full text of the declaration, please visit the Kuki City website or open the link from the Mayors for Peace website under 'Member City Activities.'

*The city of Rivas Vaciamadrid invited 150 students from two public schools to a videoconference with a survivor of the atomic bombing in Nagasaki with cooperation from the city of Nagasaki on January 29. The students listened to the testimony and learned about the catastrophic effects of nuclear weapons. The two schools' joint presentation of their work in May will conclude this peace study project.

▼ Related Information:

http://www.rivasciudad.es/portal/contenedor_ficha.jsp?seccion=s_fnot_d4_v1.jsp&contenido=15374&nivel=1400&tipo=8&codResi=1&language=es&codMenu=115&codMenuPN=37&ca=16

Please visit the "Member City Activities" page on our website for ideas you can implement in your city. The URL of this page has been changed.

▼ To see the "Member City Activities" webpage, click the link below:

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

<<PLEASE SEND INFORMATION ON YOUR CITY'S PEACE ACTIVITIES >>

Please help us tell others about what you are doing!

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

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

We will be glad to help you advertise.

▼ Please send the name/title of the activity along with the link to: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

■Poster exhibit commemorates 5,000-city milestone

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. We have heard from more than 250 cities around the world, such as Vienna, Austria; London, UK; Volgograd, Russia; Kabul, Afghanistan, that they held the poster exhibition responding to our request. Please do hold an exhibition and bring this issue to the attention of people in your city.

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 and submit the report after the exhibition to the Secretariat. The report format is provided at the Mayors for Peace website below.

>>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.

▼ Related Information:

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

■Please support the petition drive for a nuclear weapons convention

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 and the first Japanese Member City Meeting in Nagasaki in January 2012, 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.

Thanks to a lot of supporters across the world, we received 600,965 signatures as of February 1, 2013.

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.

▼ Online petition:

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

■ Mayors for Peace member cities – 5,536 cities in 156 countries/regions

