

Mayors for Peace News Flash (July 2014) No.55

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 July 1, 2014

6,127 cities in 158 countries/regions with 44 new members

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Please also check our information from the following:

URL: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/index.html>

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

We would appreciate your 'like' on our facebook page.

■Secretary General Komizo visited Paris, Sarajevo, Vienna and Rome

[June 26-July 5]

Secretary General Komizo visited Paris (France), Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Vienna (Austria) and Rome (Italy) from June 26 to July 5.

In Paris, Secretary General Komizo participated on behalf of the president as a panelist in the international conference titled 'Towards a Nuclear-Weapons-Free World' at the French National Assembly and was invited to deliver a speech in its Panel Session IV 'A nuclear-weapons-free world.' The conference was hosted by a newly-established French association "Arrêtez la Bombe!" (Stop the bomb!). One of this organization's co-presidents is the director of the French chapter of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND). Mr. Komizo spoke of the activities of Mayors for Peace toward the abolition of nuclear weapons based on the realities of the A-bombing in Hiroshima. In Sarajevo, he attended the ceremony to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I and presented to the mayor of Sarajevo a seedling of an A-bombed tree (see details in the following article) and a set of a thousand paper cranes. Then, Mr. Komizo exchanged opinions about activities of Mayors for Peace including a role of a lead city with city representatives of Sarajevo, Vienna and Rome in each city. The city of Sarajevo kindly accepted to take a role of lead city. He also requested non-member cities gathered at the ceremony to mark the 100th anniversary of WWI in Sarajevo to join Mayors for Peace.

■Tree planting ceremony of a seedling of a Hiroshima A-bombed tree in Sarajevo [June 28]

Secretary General Komizo presented a seedling from an A-bombed Gingko tree in Hiroshima to the city of Sarajevo and planted the seedling with Mayor Ivo Komsic of Sarajevo at Friendship Park in central area of Sarajevo. The mayors and city representatives from friendship cities and the citizens of Sarajevo observed the tree-planting ceremony.

Mayor Komsic acknowledged the Gingko seedling and expressed his wish to nurture the tree as a symbol of peace and friendship between Hiroshima and Sarajevo, as well as among cities in the European Union.

He also handed Mayor Komsic a certificate of donation from Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima in support of those who were affected by the devastating floods in Sarajevo in May as well as a set of a thousand paper cranes originally dedicated to the Children's Peace Monument in Hiroshima.

■ Mayor of Frogn, Norway, Mayors for Peace Vice President, delivered a speech at the Basel OSCE Forum on Nuclear Abolition

The Basel Peace Office hosted the Basel OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) Forum on Nuclear Abolition on July 4-5th. Around 40 representatives, Members of Parliaments and several substantial peace and nonproliferation/abolishment of nuclear weapons organizations were among the delegates. Vice President Thore Vestby of Frogn, Norway, was invited to speak about the role and possibilities arising from the combination of being both a mayor and a member of parliament. He also described his experience of how a mayor can use a bicycle as a means of speaking directly to the people and how the combination of Bike for Peace/Mayors for Peace can open doors at all levels, including people on the streets, and even Pope Francis and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. The conference was very well organized by the Basel Peace Office in cooperation with Alyn Ware, Global Coordinator of the Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) and his staff/helpers. The concluding activity for the conference was to bike to the Three Country Corner (France, Germany and Switzerland). Everybody experienced the fascination of this combination of biking and peace-talk.

▼ Related stories (Basel Peace Office website):

Basel OSCE Forum on Nuclear Abolition

<http://www.baselpeaceoffice.org/article/basel-osce-forum-nuclear-abolition>

Basel OSCE Forum speaker on world bike ride for peace

<http://www.baselpeaceoffice.org/article/basel-osce-forum-speaker-world-bike-ride-peace>

■New president for the French Mayors for Peace/AFCDRP elected

On June 23, Mayors for Peace France- AFCDRP held its annual General Meeting in Paris, at the Regional Council of Île-de-France. On this occasion, the participants elected Mayors for Peace France-AFCDRP's new president, Mayor Philippe Rio of Grigny.

