

## Mayors for Peace News Flash (May 2013) No.41

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 May 1, 2013

**5,617 cities in 156 countries/regions with 30 new members**

\*\*\*\*\*

### <<Table of Contents >>

\*\*\*\*\*

- Participation in the Second Preparatory Committee Meeting for the 2015 NPT Review Conference
- Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign elects a new Vice-President: Thore Vestby; Mayor of Frogn, Norway
- General Meeting of the 2020 Vision Campaign Association and a Meeting to Strengthen the Foundation for Mayors for Peace Management
- Mayors for Peace 8th General Conference- registration deadline: Monday, June 10
- Mayors for Peace Newsletter No.33 Issued
- 2020 Vision Campaign Progress Report 2013 issued
- Important Edinburgh NFLA Joint Seminar held on the future direction of the nuclear weapons issue
- Mayors for Peace sent a message to peace march in Bogota in support of ending armed conflict
- New poster exhibit commemorates 5,000-city milestone
- Please support the petition drive for a nuclear weapons convention
- Member City Activities (Nishinomiya, Japan)
- Financial contributions from member cities to the 2020 Vision Campaign - Update for April 2013
- Visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace last month
- Mayors for Peace member cities – 5,617 cities in 156 countries/regions

\*\*\*\*\*

### ■Participation in the Second Preparatory Committee Meeting for the 2015 NPT Review Conference [Geneva, Switzerland, April 22-25]

Mayors for Peace delegation from 8 cities participated in the second Preparatory Committee Meeting for the 2015 NPT Review Conference (the 2013 NPT PrepCom) held in Geneva. At the NGO session of the meeting, the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki delivered speeches and appealed to government representatives the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons and necessity for efforts toward the early realization of a nuclear weapons convention. They also submitted the grassroots petitions for a nuclear weapons convention to the chair of the 2013 NPT PrepCom. The delegates met with Ambassador Amano, Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament, Director-General Tokayev of the UN Office at Geneva, Ambassador Tanner, Director of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Vice-President Beerli of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Ms. Kane, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and many other government representatives, and asked them to make further efforts to realize the abolition of nuclear weapons as early as possible.

### ■Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign elects a new Vice-President: Thore Vestby; Mayor of Frogn, Norway

Mayor Thore Vestby of Frogn, Norway, has been elected Vice-President of the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Association the vote was unanimous. Thore Vestby was elected by representatives of the leading cities of the Campaign. Mayor Vestby originally served an Associate Member of Campaign Association, progressing last year to Executive Member, as well as a member of the Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace. In 2012, Mayor Vestby participated in events in Kazakhstan, Croatia, and Iraq as a representative of Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign.

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website)

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/484aeba257be36535312d029c9a2ffba/mayors-for-peace-2020-vision-campaig.html>

-----  
**■ General Meeting of the 2020 Vision Campaign Association and a Meeting to Strengthen the Foundation for Mayors for Peace Management** [Geneva, Switzerland, April 23 and 24]  
-----

In conjunction with the 2013 NPT PrepCom, a meeting to strengthen the foundation for Mayors for Peace management was held on April 23 and the executive cities exchanged opinions on measures for strengthening Mayors for Peace operation system to be proposed for the endorsement at the 8<sup>th</sup> General Conference in Hiroshima this August. The participants agreed on the following points:

- (1) Membership fee (JPY 2,000 per year)
- (2) Regionalization (selecting lead cities and establishing chapters)
- (3) Dissemination of seeds from A-bombed trees and the Flame of Peace in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park

On ~~August~~ April 24, the General Meeting of the 2020 Vision Campaign Association was held. At the general meeting, 2012 fiscal and development summaries were reported and approved as well as action plan of the association discussed.

-----  
**■ Mayors for Peace 8<sup>th</sup> General Conference- registration deadline: Monday, June 10**  
-----

As we have already informed every member city, Mayors for Peace will hold the 8<sup>th</sup> General Conference in Hiroshima from August 3 to 6, 2013.

Registration of the 8<sup>th</sup> General Conference is available until Monday, June 10 on the Mayors for Peace registration webpage. On this webpage, aside from the registration of the conference, you can make requests for visa application documents, exhibition booth applications from cities & NGOs to show their peace-related activities and accommodation & excursion reservations. Also if you wish to deliver speeches at the General Conference, you can submit an application for it on the same webpage.

If a mayor is unlikely to participate, we would like to have representatives on behalf of the mayor. We would also appreciate it if you could invite your sister cities' representatives to the conference.

Following the 2013 NPT PrepCom, where discussion focused on the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons, this General Conference will be held in the A-bombed city of Hiroshima with continued appeal to the inhuman nature of nuclear weapons.

Thank you very much for your kind support for the successful organization of the General Conference in Hiroshima.

Term: August 3-6, 2013

Venue: International Conference Center Hiroshima

Keynote Theme: Toward a World without Nuclear Weapons – Conveying the “Spirit of Hiroshima and Nagasaki” to the World –

Registration: April 8 to June 10

\*Deadline of accommodation & excursion reservations is June 17.

