

Mayors for Peace News Flash (March 2014) No.51

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 March 1, 2014

5,912 cities in 158 countries/regions with 19 new members

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■Secretary General Komizo visited the U.S. and Mexico

[February 5-15]

From February 5 to 15, Secretary General Komizo visited the U.S. and Mexico. During his trip, he called on the mayors of Vice President Cities, namely Akron (U.S.) and Mexico City, accompanied by the mayor of Frogn (Norway) who joined Mr. Komizo to represent Mayors for Peace at the Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, and asked them to take up the lead city role. The mayor of Akron immediately signed the Acceptance Form to be a lead city.

Mr. Komizo also visited the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). He met with Ms. Angela Kane, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and Mr. Randy Rydell, Senior Political Affairs Officer in the Office of the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and explained to them about the activities of Mayors for Peace and asked for their support.

As reported in the last issue, Mr. Komizo attended the Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons held in Mexico along with the mayor of Frogn and asked national representatives to work toward the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Secretary General Komizo also attended the ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) Campaigners Meeting held in Nayarit, Mexico, and strengthened relationships with other NGOs, nuclear disarmament specialists, and A-bomb survivors who live in the Americas. He delivered a speech at the ICAN Campaigners Meeting and stressed the importance of nurturing a shared sense of community as one great human family which treasures its diversity in order to build a peaceful world.

In Mexico, Mr. Komizo also met each of the Secretary Generals of two municipal organizations, namely the National Federation of Municipalities in Mexico (FENAMM) and the Association of Local Authorities in Mexico (AALMAC),

and discussed cooperation of Mayors for Peace and each municipal organization.

■Secretary General Komizo attended the ceremony for the Nuclear Victims Remembrance Day in the Marshall Islands on behalf of the Mayor of Hiroshima

[Majuro, the Republic of Marshall Islands, March 1]

On February 15, when President Loeak of the Republic of Marshall Islands visited Hiroshima, an invitation was made to the City of Hiroshima to participate in the official commemoration ceremony for the Nuclear Victims Remembrance Day (also known as Bikini Day) on March 1 in Majuro, the capital of the Republic of Marshall Islands. Secretary General Komizo visited Marshall Islands on behalf of the mayor of Hiroshima and attended the ceremony to remember the victims of the U.S. nuclear testing conducted 60 years ago on March 1, 1954.

On February 27, Secretary General Komizo paid a courtesy call to President Loeak and passed the letter from the mayor of Hiroshima. He also asked the President to support inviting the cities on the Marshall Islands to join Mayors for Peace. During the official commemoration, following the speeches of representatives of the four atolls, Secretary General Komizo delivered a speech as a guest speaker. (Text of the speech by Mr. Komizo is available from the link below.)

He also listened to two testimonies by the survivors of the nuclear testing, including a dialogue between a survivor who was exposed to the radiation by the nuclear testing in Rongelap Atoll and Mr. Matashichi Oishi, the only remaining survivor among the crew members of the fishing boat “Lucky Dragon No.5” that was exposed to the radioactive effects near Bikini Atoll, and a testimony by a congressman who attended the Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons held in Mexico in February as a survivor from Rongelap Atoll. Mr. Komizo also attended the Global Hibakusha Project Workshop and lectured on the realization of a world without nuclear weapons to participated students from the Marshall Islands, Kazakhstan and Hiroshima.

▼Text of the speech by Secretary General Komizo at the Nuclear Victims Remembrance Day

(Website of Abolition 2000 in English):

<http://www.abolition2000.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Nuclear-Victims-Remembrance-Day-speech-1-March-2014-Y.KOMIZO.pdf>

■Mayor Donald Plusquellic Featured Speaker at International Parliamentarians Assembly

[Washington DC, February 27]

Mayors for Peace Vice-President Donald Plusquellic of Akron, Ohio, USA, was a featured speaker at the Annual Assembly of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament (PNND) in Washington, DC, February 26-27, 2014. PNND, a global network of legislators working cooperatively to reduce the risks of nuclear weapons, prevent proliferation and achieve a safe and secure nuclear-weapons-free world, has a close working relationship with Mayors for Peace.

