

Mayors for Peace News Flash (September 2013) No.45

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 September 1, 2013

5,736 cities in 157 countries/regions with 24 new members

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■ Events to mark the International Day of Peace 2013

Either in response to our call in July or as their continued efforts, a lot of member cities will commemorate the International Day of Peace 2013 on September 21. Here are some examples of their plans reported to the Secretariat:

In support of the 2013 theme of 'Education for Peace, educational facilities in Orenburg (Russia) will hold various activities such as music lessons, drawing contests, concerts, speech and presentation contests and discussions.

In Ipswich (Australia), Ipswich Library is hosting a display during the month of September promoting the ongoing work of the UN, Mayors for Peace together with both organization's long term objective to abolish nuclear weapons and end war.

Manchester (UK) is hosting a Peace History Conference on September 20 and 21, along with a walk of the Manchester City Centre Peace Trail in the afternoon on September 20 and a film about the composer Benjamin Britten, a well-known supporter of peace projects and conscientious objector during the Second World War in the evening of September 20. Manchester Camerata are also giving a concert of some of his works the same evening in Manchester Town Hall. (Link to the flyer of the Peace History Conference is available below)

Takayama (Japan) is widely requesting to ring bells at temples, churches and any institute that has bells in Japanese member cities at noon of September 21. The cities of Akita, Motosu and Nagasaki (Japan) responded the call and ring the bells in each city.

The cities of Trail and North Vancouver (Canada) proclaimed September 21 as "International Day of Peace" in each city (Link to the Proclamation of the city of North Vancouver is available below.)

Marion (Australia) is promoting the International Day of Peace through the city's website as well as Facebook and Twitter.

A minute of silence will be observed in many cities including Cambridge (UK), Honolulu (USA), Mülheim an der Ruhr (Germany), Oshika-mura (Japan), Registro (Brazil) and others.

The cities of Cairns (Australia), Dublin (Ireland), Linz (Austria), Norwich (UK), Red Deer (Canada) and others are also planning to hold an event in each city.

We believe there are other plans in your city. Please share the report of such events with us.

The links to the following are also available at "Member City Activities" page on our website.

▼ Flyer of the Peace History Conference in Manchester

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2013/130920_Manchester_PHC_Flyer.pdf

▼ Proclamation of the city of North Vancouver

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2013/130909_northvancouver_Proclamation International Day of Peace.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2013/130909_northvancouver_Proclamation_International_Day_of_Peace.pdf)

■ Letter of Request for promotion of actions for the early realization of a "Nuclear Weapons Convention" and the Hiroshima Appeal were submitted to the Japanese government

On September 10, President Matsui, Mayor of the City of Hiroshima and Mr. Kuroda, office manager at the Tokyo Office of the City of Nagasaki representing Japanese member cities of Mayors for Peace met with Foreign Minister Kishida and submitted a Letter of Request to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in reference to promotion to address the early realization of a "Nuclear Weapons Convention". At the same time, the Hiroshima Appeal adopted at the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace was also submitted. Minister Kishida said "With acknowledgement of every contribution of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Mayors for Peace, we would like to address the issue in an effort to realize a world without nuclear weapons working together with you all".

▼ Full text of the article

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/statement/request/130910_en/index.html

▼ Letter of Request (English translation. Original text was in Japanese.):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/statement/request/130910_en/request_130910_en.html

▼ The Hiroshima Appeal:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/meeting/8th/20130805_hiroshima_appeal.pdf

■ The Hiroshima Appeal was sent to the UN Secretary General and 151 national governments around the world

On September 10, the Hiroshima Appeal adopted at the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace was sent to the UN Secretary General and 151 national governments around the world through their embassies in Japan.

■ Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) on nuclear disarmament adopts report to the General Assembly [Geneva, Switzerland, August 30]

On August 30, the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) on nuclear disarmament adopted, without a vote, a report summarizing the "proposals made and discussions held" during its meetings in May, June and August 2013. On August 28, Mr. Esteban Ramirez, UN Representative from Mayors for Peace, welcomed the introduction of the draft report, and stressed "the value and contribution of the OEWG to articulate proposals and clarify positions, broadening the discussion, and promoting participation (including by civil society)." However, Mr. Ramirez noted, "Much more could have and should be done with regards to producing concrete recommendations to the General Assembly to move forward with multilateral disarmament negotiations, in accordance with its mandate. During the meetings of the Working Group, Mayors for Peace contributed alongside other members of the Abolition 2000 Task Force to the drafting of a Manual for Governments, meant primarily to assist smaller delegation. Mayors for Peace also submitted a working paper jointly with the Basel Peace Office and the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/c23946550d38371e67fc54d29150e9d6/open-ended-working-group-on-nuclear.html>

▼ Working Paper jointly submitted (UNOG website):

[http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/%28httpAssets%29/58C4DF0D6E3B636CC1257BCC0040A7A4/\\$file/A-AC.281+NGO-02-English-Basel+Peace+office.pdf](http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/%28httpAssets%29/58C4DF0D6E3B636CC1257BCC0040A7A4/$file/A-AC.281+NGO-02-English-Basel+Peace+office.pdf)

■Mayors for Peace 5,000 Milestone Poster Exhibition in display at the UN Office at Geneva
[Geneva, Switzerland, August 19]

Mayors for Peace's poster exhibition commemorating the 5,000-city milestone was on display at the United Nations Office at Geneva, outside the meeting rooms where the Open Ended Working Group (OEGW), mandated to develop concrete proposals "to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations," was holding its final segment, 19-30 August. The nineteen posters in the Exhibit aim at raising awareness for the abolition of nuclear weapons by providing information about the reality of the atomic bomb damage in Hiroshima and Nagasaki as well as the prospect of catastrophic climate disruption following a nuclear war, even a "limited" one.

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/2192a2fa0cf6045a722cda21bd066588/mayors-for-peaces-5000-milestone.html>

■The Conference of Cities for Peace in the Mediterranean
[Aubagne, France from September 19 -21]

In the spirit of the decision to promote regional activities taken during the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace, the Executive member cities of Biograd na moru (Croatia) and Granollers (Spain), and the President city of AFCDRP-Mayors for Peace France, Aubagne (France), are organizing the first Conference of Cities for Peace in the Mediterranean in Aubagne (France), near Marseille, from September 19 to 21, 2013.

Mayors for Peace's member cities from the Mediterranean Basin (23 countries concerned) are invited to discuss the keynote theme: "What kind of local policies to promote a culture of Peace?" Participants will address a wide range of peace related issues, among them the role of cities to promote nuclear disarmament and peace, and how to develop Mayors for Peace's activities in this region.

The Conference will welcome keynote speeches from Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation Chairperson and Mayors for Peace Secretary General, Mayor Khder Kareem, Mayors for Peace Vice-president, Mr. Georges Corm, Former Finance Minister of Lebanon, and Mayor Paul Quiles, Former Minister of Defense of France.

▼ Detailed information in French, Spanish and English:

<http://peacecities2013.wordpress.com/>

▼ Conference Program in English:

<http://peacecities2013.wordpress.com/2013/04/04/conference-program-in-english/>

■ Op-ed on Syria released by the mayors of Ypres and Halabja

The mayors of Ypres (Belgium) and Halabja (Kurdistan, Iraq), both Vice President cities of Mayors for Peace, have released an Op-ed titled "Syria: a civil war or a war on cities?" appealing that "Syrian Cities Are Not Targets." The two cities experienced the scourge of chemical weapons in 1915 and 1988 respectively. The full text of the op-ed is available from the links below.

▼ Full text of "Syria: a civil war or a war on cities? " :

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user_upload/2020VC/Home/Op-ed_Syria.pdf

■Member City Activities

* Volgograd, Russia

Report on the August 6 memorial ceremony in Volgograd

Volgograd held a memorial ceremony paying tribute to the victims of the atomic bombing of 1945 in Hiroshima. The ceremony is traditionally organized in the Museum-panorama "The Battle of Stalingrad". The ceremony was attended by the mayor, the former mayors, members of the "Children of Stalingrad" society, pupils of Volgograd schools, and representatives of the municipality. The event started at 8.15am with the toll of the Bell of Peace, followed by a minute of silence. Children laid paper cranes at the foot of the Bell in memory of Hiroshima pupils killed in the bombing. After that, the participants gathered in the Hall of Glory to watch documentary films on the bombing of Hiroshima and on the history of friendly relations between Hiroshima and Volgograd.

