

The summary also mentioned that “The overwhelming majority of NPT States Parties expects that the forthcoming 2015 NPT Review Conference should take stock of all relevant developments, including the outcomes of the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, and determine the next steps for the achievement and maintenance of a nuclear-weapon-free world.”

A Mayors for Peace delegation also attended the conference and Secretary General Komizo delivered a speech. He concluded his speech by saying:

“Mayors for Peace is working with many partners to promote such a [nuclear weapons] convention. We appeal again to the world leaders, in particular the leaders of nuclear-weapon States, to take bold initiatives towards creating peaceful world free from nuclear weapons. History is on our side. Let us all work together to finish the job.”

More details on various activities of the Mayors for Peace delegation will be reported in the next issue.

▼ More information at the official website of the conference (website of the Foreign Ministry of Austria):
<http://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/european-foreign-policy/disarmament/weapons-of-mass-destruction/nuclear-weapons-and-nuclear-terrorism/vienna-conference-on-the-humanitarian-impact-of-nuclear-weapons/>

▼ Full text of the Statement of Mayors for Peace:
http://www.bmeia.gv.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Zentrale/Aussenpolitik/Abruestung/HINW14/Statements/HINW14_Statement_Mayors_for_Peace.pdf

▼ Testimony by Ms. Setsuko Thurlow:
http://www.bmeia.gv.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Zentrale/Aussenpolitik/Abruestung/HINW14/HINW14_Speech_Setsuko.pdf

▼ Chair’s summary:
http://www.bmeia.gv.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Zentrale/Aussenpolitik/Abruestung/HINW14/HINW14_Chair_s_Summary.pdf

■ Visit of Mayor Thore Vestby, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, to Tehran Peace Museum [December 8, Tehran, Iran]

On December 8th, Mr. Thore Vestby, Mayor of Frogn, Norway and Vice President of Mayors for Peace, visited Tehran Peace Museum (TPM). During the visit, members of the Mayors for Peace Committee, located in the Tehran Peace Museum, reported the activities of the Iranian office of Mayors for Peace such as measures to increase the number of Iranian member cities, the peace activities of current member cities and TPM’s future awareness programs for member cities, such as holding workshops and exhibitions.

Then, in a meeting in which some Iranian mayors and municipality representatives were present, Mayor Vestby said that he is impressed by the work of TPM and the efforts of the Iranian office of Mayors for Peace.

Mr. Mozaffari, Vice-President of the Communication and International Affairs Center of Tehran Municipality, welcomed Mayor Vestby and expressed the municipality’s wish to continue to support relations between Tehran and Norwegian cities. He also stated that Mayors for Peace and its member cities should be more sensitive to the ongoing violence and critical situation in the Middle East. Mr. Mozzafari continued, stating that the Iranian people are a very peaceful nation and they have proven so by their history.

After Mr. Mozaffari’s comments, the Mayor and the head of the city council of Qatab and also the representatives of Karaj Municipality, (both Qatab and Karaj are new members of Mayors for Peace) introduced their cities and expressed a desire for more peace activities for their citizens.

At the end of the meeting, the Mayor of Qatab and the representative of Karaj municipality received their membership certificates from the vice president of Mayors for Peace. Mayor Vestby also read a letter of appreciation on behalf of the Mayors for Peace President to Mr. Reza’i, the Iranian coordinator of Mayors for Peace.

▼ Full story (Mayors for Peace website):
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2014/MayorVestbyVisitTehran/index.html>

▼ Related News (Tehran Peace Museum website):

<http://www.tehranpeacemuseum.org/index.php/en/en-news/1036-mayor-thore-vestby.html>

▼ Pictures of the meeting (Tehran Peace Museum website):

<http://www.tehranpeacemuseum.org/index.php/en/gallery-en/en-meevents/government-mu-en/1035-peace-mayors-2014.html>

■ Wellington's acceptance of a lead city role

On September 2, Mayor Celia Wade-Brown of Wellington, New Zealand, took our lead city proposal to the Economic Growth and Arts Committee of the Wellington City Council; her motion to accept the lead city request was carried. Mayor Wade-Brown wrote to the President of Mayors for Peace on November 17 and expressed Wellington's acceptance of a lead city role. The regional group will cover all areas of New Zealand. The mayor is also willing to liaise with the mayor of Fremantle in West Australia, which has also accepted a lead city position.

Currently planned actions include establishing a calendar of peace activities and events which will serve as a way for member cities in New Zealand to share events and activities, convening the inaugural meeting of Wellington's peace partners including local activists, community leaders and the diplomatic community, and launching the Wellington Peace Newsletter.