▼ Registration of the 8<sup>th</sup> General Conference (Mayors for Peace webpage): <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/>

-----  
**■ Mayors for Peace Newsletter No.33 Issued**  
-----

Mayors for Peace Newsletter No. 33 was issued in April featuring the news and activities from March 2012 to March 2013. You can download the newsletter from the following :

▼ Mayors for Peace Newsletter No.33:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/newsletter/33.pdf>

-----  
**■ 2020 Vision Campaign Progress Report 2013 issued**  
-----

The 2020 Vision Campaign Progress Report has been completed. This latest, comprehensive 32-page report covers structure, international campaigning, membership development by continents and by countries, campaigners and UN

Representatives as well as Finances and Fundraising in 2012 and plans for 2013. Once reading it, you can get the whole picture of this campaign toward the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020.

You can download the Progress Report 2013 from the following :

▼ 2020 Vision Campaign Progress Report 2013:

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/progress-report.html>

---

**■ Important Edinburgh NFLA Joint Seminar held on the future direction of the nuclear weapons issue**  
[Edinburgh, UK, April 19]

---

On April 19th 2013 a joint seminar was held in Edinburgh City Chambers organised by the Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) Scotland Forum in association with Mayors for Peace, Abolition 2000 and Parliamentarians for Non-proliferation and Nuclear Disarmament (PNND). The seminar considered the future development of the nuclear weapons issue in 2013 and was deliberately held prior to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Preparatory Conference in Geneva, taking place the following week. The joint seminar included four high profile speakers who have been heavily involved in the international nuclear weapons issue over the past 2 decades. The seminar was chaired by the NFLA Scotland Convenor, Councillor Bill Butler of Glasgow City Council. Keynote speaker was the former Mayor of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace, Dr Tadatashi Akiba, who is now Chair of the influential group, the Middle Powers Initiative.

▼ Full article (NFLA website):

[http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/events/NFLA\\_Edinburgh\\_NW\\_joint\\_seminar.pdf](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/events/NFLA_Edinburgh_NW_joint_seminar.pdf)

---

**■ Mayors for Peace sent a message to peace march in Bogota in support of ending armed conflict**  
[Bogota, Colombia, April 9]

---

More than one million people gathered in a march in the Colombian capital Bogota to celebrate the Day for Peace, Democracy and Defense of the Public Interest. Its main purpose was to strengthen the peace process, with the dialogue currently taking place in Havana between the Colombian government and the FARC. April 9th marks a symbolic date in the history of violence in Colombia. 65 years ago, in the wake of slain political leader Jorge Eliecer Gaitan. The violence left nearly 300,000 Colombians killed. As part of this celebration and with the intention of making visible the public outcry for peace and the issue of the victims of the conflict within the international arena, the Office of Mayor of Bogota convened the International Meeting for Peace at the Memorial for Peace and Reconciliation in Bogotá. On behalf of over 5,500 cities, the Mayor of Hiroshima sent a message of support from Mayors for Peace to the Peace Summit organized by the Mayor of Bogota.

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/d61ef8c8f3aa43241d5a455c3c609e56/more-than-1-million-gather-in-peace.html>

---

**■ 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, Dutch, 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 743,698 signatures as of May 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](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/petitionform_en.pdf).

▼ Online petition:

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

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

The 2020 Vision Campaign received donations from 4 cities in 4 countries during the month of April coming to a total of 4,383.65 Euros. Significant donations were made by our member cities in Belgium, Germany, Canada and USA.

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/0fad4c3774e963034cb24c1c3cc37613/contributions-update-april-2013.html>

▼ List of cities that made contributions in April:

[http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/2020VC/April\\_2013.xlsx](http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user_upload/2020VC/April_2013.xlsx)

▼ How to make contributions:

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

-----  
**■ Member City Activities**  
-----

\*The city of Nishinomiya, Japan, implemented various activities including the A-bomb Exhibition (July), Parents and Children's Bus Tour to Hiroshima (August), Lantern Floating for Peace (August), outreach activities prior to the war-end anniversary on August 15 (August), set up a billboard to promote its Nuclear Free Peace City Declaration (December) in 2012.

Please visit the "Member City Activities" page on our website for ideas you can implement in your city.

▼ 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](mailto:mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)

-----  
**■Visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace last month**  
-----

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

- April 1 Mr. Oleksandr Riabeka, President of Afghan- Chernobyl Association, Ukraine
- April 12 Ambassador Bruce Miller, Australian Ambassador to Japan

-----  
**■ Mayors for Peace member cities – 5,617 cities in 156 countries/regions**  
-----

Thanks to your invaluable support, on May 1, we added 30 new member cities, bringing total membership to 5,617. As a result of sending a recruitment letter to all non-member cities/municipalities in Japan, 16 cities from the country joined.

By the recruitment letter sent from 4 member mayors in the Netherlands, three more Dutch cities were listed as our new members.

We also welcomed new member cities from Brazil, Cameroon, and seven other countries. Among them, having Cardiff, UK, which is the largest and capital city of Wales, join, means that all the capitals of the constituent parts of the UK and Ireland are now Mayors for Peace members.

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/newmembers1305\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2013/newmembers1305_en.pdf)

\*\*\*\*\*

**If you have any comments, questions, or would like to unsubscribe or change your contact information, please contact us at:**

Mayors for Peace Secretariat  
1-5 Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima 730-0811 Japan  
Tel: +81-82-242-7821 Fax: +81-82-242-7452  
Email: [mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp](mailto:mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)

\*\*\*\*\*