▼ Full text of the report

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2013/130806_volgograd_memorialceremony/report.pdf

▼ The City of Volgograd website (Russian)

<http://www.volgadmin.ru/ru/MPAuthority/News/NewsDumaText.aspx?idn=11401>

▼ Video (Russian Public Television, Russian)

<http://www.otr-online.ru/news/9119.html>

*Yao, Japan

Peace Gathering commemorating the 30th anniversary of the nuclear free peace city declaration of Yao City
On August 9, in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of nuclear free peace city declaration of Yao City, a peace gathering was held with about 850 participants. Students of a municipal junior high school reported their Hiroshima study tour and Mr. Yoichi Watanabe, photojournalist and battlefield photographer, delivered a speech at the gathering. The petition drive calling for a nuclear weapons convention was also conducted at the venue.

▼ The City of Yao website (Japanese)

<http://www.city.yao.osaka.jp/0000023050.html>

*Rwandz, Kurdistan, Iraq

Comment of Mayor Serwan Sereni on participating in the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace

▼ Full text of "Visiting Japan" by the mayor of Rwandz

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2013/130810_rwandz_message.html

*Registro (SP), Brazil

Tooro Nagashi of Peace (Peace Lantern Floating)

On August 17, the city of Registro held for the fifth consecutive year, the event "Tooro Nagashi of Peace", or peace lantern floating. 300 students from 40 schools in the city brought together to form a big choir to sing songs calling for peace. The colorful lanterns are placed in the Ribeira river and follow the stream, providing a landscape of extreme peace.

▼ Letter from the mayor of Registro with pictures (English)

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2013/130817_Registro_Tooro_Nagashi_of_Peace.pdf

Aside from these, links to the Proclamation of the International Day of Peace by the city of North Vancouver, the Flyer of the Peace History Conference in Manchester, and the Conference of Cities for Peace in the Mediterranean in Aubagne that are mentioned above are also available on our website. 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

■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. In August, aside from the exhibit at the United Nations Office at Geneva mentioned above, Lipetsk City, Russia as well as four cities/towns in Japan including the cities of Ako, Himeji, Higashi-matsuyama and Oji town held the poster exhibits. 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. Promotion of this poster exhibit in member cities is also included in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2013-2017) adopted at the 8th General Conference.

▼ 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. Promotion of this petition drive is also included in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2013-2017) adopted at the 8th General Conference.

Thanks to a lot of supporters across the world, we received 806,533 signatures as of September 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/01_monthly_updating/11_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 August 2013 [Ypres, Belgium]

During August the 2020 Vision Campaign experienced yet another increase in the number of donations and in the total amount raised. In total the campaign received 5 donations, spanning two countries, Belgium and Germany and one donation of the Art Exhibition held in Belgium. All in all the amount donated reached 1442.5Euro.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the people behind every single donation made, 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/30e0b59b566023dda46bebfa6011de55/contributions-august-2013.html>

▼ List of cities that made contributions in May:

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user_upload/2020VC/Home/August_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 August and asked them to support for the activities of Mayors for Peace and cooperate with the membership expansion.

August 6 H.E. Mr. Farukh Amil, Ambassador of Pakistan to Japan

August 21 H.E. Mr. Enrique Armando Roman-Moray, Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations

August 22 H.E. Ms. Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa, Ambassador of India to Japan

August 24 Mr. Krishna Hari Baskota Secretary, Office of Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, Nepal

■ Mayors for Peace member cities – 5,736 cities in 157 countries/regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on September 1, we added 24 new member cities, bringing total membership to 5,736.

Thanks to the cooperation of the Cameroon League for Development, four cities from Cameroon joined.

As a result of the recruitment drive by our campaigner at Teheran Peace Museum, three cities from Iran joined in addition to the 14 cities joined during the last two months.

In conjunction with the August 6 and 9 events in Northeastern Italy, three new Italian members joined.

Japan added six new members and the number of the member cities reached 1,366. Two new members joined from Mexico, one of them was delivered by the Peace Boat.

We also welcomed new member cities from Argentina, Australia, Germany, Paraguay, Sri Lanka and the UK.

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/newmembers1309_en.pdf

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

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