Mayor Rio succeeds Daniel Fontaine, former Mayor of Aubagne, who served as President of the French chapter since 2001. Mayor Fontaine participated in all Mayors for Peace General Conferences since its first gathering in 1985, up to the 6th in 2005, and worked hard to promote Mayors for Peace objectives in France, in his city and abroad. During his acceptance speech, Mayor Rio pledged to carry on the work initiated by Mayor Fontaine and to strengthen the Mayors for Peace network and activities in France.

Mayor Rio also announced that former Mayor Daniel Fontaine will become Honorary Chairman of Mayors for Peace France-AFCDRP and will continue to promote nuclear disarmament and peace culture.

Grigny is located in the south-east of Paris and has slightly less than 30,000 inhabitants. The city became a Mayors for Peace member in 2000.

▼ Mayor Philippe Rio first Message to Mayors for Peace-AFCDRP's member cities (in French):

<http://afcdp.blogspot.fr/2014/07/le-mot-du-president.html>

■Flag Day of German members

[July 8, 2014]

The Mayors for Peace flag was hoisted in front of many German town halls on July 8th, 2014. Flying the flag signifies opposition to nuclear weapons and the hope for a peaceful world. A total of 140 German cities and towns joined in the third national Flag Day of Mayors for Peace and documented this day with press articles and photographs for the German

website.

The Flag Day is a reminder of a legal opinion handed down by the International Court of Justice on July 8th, 1996, concluding that even the threat of using nuclear weapons is an offence against international law.

The Lord Mayor's Office in the City of Hannover organized the Flag Day for the third time and also involved some students from local NGOs.

▼ Related story (German Mayors for Peace website, in German):

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.de/presse/artikel/3a9fca9d5ef15c0073adb84c522fa73a/staedte-zeigen-flagge-fuer-das-verbo.html>

■ "Pacemaker" rides from Stuttgart to Berlin, Germany

[July 17-19, 2014]

A group of 50 cyclists started from Stuttgart to Berlin for a "Pacemaker" tour. Mayor Wölfle of Stuttgart cycled with them to the boundary of the city. They stopped in other member cities of Mayors for Peace on their way. They collected signatures under an open letter to the German chancellor Angela Merkel, criticizing the modernization of nuclear weapons and demanding a meeting with a delegation of Mayors for Peace. The letter was drafted by the Mayor of Mutlangen and the Governor of the Ostalbkreis.

▼ Related story (The city of Stuttgart website, in German):

<http://www.stuttgart.de/item/show/466797/1/3/541340>

■ Bike for Peace/Mayors for Peace joint tour of Scotland

In mid July, a delegation from the Norwegian group Bike for Peace, toured Scotland and met with Scottish Mayors for Peace members, joining in with their call for a nuclear weapons free world. The delegation was led by the Mayor of Kvinesdal, Svein Arne Jerstad and they met with Provosts and Lord Provosts (the Scottish equivalent of Mayors) in Edinburgh, Dundee, Perth, Stirling, Renfrewshire and Glasgow. All six Councils are active members of Mayors for Peace. The tour also allowed the delegation to visit the Faslane Peace Camp, close to where Trident nuclear submarines are based. The delegation received a warm welcome in each town and city they visited and there was also time to cycle around some of the most beautiful countryside Scotland has to offer.

The tour follows on from a 72 day tour around the world earlier this year.

Bike for Peace is a Norwegian NGO committed to the jointly held aim of a nuclear weapon free world.

Following on from the world tour, a series of specific national tours are taking place supporting the work of Mayors for Peace. They include planned tours to Iran, Pakistan and India, Burma/Myanmar, Russia and the United States leading up to the 2015 Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Review Conference in New York.

