

Mayors for Peace News Flash (June 2013) No.42

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 June 1, 2013

5,645 cities in 156 countries/regions with 29 new members

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■Mayors for Peace 8th General Conference- registration extended for additional participants - Keynote speaker confirmed: Ms. Angela Kane, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs -

As we have already informed every member city, Mayors for Peace will hold the 8th General Conference in Hiroshima from August 3 to 6, 2013. Please accept our gratitude for those who have registered to participate in the General Conference.

[Keynote speaker confirmed]

As a new development, it is confirmed that the keynote speaker will be H. E. Ms. Angela Kane, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. Her speech will be delivered after the opening ceremony on Saturday, August 3. This will be a precious opportunity to listen to Ms. Kane who is playing a significant role in the international arena. We would appreciate it if many participants could listen to her speech.

[Registration to participate in –extended for additional participants–]

We have previously informed that the registration of the 8th General Conference was available until Monday, June 10 on the Mayors for Peace registration webpage. However, to welcome as many participants as possible, we have decided to extend the registration deadline.

[Accommodation – early reservation recommended]

In Hiroshima City, many peace related events are held in early August and hotels are fully booked during that period every year. After late June, there is a possibility that securing your accommodation would be difficult. We would like to ask that you register to participate as early as possible as well as booking your accommodation.

[City and NGO Booths / Presentation]

Regarding the City and NGO booths to exhibit peace related activities in the venue, the cities and NGOs that completed registration by June 10 can exhibit in a booth. Please start preparation for the exhibition.

For those who have applied for speaking opportunities at the General Conference and completed registration as such by June 10, the Secretariat will contact you soon regarding the submission of the speech sheet.

<<The 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace>>

Term: August 3-6, 2013

Venue: International Conference Center Hiroshima, Grand Prince Hotel Hiroshima

Grand Prince Hotel Hiroshima will be the venue for the welcome reception from 7pm on Saturday, August 3.

For the transportation from the main venue (International Conference Center Hiroshima) and the Grand Prince Hotel, a bus is available for free of charge.

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

Registration: Now open for additional participants (early registration recommended)

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

■ Please visit Nagasaki after the General Conference - the Nagasaki Program for Participants

If you are attending the 68th Nagasaki Peace Ceremony on August 9 after the 8th General Conference in Hiroshima, please participate in the Nagasaki Program. Aside from the Peace Ceremony on August 9, various activities are planned on August 7 and 8 such as a tour around peace related sites, testimony by an A-bomb survivor, visit the Atomic Bomb Museum and a walking tour around the city. For details, please visit our website at:

▼ Nagasaki Program for Participants to the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/projects/8th_genecon/130604_nagasaki/nagasaki-pro_en.pdf

■ Mayors for Peace delegates were welcomed by two Mexican Associations of Local Governments - Mayors for Peace office inaugurated in Mexico City [Mexico City, May 20]

Mayor Thore Vestby of Frogn, Norway, who is a vice president of the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign, was welcomed by two Mexican Associations of Local Governments during a series of events to promote Mayors for Peace. During the Annual Conference of FENAMM (National Federation of Municipalities of Mexico) over 2,000 Mayors and local governments officials gathered in the City of León from May 15 - 18. Mayor Vestby was invited to address both the Directive Council of FENAMM, as well as a plenary session dedicated to the role of cities to promote a culture of peace.

On Monday, May 20, AALMAC (the Association of Local Authorities of Mexico) organized a special event with the inauguration of the Mexican office of Mayors for Peace. Mr. Alejandro Fernandez Ramirez, District Mayor of Cuauhtémoc, has kindly offered an office space. After the inauguration AALMAC organized the first Mexican Conference of Mayors for Peace. The conference was attended by three District Mayors of the Mexican capital who officially joined Mayors for Peace. Ms. Leticia Quezada Contreras, District Mayor of La Magdalena Contreras, also the President of AALMAC, called all Mexican Mayors to join Mayors for Peace.

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/934d2ea62bb761e3edca25c1946380d0/mexican-mayors-discuss-the-promotion.html>

■ Mayors for Peace calls on diplomats to “plan in good faith” for nuclear disarmament at the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) on nuclear disarmament set up by the UN General Assembly

[Geneva, Switzerland, May 15-17]

Aaron Tovish, International Campaign Director of the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Association, and Esteban Ramirez, UN Representative from the association, attended the start of the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) on nuclear disarmament set up by the United Nations General Assembly amidst growing frustration with the ongoing paralysis of the Conference on Disarmament and insufficient progress towards the achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons. The working group provides a comparatively informal forum for debate and is mandated to “develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.” Besides the interactive format of the working group, representatives from civil

society and international organizations have been invited to participate.

On May 15, during the second day of meetings at the United Nations Office in Geneva, Mr. Tovish, speaking on behalf of Mayors for Peace, suggested that “‘planning in good faith’ should be our core guiding concept at this time.” On May 17, in concluding remarks, Esteban Ramirez called on participants to continue to engage openly and creatively.

