

Mayors for Peace News Flash (February 2014) No.50

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, 2014

5,895 cities in 158 countries/regions with 35 new members

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■Mayors for Peace delegates attended the Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons

[Nayarit, Mexico, February 13-14, 2014]

The Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons was held in Nayarit, Mexico, on February 13-14, 2014. The Nayarit Conference was hosted by the government of Mexico and delegations representing 146 States, the UN, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement and civil society organizations, participated in the conference.

Mayors for Peace delegation led by Mayor Thore Vestby of Frogn (Norway), Vice President of Mayors for Peace and Secretary General Komizo attended the conference. Mr. Komizo spoke at a question and answer session after the Hibakusha (A-bomb survivors) presentation.

The Nayarit Conference is a follow-up of the First Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in Oslo in March 2013 hosted by Norwegian Government. The next conference will be held in Vienna later this year.

In the Chair's Summary, gratitude was expressed for the participation of the A-bomb survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and for civil society's involvement and inputs. The chair called on all governments to forge new and renewed multi-sectorial partnerships with civil society to work towards mutually beneficial objectives. The Summary was concluded with placing "Nayarit is a point of no return" to initiate a diplomatic process conducive "to reach new international standards and norms through a legally binding instrument" and "this process should comprise a specific timeframe" and stated "The 70th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki attacks is the appropriate milestone to achieve our goal".

▼Remarks by Secretary General Komizo (English)

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2014/1402_mex/140213SG_Komizo_remarks_Nayarit.pdf

▼The Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons website (English)

<http://www.sre.gob.mx/en/index.php/humanimpact-nayarit-2014>

▼ Chair's Summary (English)

<http://www.sre.gob.mx/en/images/stories/cih/ci.pdf>

■ Iranian member cities peak at over 100

- This month added 31 cities and the total number of membership in Iran rose to 127

As of February 1, 2014, the number of Iranian member cities reached 127, an increase of 100 from 27 as of June 2013. This historical record was achieved by the team of the office for Iranian members of Mayors for Peace based at the Tehran Peace Museum, led by Dr. Shahriar Khateri, 2020 Vision Campaigner. They achieved this by consistently communicating with all the mayors in Iran and asking them to join Mayors for Peace.

Many Iranian cities were attacked by chemical weapons in the 1980s, and approximately 13,000 people including citizens of young and old generations died from these attacks and more than 100,000 were severely injured. Many victims are still suffering from long term health effects sustained from the chemical weapons attacks. A member city Sardasht has been called "the Second Hiroshima".

Dr. Khateri remarked on this achievement as follows:

"My colleagues and I at Tehran Peace Museum are very glad that we have been able to introduce the Mayors for Peace to many Iranian Mayors and to see how enthusiastic they are to join the campaign against nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. We shall continue our efforts and hope that this would be a step forward toward the total abolition of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction."

By joining the international network of Mayors for Peace, Iranian mayors are helping the new government break out of the isolation Iran has suffered in recent years. We welcome them in the hope that they and their nation will become an increasingly important force for nuclear disarmament and peace.

▼ List of member cities in Iran:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/memberscity/asia/iran.html>

■ Mayors for Peace member cities in Uruguay exchanged opinions with Japanese Ambassador to Uruguay

[Montevideo, Uruguay, January 16]

On January 16, a meeting took place at the Japanese ambassador's residence to exchange opinions between H.E. Mr. Kazuaki Abe, Ambassador of Japan to Uruguay, and representatives of Mayors for Peace member cities including the departments (provinces) of Canelones, Montevideo and Rocha as well as representatives of the departments of Salto and Rivera, which are not yet members of Mayors for peace.

In the meeting, representatives of the departments of Salto and Rivera expressed their interests in joining Mayors for Peace. Especially, the representative of Salto mentioned that they would like to prepare for the membership application.

A representative of Montevideo remarked that as a member city of Mayors for Peace, they had been actively promoting Mayors for Peace through Mercociudades, which is a network among local authorities in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela. He assured that they would continue to call for many cities/municipalities to join Mayors for Peace.

■ Article on Mayors for Peace in 'Cities Today'

Cities Today, a leading magazine on sustainable developments of cities, published an article on Mayors for Peace in its January 2014 issue. You can also read the article from the link below.