▼ Details of the Bike for Peace tour of Scotland (the Nuclear Free Local Authorities website):

http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/news/Bike_for_Peace_tour_of_Scotland_report.pdf

■ The animated film "Junod—a Swiss doctor from Geneva who helped Hiroshima" which will be broadcast on NHK World TV channel on August 9

A 50-minute short version of the animated film "Junod—a Swiss doctor from Geneva who helped Hiroshima," dubbed in English, will be aired on the NHK World TV channel four times between midnight and 7pm on Saturday, August 9, 2014. The program will be broadcast according to the following schedule:

UTC 0:10-1:00

UTC 6:10-7:00

UTC 12:10-13:00

UTC 18:10-19:00 (*UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) is almost same as GMT)

You can also watch the live program through the TV schedule page of the NHK World website at the same time that

“Junod” is on air on August 9. The schedule of “Junod” will be available on the website for six days before the day of broadcasting. Please select your time zone on the TV schedule page to find out the time of broadcasting in your local time zone.

▼NHK World TV schedule and live program:

<http://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/english/tv/schedule/>

▼Further information on the animated film “Junod”:

<http://junod.biz/>

<<We are planning to start loaning animated films to member cities>>

Based on the article 2. 1). vii. Screening of animated films of our Action Plan 2013-2017, we are now planning to start loaning animated films including “Junod” for screening to member cities wishing to hold a film-showing event. We will inform you about the details of borrowing animated films when we start this project.

■Member City Activities

* Nishinomiya, Japan

Peace Projects from April 2013 to March 2014 – 30th Anniversary of Peaceful and Nuclear-free City Declaration

The city of Nishinomiya declared itself to be a Peaceful and Nuclear-free City on December 10, 1983. In 2013, the city implemented various activities to mark the 30th anniversary of the declaration and to further promote the objectives of the declaration. These projects included a meeting for peace, a publication to commemorate the anniversary, a photo exhibition by the battlefield photographer Mr. Yoichi Watanabe, and a lecture as outreach for peace. Other annual events were also implemented, including the A-bomb Exhibition (July), Parents and Children’s Bus Tour to Hiroshima (August), Lantern Floating for Peace (August), outreach activities prior to the war-end anniversary on August 15, and setting up a billboard to promote the city’s Peaceful and Nuclear-free City Declaration (December) in 2013.

▼The city of Nishinomiya website (in Japanese)

<http://www.nishi.or.jp/contents/0002763400040009700606.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.

We are looking forward to receiving information from your city.

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

<<PLEASE SEND INFORMATION ON YOUR CITY’S HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI DAY EVENT >>

We would like to introduce your city’s event and activities for Hiroshima/Nagasaki Day in the August issue of the Mayors for Peace News Flash. If you intend to organize such an event, we would be pleased if you could inform our secretariat. Thank you for your kind cooperation.

▼Please email us an outline of the activity at: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

■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.

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.

The city of Mirano, Italy held a poster exhibition on June 1 at the Central City Square in conjunction with the third City Peace and Legality Day. The exhibition was presented with Italian translations of posters and approximately 50 people visited the venue. The responses from visitors were of great interest.

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

The posters are available in English, Spanish, Catalan, French, Dutch, German, Japanese and Russian. You can download the updated posters from the Mayors for Peace website. In June, we renewed an explanation of a nuclear weapons convention on page 16. 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.

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

The next step in abolishing all nuclear weapons by 2020 is to negotiate a nuclear weapons convention.

A nuclear weapons convention will prohibit the development, production, testing, stockpiling 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 972,144 signatures as of July 1, 2014.

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>.

■ Visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace last month

President Kazumi Matsui of Mayors for Peace welcomed the following visitor in June and asked him to support the activities of Mayors for Peace and cooperate towards membership expansion.

June 12 - H.E. Mr. Mario Marazziti, Chairman of the Committee for Human Rights to the Italian Chamber of Deputies

■ Mayors for Peace member cities - 6,127 cities in 158 countries/regions

Through your invaluable support, on July 1, we added 44 new member cities, bringing total membership to 6,127.

Thanks to our campaigner at Teheran Peace Museum, 34 cities from Iran joined this month and the total number of Iranian member cities has reached 274.

Six cities joined from Japan, making the total number of Japanese member cities 1,460. These Japanese member cities cover 83.9 percent of all municipalities in Japan.

We also welcomed two member cities from Norway, and one member city each from Italy and the U.S.A.

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):