▼Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/bfc8c6460a724c31e0e42f82f351f7cd/mayors-for-peace-calls-on-diplomats.html>

■National Union of Local Governments of Costa Rica signs letter of intention with Mayors for Peace
[San Jose, Costa Rica, May 22]

The President of the National Union of Local Governments signed a letter of intention with Mayors for Peace. The agreement of co-operation was signed during an event in the Costa Rican capital which also featured a presentation by Ward Wilson about the five myths of nuclear weapons. The event was initiated by Ms. Edine von Herold, a former Member of Parliament and Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaigner in Costa Rica. Mr. Rolando Rodríguez Brenes, Mayor of Cartago and Present of the Costa Rican National Union of Local Governemnts declared that the UNGL will work towards 100% membership in Costa Rica. To this date, only Nicaragua has achieved membership of all of the conuntry’s mayors.

▼Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/c7cca63c16bd869339f73058d5b93aec/national-union-of-local-governments.html>

■Art project "Nucle-Art 13" launched in Belgium
[Ypres, Belgium]

We are pleased to announce the launch of our art projects Nucle-Art. Nucle-Art is a project which has been put together by the City of Ypres and Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign. Artists from 33 Belgian cities (all members of Mayors for Peace) are showing there piece of art, all related to the nuclear theme.

Our first exhibition was a great success which was held at Het Perron in Ypres. There will be three further exhibitions, so there is plenty opportunity for you to go and check it out. The exhibition is currently being held at Neerpelt until the 3rd July. It will then move along to Bastogne until the 1st August and the final exhibition can be seen at Middelkerke until the 26th September.

▼You can view more information and photos of the different artists work of Nucle-Art 13 here (2020 Vision Campaign website):

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/art-project.html>

Note that all the pieces are for sale and that half of the money is going to the 2020 Vision Campaign.

■Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and the A-bomb Dome ranked top as the travel destinations in Japan

The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and the A-bomb Dome has been ranked top for the past two years as the most popular destination for international travelers in Japan, compiled by TripAdvisor, the largest travel site in the world based in the U.S. accessed by 200 million people a month. Please visit the Museum and the A-bomb Dome when you visit Hiroshima and learn the reality of the A-bombing and renew your determination to establish a peaceful world without nuclear weapons.

▼Related article (The Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center):

http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/mediacenter/article.php?story=20130531101958468_en

■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 755,118 signatures as of June 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>.

■ Member City Activities

* Wageningen, the Netherlands, a historic city also known as the 'City of Liberation' and the 'City of Life Sciences', will hold the international conference "(Post-)conflict, cultural heritage and regional development" from the 9th until the 11th of October 2013. It is organized by the Liberation Day Committee 1945 Wageningen, as a member of the European Network of Places of Peace www.placesofpeace.eu, in cooperation with Wageningen University and Research Centre.

▼ Website: <http://www.peaceconference.org>

▼ Contact: info@peaceconference.org Mr. Ed Dumrese

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

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

The 2020 Vision Campaign received donations from 31 cities in 4 countries during the month of May coming to a total of 11,400 Euro. Significant donations were made by our member cities in Belgium, Germany, Italy and Spain. 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/4fd2327cbe9af7bafa75ef7b24b6d297/contributions-may-2013.html>

▼ List of cities that made contributions in May:

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user_upload/2020VC/Home/May_2013.pdf

▼ How to make contributions:

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

■ Visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace last month

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

- May 17 H.E. Mr. Domenico Giorgi, Ambassador of Italy to Japan
- May 22 H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan
- May 22 H.E. Dr. Mussie Hailu, AU and UNECA Representative and Ambassador-at-large of Burundi
- May 26 H.E. Mr. Elard Alberto Escala Sanchez-Barreto, Ambassador of Peru to Japan

■ Mayors for Peace member cities – 5,645 cities in 156 countries/regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on June 1, we added 29 new member cities, bringing total membership to 5,645. As a result of recruitment in conjunction with the Annual Conference of FENAMM (National Federation of Municipalities of Mexico) as well as the inauguration of the Mayors for Peace Mexican Office by AALMAC (the Association of Local Authorities of Mexico), 15 cities including three districts in Mexico City joined from Mexico. By the recruitment letter to all non-member cities/municipalities in Japan, 7 cities from the country joined. We also welcomed new member cities from Croatia, Ecuador, Egypt, Germany, Nigeria and Ukraine. 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/newmembers1306_en.pdf

■ Correction for the May issue

In the May issue, there was one mistake in the article “General Meeting of the 2020 Vision Campaign Association and a Meeting to Strengthen the Foundation for Mayors for Peace Management”. The month of the General Meeting of the 2020 Vision Campaign Association was mistakenly stated as “August”, which should have been “April”.

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

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