■ Submission of a Letter of Request to the Japanese government regarding a nuclear weapons convention

[November 27, Tokyo, Japan]

On November 10 and 11, the 4th Japanese Member Cities Meeting was held in Matsumoto City. The submission of a Letter of Request to the Japanese government to call for promotion of actions to aid in the early realization of a nuclear weapons convention was decided at this meeting. On November 27, on behalf of Japanese member cities of Mayors for Peace, representatives from three cities including Mayor Matsui of the City of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace, Ms. Kuroda, the office manager at the Tokyo Office of the City of Nagasaki and Mr. Takayama, Director of the General Affairs Department of the City of Matsumoto, met with Mr. Uto, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and submitted the agreed-upon Letter of Request to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

On receiving the Letter of Request, Mr. Uto said, "I sincerely accepted the wish of the mayors who are members of Mayors for Peace. I will fully convey this request to Prime Minister Abe. On behalf of the government of Japan, we would like to steadily promote realistic and concrete efforts to realize a world without nuclear weapons to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the A-bombings and the 2015 NPT Review Conference in close coordination with Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Mayors for Peace".

■ ICRC's 5th Asia Pacific Media Conference and a concurrent photo exhibition in Hiroshima

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) organized the 5th Asia Pacific Media Conference in Hiroshima which took place from November 26 to 28. As a suitable place to discuss humanitarian issues, Hiroshima was chosen to host the conference this year, following other major cities in Asia. Participants related to the ICRC and journalists from all over Asia gathered together at the conference and, in three sessions with different themes, discussed their roles in the prevention and solution of humanitarian issues.

During the closing ceremony, Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima, President of Mayors for Peace, delivered a speech in which he called for further strengthening of cooperation with the ICRC toward the realization of a peaceful world without nuclear weapons.

In conjunction with the conference, the "War from the Victim's Perspective" photo exhibition by Jean Mohr, a photographer and former ICRC staff member, began. It is an outdoor exhibition held in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and was co-organized by the ICRC and the Swiss Embassy in Japan. The opening ceremony was held on November 26, which the President of the Japanese Red Cross Society and Mrs. Anja Siebold Bucher, wife of the Ambassador of Switzerland, also attended. During the opening ceremony, Secretary General Komizo gave a welcoming address. The exhibition will be open for one month, until December 27.

▼ Conference Programme and contributors (ICRC website):

<https://www.icrc.org/download/files/media-debates-asia-pacific-programme-2014.pdf>

■ **The City of Bogota plans regional conference of Mayors for Peace April 7 and 8, 2015**

[December 11, Bogota, Colombia]

The Colombian capital Bogota has decided to host and organize the First Latin American and Caribbean regional conference of Mayors for Peace on April 7 and 8, 2015. The regional conference will be organized by the International Relations Department of the City of Bogota; Bogota's Center of Memory, Reconciliation and Peace and in close co-operation with Mayors for Peace.

The ongoing armed conflict in Colombia has led to a deep yearning for reconciliation and peace in the Colombian population. The conflict has caused over 220,000 deaths since 1958. The Colombian government says more than six million Colombians, some 12% of the country's total population, have been directly or indirectly victimized by the country's armed conflict. The United Nations 2013 Global Study on Homicide, in which Latin America was declared the world's most violent region, also adds to the rationale for Bogota to host the first regional conference of Mayors for Peace. The conference will provide a way for local governments to seek best practices and solutions together in order to create safe cities and promote a culture of peace and non-violence.

The regional conference also plans to address the global threat of nuclear weapons, an issue in which the region has demonstrated an unprecedented and historic leadership since the creation of the first Nuclear Weapon Free Zone with the 1968 Treaty of Tlatelolco.

▼ Full story (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2014/Bogota/plan_regional_conference.html

▼ Related information:

- Bogota Center of Memory, Reconciliation and Peace

Official site in Spanish: <http://centromemoria.gov.co/>

English article: <http://colombiareports.co/bogota-memorial-center/>

- United Nations 2013 Global Study on Homicide

<http://www.unodc.org/gsh/>

- A News Analysis about the UN Global Study

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/latin-america-worlds-most-violent-region-un>

■ **The Exhibition “Hiroshima-Nagasaki. 70 Years from the Atomic Bombing” will be displayed in Barcelona and Granollers next year**

At the beginning of next year Barcelona and Granollers (in Catalunya, Spain) will display an exhibition about the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on the occasion of the 70th anniversary. The purpose of the Exhibition is to present the facts of the atomic bombings and foster international sentiment regarding the abolition of nuclear weapons.

This is a joint project of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, with the collaboration of Mayors for Peace and coordinated by the city of Granollers. The exhibition will be in Barcelona (El Born Centre Cultural) from January 13th to February 8th and in the Museum of Granollers from February 11th to March 8th.

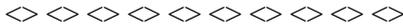
▼ Related information (The City of Granollers website, in Catalan):

<http://www.granollers.cat/noticies/ajuntament/granollers-coordina-una-exposici%C3%B3-produ%C3%AFda-hiroshima-i-nagasaki-conscienciar>

■ **“Peace News from Hiroshima”**

- Contributed by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center

We kicked off the inclusion of this new series of contributed articles from the Hiroshima Peace Media Center, managed by a local Hiroshima newspaper, the Chugoku Shimbun, in our previous issue.



