

Mayors for Peace News Flash (May 2014) No.53

Dear member cities and supporters of Mayors for Peace,

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Below are 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, 2014

6,035 cities in 158 countries/regions with 36 new members

<<Table of Contents >>

- A Mayors for Peace delegation attended the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference
- Mayors for Peace launched an official Facebook page
- The mayor of Fremantle, West Australia visited Hiroshima and accepted the invitation to become a lead city [May 7]
- Bike For Peace 2014 world tour has just been completed
- Member City Activities (Amir Kola (Iran))
- Activities of Mayors for Peace supporters (Peace Boat)
- Mayors for Peace A-bomb poster exhibition
- Please support the petition drive for a nuclear weapons convention - 210,629 signatures submitted to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon
- Financial contributions from member cities to the 2020 Vision Campaign - Update for April 2014
- Visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace last month
- Mayors for Peace member cities - 6,035 cities in 158 countries/regions

■ A Mayors for Peace delegation attended the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference

[New York, April 28-30]

A Mayors for Peace delegation, consisting of representatives of five cities including the president and vice presidents of Mayors for Peace - namely, the mayors of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Biograd na Moru (Croatia), Frogn (Norway) and Mexico City (Mexico) - as well as eight high school students from Hiroshima and Okinawa, Japan who have been working on the petition drive to call for a start of negotiation for a nuclear weapons convention, participated in the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference (NPT PrepCom). The mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki delivered speeches at the NGO session of the NPT PrepCom, and appealed to national representatives with the inhuman nature of nuclear weapons and the necessity for action toward early realization of a nuclear weapons convention. The delegates also submitted a letter of request along with a certificate of over 210,000 signatures to the UN Secretary General calling for his leadership in launching substantive negotiations leading to an early realization of a nuclear weapons convention as well as his further effort to add momentum toward a nuclear-weapon-free world. They also met with national representatives to the NPT PrepCom such as Ambassador Jorge Lomonaco Tonda, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations Office at Geneva, and asked for their further efforts toward the abolition of nuclear weapons, as well as exchanged views on the current status of nuclear disarmament.

Mayors for Peace held a youth forum for the first time as a side event to the NPT PrepCom, and high school students, representatives of Nagasaki Youth, and Ms. Lauren Shuler, an intern at the 2020 Vision Campaign Secretariat, presented their desires for peace as well as their determination to work toward a nuclear-weapon-free world.

■ Mayors for Peace launched an official Facebook page

To convey more updates on the activities of Mayors for Peace, we have recently launched an official Facebook page. News is posted in English first and the Japanese text follows.

We have already posted some news related to the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference held in New York, where the president of Mayors for Peace attended and delivered a speech in late April, as well as the visit of the mayor of Fremantle and the visit of the president of Bike for Peace.

We will be pleased if you could take a look.

▼ Mayors for Peace official Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace>

■The mayor of Fremantle, West Australia visited Hiroshima and accepted the invitation to become a lead city

[May 7]

Mr. Brad Pettitt, Mayor of Fremantle, West Australia, paid a visit to Hiroshima and met with President Matsui (Mayor of Hiroshima) of Mayors for Peace. He also participated in discussion regarding concrete measures to promote the activities of Mayors for Peace in Australia with Secretary General Komizo.

When Secretary General Komizo visited Fremantle last November, he presented a request to Fremantle to become a lead city of Mayors for Peace. The Fremantle City Council unanimously agreed, and officially accepted the offer in March. The City of Fremantle will be the lead city of West Australia, and is planning to hold the first Mayors for Peace regional meeting in West Australia.

■The Bike For Peace 2014 world tour has just been completed

The Bike For Peace 2014 Tour Around the World in 72 Days has just been completed.

Following the European leg, participants biked through China, Japan, and the U.S., and have just finished the Norway course.

During their visit in Japan, Mr. Tore Naerland, President of Bike for Peace, visited Hiroshima on April 27 and met Mr. Toshiro Yuasa, Under-Secretary General of Mayors for Peace. In the U.S. they called on the cities they visited to join Mayors for Peace and recommended for the mayors to discuss the matter with their city councils. On May 16, three representatives of Bike For Peace met with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. They returned to Norway on May 17th. In Drøbak, Frogn, a welcome home reception was held on the 19th in the Freedom of Speech Museum after a bike tour of 3 hours through four municipalities and visits to four mayors. In total 12 Ambassadors/Embassies to Norway including Ukraine and Russia were gathered. Former Prime Minister Bondevik, now president in The Oslo Center, gave a very enthusiastic speech about the need for disarmament. From Frogn, the final stages stopped at parliament in Oslo and the vice president's office. The next three days, more and more bikers joined in as they visited six city halls and received greetings from five mayors. The last stage counted more than 250 bikers and a great finish show was held in the city of Skien, Anita Valen's home town. The tour was successfully completed on May 22.

▼ Further details on the Bike For Peace global tour:

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

▼ Bike For Peace Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/BikeForPeace/195630593782513>

▼ Related story (Sedalia News Journal, May 5th)

<http://sedalianewsjournal.com/2014/05/05/bike-for-peace-pays-sedalia-mayor-galliher-a-visit/>

■Member City Activities

* Amir Kola, Iran

An NGO representative from Hiroshima presented the Mayors for Peace Certification of Membership to the Mayor of Amir Kola [April 29]

In a ceremony held in Amir Kola city in Northern Iran, the Mayors for Peace Certification of Membership of Amir Kola city in Mayors for Peace was presented to the mayor of Amir Kola. Representatives of the MOCT Association (an

NGO) from Hiroshima, volunteers from Tehran Peace Museum, city council members, and some survivors of chemical weapons attacks were among the participants.