Meeting in the U.S. Capitol for the first time, PNND members, former legislators, legislative aides, representatives of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the American Red Cross, the International Committee of the Red Cross, PNND partner organizations and disarmament experts from around the world, were joined by United Nations High Representative for Disarmament, Angela Kane for two days of lively debate on practical measures to advance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and achieve a nuclear-weapons free world.

In a session entitled “Building Inter-Parliamentary and Inter-Constituency Cooperation,” Mayor Plusquellic made a dynamic and warmly received presentation, noting that: “Today, Mayors for Peace has members in 5,895 cities in 158 countries. Our members include mayors in Russia AND the US; in Israel AND Palestine; in India AND Pakistan. And what’s more remarkable is where our membership is growing fastest - in Iran. That’s why Mayors may be the best hope for peace.”

▼Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website)

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/027df74e71d4485ab841a619c6782264/mayor-donald-plusquellic-featured-sp.html>

▼Full text of Mayor Plusquellic’s PNND presentation

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

▼ Video of Mayor Plusquellic's PNND presentation

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PogncGyS1K8&feature=em-upload_owner

■Seven Mayors from Nicaragua visited Hiroshima

On February 21, the mayors and the vice mayors of seven cities from Nicaragua, such as the cities of Bluefields, Granada, Leon, Managua, Matagalpa, San Carlos and Somoto, visited Hiroshima through a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) program for municipal administrators. They visited Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima, President of Mayors for Peace and listened to a lecture by Secretary General Komizo on Mayors for Peace.

Nicaragua is the only country where all of its 155 municipalities joined Mayors for Peace.

During the lecture, Mr. Komizo outlined the activities of Mayors for Peace, talked about the Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons held in Mexico in mid-February and contents of his speech. He also mentioned that Mayors for Peace is now selecting lead cities in many countries and regions and would like to select one in Nicaragua as well.

■Bike for Peace started its 2014 world tour in the UK

[Manchester, UK, March 15]

Mayors for Peace members from around the world are supporting a global bike tour promoting the goal of a nuclear weapons free planet. The Bike for Peace group has been bringing divided communities together through the medium of cycling since 1978, and its 2014 tour will support the work of Mayors for Peace.

The tour began in Manchester on the 15th March, where a Bike for Peace delegation including the former Prime Minister of Norway, Kjell-Magne Bondevik, 9 Norwegian Mayors and Bike for Peace organizers met the Lord Mayor of Manchester and local cycling groups in a special launch event.

The group then rode on to Coventry for meetings with the Lord Mayor of Coventry, the local Rotary Club and the Coventry Peace House. Special events with members of the Greater London Authority and UK Parliamentarians was also organized for the third part of their tour.

The tour then crossed the channel to France, and is visiting Mayors for Peace members in France, Italy, China, Japan - including Hiroshima - the United States and will finish with a special event in Oslo, Norway.

The tour arrives in Rome on April 7 and four representatives including Mayor Thore Vestby of Frogn, Norway, and Vice President of Mayors for Peace, will be an audience with the Pope right after the General Audience, on Wednesday April 9.

Mayors for Peace welcomes the co-operation with Bike for Peace and wishes the delegation well on their travels.

▼ Further details on the Bike for Peace global tour:

<http://bikeforpeace.info/2014/BikeForPeaceAroundTheWorld.pdf>

▼ News about the launch of the Bike for Peace tour in Manchester

<http://www.demotix.com/news/4192603/launch-bike-peace-tour-lord-mayor-manchester#media-4191776>

■Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) Spring Walk 2014

[Edinburgh to Faslane, Scotland, UK, April 1 - 7]

Scottish Mayors for Peace members are co-operating with a major event promoting the wide level of support opposing nuclear weapons in Scotland. The CND Scotland 'Walk for Peace' sets off from the Scottish Parliament on the 1st April and includes a major event and rally in Glasgow George Square (outside Glasgow City Chambers) on the 5th April.

The walk will conclude on the 7th April outside the Faslane naval base where the UK's nuclear weapons submarine programme is located. The event in Glasgow includes speeches from the Lord Provost of Glasgow, the Deputy First Minister of Scotland and representatives from the Scottish Trades Union Congress and the Church of Scotland. The aim of the Walk is to promote that across most political parties and the majority of the Scottish population nuclear weapons are not wanted. All are welcome to join the walk.

▼ Further details on the CND Scotland 'Walk for Peace':

<http://springwalk.org/?p=664>

■Activities of Mayors for Peace supporters

In this new serial article, we would like to introduce activities by individuals and organizations supporting Mayors for Peace.

*Professor Eugen Eichhorn, President of the German-Japanese Peace Forum

From February 24 to March 3, the German-Japanese Peace Forum had a seminar in Hiroshima, including a series of lectures on various topics on peace, an A-bomb survivor's testimony, visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and so on. On February 26, the participants of the German-Japanese Peace Forum visited Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima, President of Mayors for Peace. During the meeting, Professor Eichhorn spoke about Mayors for Peace that gathering almost 6,000 cities would be a tremendous success and expressed his determination to invigorate member cities in Berlin and its surrounding areas together with other groups based in Berlin.

The German-Japanese Peace Forum (DJF) is an initiative by the Japanese writer Oda Makoto who passed away in 2007. One of Oda's works as a novelist is dedicated to and named "Hiroshima". Professor Eugen Eichhorn is one of the founders of the Berlin branch of the DJF in 1988, the DJF Berlin. He established the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course at BHT Beuth Hochschule für Technik Berlin (formerly Technische Fachhochschule Berlin, University of Applied Science) in 2004. This forum originally used to be a program which was a part of the service for the German Conscientious Objectors in Japan. Since the abolition of conscription in Germany in 2011, this program has been offered to German youth doing volunteer works in Japan. This forum has been taken place in Hiroshima every year since 2008 and this year marked the seventh forum.

■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.

In February, Nagano City (Japan) held an exhibition in conjunction with their event. Other groups also held the Mayors for Peace A-bomb poster exhibition and in February, Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union held an exhibition in Tokyo.

Please do hold an exhibition and bring this issue to the attention of people in your city.

The translation for updated versions has 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

- new URL for online petition

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 889,788 signatures as of March 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 (New URL due to a server transfer):

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

**■ Financial contributions from member cities to the 2020 Vision Campaign
- Update for February 2014** [Ypres, Belgium]

In the month of February 2014, the 2020 Vision Campaign received donations from 5 cities, amounting to a total of 1,150 Euro. These significant donations were made by our member cities in Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and Sweden. 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/9603f0f0b962560ef37c4aedf5828706/contributions-february-2014.html>

▼ List of cities that made contributions in February:

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user_upload/2020VC/Home/2014_February.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 February and asked them to support the activities of Mayors for Peace and cooperate with the membership expansion.

*February 4 - H.E. Dr. Hazrat Omar Zakhilwal, Minister of Finance, Afghanistan

*February 11 - H.E. Senator Paddy Burke, Chairperson of the Irish Senate

*February 12 - H.E. Mr. Sergei K. Rakhmanov, Ambassador of Belarus in Japan

*February 15 - H.E. Mr. Christopher Loek, President of the Marshall Islands

*February 24 - H.E. Mr. Marco Lombardi, Consul-General of Italy in Osaka

*February 26 - Professor Eugen Eichhorn, President of the German-Japanese Peace Forum

■ Mayors for Peace member cities - 5,912 cities in 158 countries/regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on March 1, we added 19 new member cities, bringing total membership to 5,912.

We welcomed 11 cities from Japan, two cities from the Netherlands and a city each from Czech, France, Italy, UK, USA and Uruguay.

We encourage further initiatives to promote membership and can provide support from Hiroshima as needed.

Please invite mayors who are not yet members to join Mayors for Peace.

▼ Related information (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2014/newmembers1403_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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