Important conferences on how to advance a world without nuclear weapons will be held in the coming months: The conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons took place in Vienna, Austria in early December, and the Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), held every five years, is scheduled for April 27 to May 22, 2015. Mayors for Peace, together with A-bomb survivors and citizens of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, is striving to deepen the understanding of the international community regarding the inhumanity of nuclear weapons. Hopes are high for the efforts of the A-bombed nation.

Take a look at these articles at the Hiroshima Peace Media Center website...

▼ Related stories:

- Members of delegation to international conference announced: Prof. Hoshi, others to attend meeting on nuclear weapons
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=38595>
- Hiroshima Gensuikyo to send A-bomb survivor to international conference in December, 23 to NPT Review Conference next year
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=37386>
- Swiss secretary of state meets with Hiroshima mayor, expects Japan to play major role in nuclear abolition
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=38778>
- Hiroshima Mayor expresses hope for next month's conference on humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=38768>
- Japanese foreign minister welcomes U.S. decision to take part in next conference on humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=38001>

(From the website of the Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

■Member City Activities

*Choisy le Roi, France

A Walk for Peace from Choisy le Roi to Srebrenica

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During the Week for International Solidarity from 17 to 21 November, the city of Choisy le Roi (Val de Marne, France) launched the project « Walk for Peace ». This initiative receives the support of the Val de Marne's General Council through a program called "another world". It is also conducted in partnership with the NPO Cinédié/No Borders. Several events will be organized all year long, the theme being "Walking, filming the world, transforming it". One of the highlights will be the participation of a delegation of citizens in a peace walk in Srebrenica in July 2015, for the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of this horrible massacre.

▼ More information:

<http://utopianotebook.canalblog.com/>

*Iranian Mayors for Peace News

September and October 2014

News from the cities of Behshahr, Shirvan, Naraq and Malayer

- Commemoration of the International Peace Day in Behshahr
An Observance of the International Day of Peace was held on Sunday, September 21 in Behshahr. This ceremony included reading a message of peace and paying tribute to war veterans, and an olive tree was planted as a symbol of peace. A photo exhibition of martyrs, salutation of athletes, and dedication of flowers to the graves of martyrs of chemical warfare were other programs in the ceremony.
- "Peace and Gaza" Street show in Shirvan
On October 9, the "Peace & Gaza" street show directed by Zakriya Shirmohammadzadeh was performed in the presence of a large number of people of Shirvan and supported by the Mayor of Shirvan, a member of Mayors for Peace. On the sidelines of the ceremony, people's altruistic aid to Gaza was collected by the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation.
- Commemoration of the International Day of Peace in Naraq

On September 21, officials of the province and municipalities of Naragh, family of martyrs, and veterans attended the ceremony that was held on the International Day of Peace. During the ceremony, a statement was read, gifts were dedicated to several veterans, and chemical warfare victims' families featured in poetry contests, painting and story writing events.

- Designation of the Malayer tourist center entrance as "Peace Gate"

On the occasion of September 21, International Peace Day, the tourist center in Malayer was launched and its entrance was named "The Peace Gate". "Iranian people are a peaceful people; for example, we have a far-reaching culture of peace in our literature", said Malayer's Mayor. He continued: "This is a day which is specified by the UN, but we hope that one day, all the days in the calendar will be Peace Days".

▼ Full story (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/memberscity/2014/Iranian_Mayors_for_Peace_News_Sep_Oct_2014.pdf

Please visit the "Member City Activities" page on our website for event ideas to implement in your city.

▼ To see the "Member City Activities" webpage, click on the link below:

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

<<PLEASE SEND US INFORMATION ABOUT 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 look forward to receiving information from your city.

▼ Please email us at the following address with the name/title of your event and the URL for it:

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 numbers, we called for all member cities to hold a poster exhibition.

By holding these exhibitions in as many cities as possible, we hope to directly inform millions of citizens of the impact of nuclear war. We would like exhibition attendees to understand that even a limited nuclear war would cause catastrophic climate change resulting in global famine, and to consider the role that city leaders should strive to play.

We have heard from more than 250 cities around the world, such as London in the UK, Volgograd in Russia and Kabul in Afghanistan, that they held poster exhibitions in response to our request.

On November 16, the city of Miura, Japan, held an exhibition in conjunction with a local festival.

We ask that your city also hold an exhibition to help bring the issue of nuclear weapons to everyone's attention.

The posters are available in English, Spanish, Catalan, French, Dutch, German, Japanese and Russian. Persian translation is now ongoing. Updated posters can be downloaded from the Mayors for Peace website. We would be most grateful if you would continue to lend your support by using the newest posters available for your municipality's exhibition.

We would also appreciate notification of when you will hold a poster exhibition, and the submission of an event report afterwards to the Secretariat. The report format is provided at 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>

■ A plea to support the petition drive for a nuclear weapons convention