In this ceremony, Ms. Shizuko Tsuya, the president of the MOCT, explained about the A-bomb experience of Hiroshima, and the involvement of its people in activities to raise awareness against Nuclear Weapons.

The mayor of Amir Kola said that the people of Iran and Amir Kola have suffered from the bitter experience of the use of chemical weapons, which is why they are trying to raise awareness so that all Weapons of Mass Destruction can be abolished.

Amir Kola is one of the 200th Iranian member cities of Mayors for Peace joined as of May 1st with their commitment to the 2020 Vision Campaign.

▼ Full text of the article (Mayors for Peace website)

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2014/140429_Amirkola/index.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 to help you advertise.

Please include comprehensive information including the date, venue, organizers and description of the event.

▼ Please mail us with the name/title of the activity and website link at: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

■Activities of Mayors for Peace supporters – Peace Boat

*Peace Boat

Peace Boat's "Global Voyage Hibakusha Project" is a project to convey the testimonies of the A-bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki to the world and provide momentum for a world without nuclear weapons. The Global Voyage for a Nuclear-Free World has been carried out once every year since 2008, and more than 150 A-bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki have participated in these global voyages. During the 83rd Global Voyage started in March 2014, Peace Boat participants called on the cities they visited to join Mayors for Peace, and the cities of Motril (Spain) and Kotor (Montenegro) have signed their applications to become our members.

Through Peace Boat, Mayors for Peace A-bomb posters have also been donated to six cities and organizations which have lent their cooperation for their visits and asked for holding exhibitions in each city. The posters were well received, especially in the city of Motril, where the mayor expressed her determination to open the exhibition on the damage caused by the nuclear bomb in various schools.

▼ Peace Boat website:

www.peaceboat.org/english/

▼ The city of Motril website (in Spanish)

[http://www.motril.es/index.php?id=23&tx_ttnews\[pS\]=1396303200&tx_ttnews\[pL\]=2591999&tx_ttnews\[arc\]=1&tx_ttnews\[pointer\]=3&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=8898&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=30&cHash=50c4c329aa](http://www.motril.es/index.php?id=23&tx_ttnews[pS]=1396303200&tx_ttnews[pL]=2591999&tx_ttnews[arc]=1&tx_ttnews[pointer]=3&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=8898&tx_ttnews[backPid]=30&cHash=50c4c329aa)

▼ English version of the article on the city of Motril

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2014/Motril_Spain/index.html

■Mayors for Peace A-bomb poster exhibition

To commemorate the 5,000-city milestone of the Mayors for Peace membership, we called for all member cities to hold a poster exhibition, which 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 content on pages 15 and 16 has been updated. We would be most grateful if you could continue to support the exhibitions using the new posters, and hold a poster exhibition in your municipality.

By holding these exhibitions in as many cities as possible, we hope to directly inform millions of citizens of 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 that city leaders should 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 poster exhibitions in response to our request.

In April, a newly joined Iranian city Estahban held a poster exhibition from April 27 to 29, and around 450 people visited the venue.

We ask your city to also please hold an exhibition and bring this issue to the attention of people in your city.

The translations for updated versions have 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 on the Mayors for Peace website below.

>>Posters: A2 size (approximately 24 by 36 inches or 61 by 91.5 cm); 18 posters.

▼ Related Information and download link to the posters:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/poster/index.html>

■ Please support the petition drive for a nuclear weapons convention

- 210,629 signatures submitted to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon

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 for 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 many supporters across the world, we have received 953,783 signatures as of May 1, 2014.

On April 28, a Mayors for Peace delegation met with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon at the UN Headquarters in New York and submitted the 210,619 signatures calling for an immediate start to negotiations for a nuclear weapons convention that have been collected after the petition was submitted to the Chair of the 2nd Preparatory Committee Meeting to the 2015 NPT Review Conference in April 2013, along with a letter of request from Mayors for Peace.

Let us gather millions of signatures and make our voices heard.

(The petition is available to print 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 April 2014 [Ypres, Belgium]

In the month of April 2014, the 2020 Vision Campaign received donations from five cities in three countries, amounting to a total of 1,038 Euro. These significant donations were contributed by our member cities in Belgium and Italy.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the people behind every single donation, 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/697b6860e12bc7258b466051aacdc405/contributions-april-2014.html>

▼ List of cities that made contributions in April:

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user_upload/2020VC/Home/April_Contributions.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 following visitors in April and asked them to support the activities of Mayors for Peace and cooperate towards membership expansion.

*April 7 – H.E. Ms. Mira Martinec, Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to Japan,
H.E. Mr. Bobozoda Gulomjon Jura, Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to Japan,
H.E. Dr. Levan Tsintsadze, Ambassador of Georgia to Japan

*April 21 – H.E. Mr. Michael Stuart Shearer, British Consul-General in Osaka

■Mayors for Peace member cities - 6,035 cities in 158 countries/regions

Through your invaluable support, on May 1, we added 36 new member cities, bringing total membership to 6,035. Thanks to our campaigner at Teheran Peace Museum, 18 cities from Iran joined this month and the total number of Iranian member cities has reached 201. Ten cities joined from Japan, but one member city merged into another member city, making the total number of member cities 1,448. We also welcomed eight cities from the Netherlands, thanks to our 2020 Vision Campaigner and the cooperation of the Dutch Medical Association for Peace Research (NVMP), the Dutch affiliate of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW).

We encourage further initiatives to promote membership and can provide support from Hiroshima as needed. Please help us invite mayors who are not yet members to join Mayors for Peace.

▼ Related information (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2014/newmembers1405_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