▼ Article in 'Cities Today' (Page 4, Cities Today digital publication):

http://pfdmedia.com/read-online/ct_12_eng_jan_2014

▼ The issue is also available in 'Cities Today' iPad app:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/cities-today/id654664185?mt=8>

■CELAC proclaimed Latin America and Caribbean as a zone of peace

[Havana, Cuba, January 29]

On January 28 and 29, the Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) gathered at the Second Summit in Havana, Cuba and signed the Proclamation of Latin America and Caribbean as a zone of peace. Their permanent commitment to solve disputes through peaceful means, the commitment of the States of the region to continue promoting nuclear disarmament as a priority objective, and other commitments are included in this proclamation.

▼ Full text of the proclamation (Official Website of the Second Summit of CELAC):

<http://celac.cubaminrex.cu/en/articles/proclamation-latin-america-and-caribbean-zone-peace-original-signed-heads-state-and-governm> (English)

<http://celac.cubaminrex.cu/es/articulos/aprueban-jefas-y-jefes-de-estado-de-la-celac-proclama-de-america-latina-y-el-caribe-como-z> (Spanish)

■Member City Activities

* M'chedallah, Algeria

Mayors for Peace Algeria group meeting [held on January 31, 2014]

The Group of Mayors for Peace Algeria met on January 31 in the city of M'chedallah.

Representatives of several local authorities as well as local associations from neighboring provinces of Bejaia and Tizi Ouzou attended the meeting, including representatives of the city of Akbou, and the municipalities of Aghrib, Azazga and Yakourene and a representative of the organization NECFA (Nouveaux Échanges Culturels Franco-Algériens /New Cultural Exchanges Franco-Algerian).

The projects, program and action plan of Mayors for Peace were discussed during the meeting. Some participants also gave a report on their participation to the conference of Cities for Peace in the Mediterranean held last September in Aubagne, France.

The discussions also included the various conflicts plaguing Africa, especially North Africa.

The next meeting is planned for Friday, May 2, 2014 in the city of Tizi Ouzou.

▼ Full article (Mayors for Peace website)

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2013/140131_MfP_Algeria_gm/index.html

* Shinjuku, Japan

Peace Promotion Projects of Shinjuku

Based on its peace city declaration, Shinjuku has implemented various peace promotion projects to raise awareness for peace. Here are the examples of peace projects last year:

“Peace Exhibition” exhibited pictures of wars in two venues from July to August, a peace concert on July 20, dispatched seven pairs of parents and children to Hiroshima in August and held a meeting on October 6 to report from the parent-child envoys along with a choir concert. Other events held include “Peace Map Walking” on November 17 to visit monuments on peace and war, and a “Suito meeting” was also held on December 1 where participants listened to stories of war survivors while eating ‘suito’ flour dumpling soup which was commonly eaten during the war in Japan.

▼ Shinjuku City website (in Japanese)

http://www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/kusei/file19_00001.html

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

■Mayors for Peace A-bomb posters exhibition

– updated versions in Catalan, Dutch, French, German, Russian and Spanish now available

To commemorate the 5,000-city milestone of the Mayors for Peace membership, we called for all member cities to hold a poster exhibit, premiered in Vienna (Austria) in May 2012. Based on the decisions at the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in August 2013, we have updated a part of the Mayors for Peace A-bomb posters (English version). The contents in pages 15 and 16 have been updated. We would be most grateful if you could continue to support the exhibitions using the new posters and 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 London, UK; Volgograd, Russia and 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 translation for updated versions has just been completed, and now the updated posters are also available in Spanish, Catalan, French, Dutch, German, and Russian. You can download the updated posters from the Mayors for Peace website.

We would appreciate it if you could let us know when you will 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); 18 posters.

▼ Related Information and download the posters at:

<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, 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 884,579 signatures as of February 1, 2014.

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 January 2014 [Ypres, Belgium]

During December, the 2020 Vision Campaign received 10 donations, spanning eight countries, Austria, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Spain and Switzerland.

All in all, the amount donated reached 3450 Euro.

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/79d9c8a264c76cbf2e24d2068daf4427/contributions-january-2014.html>

▼ List of cities that made contributions in January:

