

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2015/Manchester/Hiroshima_Nagasaki_70th_anniversary_flyer.pdf

■U.S. Conference of Mayors' Unanimous Adoption of a New Resolution Regarding Nuclear Disarmament

[San Francisco, USA; June 22rd, 2015]

On June 22rd, at its 83rd Annual Meeting, the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) unanimously adopted the strong, new resolution, "Calling for Effective Implementation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Disarmament Obligation and Redirection of Nuclear Weapons Spending to Meet the Needs of Cities."

The USCM is the non-partisan organization of American cities with populations of 30,000 or more. This is the tenth consecutive year that the organization has adopted resolutions in support of nuclear disarmament and Mayors for Peace. The resolution was sponsored by Mayor T. M. Franklin Cownie of Des Moines, Iowa and 12 co-sponsors from cities in Florida, Wisconsin, Oregon, North Carolina, Arkansas, Iowa, Illinois, and Maine.

▼Full text of the resolution with the complete list of sponsors (Western States Legal Foundation website):

<http://wslfweb.org/docs/USCM-Res-6-22-15.pdf>

▼Official link (USCM website):

http://usmayors.org/resolutions/83rd_Conference/displayresolution.asp?resid=83aReso202

▼Press release that summarizes the significant points of the resolution (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2015/USCM/USCM_resolution_adopted6-22-2015.pdf

■Launch of the Mayors for Peace Information System

An online information system for Mayors for Peace has been launched in order to facilitate information sharing among member cities. This system enables searches for member cities' information, the renewal of records by each member as well as payment of membership fees by credit card without remittance charges. We hope that each member city will keep their own information up-to-date and utilize this system for their activities related to Mayors for Peace.

The instructions on how to use this system are included in an email which was sent to each member city on July 15th.

▼Please email us at the following address if you have any inquiries about the Mayors for Peace Information System: mfpsystem@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

■Flag Day of German Members of Mayors for Peace

[July 8th, 2015]

The Mayors for Peace flag was hoisted in front of many German town halls on July 8th, 2015. Flying the flag signifies opposition to nuclear weapons and hope for a peaceful world. A total of 165 German cities and towns joined in the fourth national Flag Day for Mayors for Peace and documented it with press articles and photographs for the German website.

Flag Day is held to evoke the advisory opinion handed down by the International Court of Justice on July 8th, 1996, which concluded that even the threat of using nuclear weapons violates international law.

This year the City of Hannover held the Annual Meeting of the German members of Mayors for Peace on Flag Day, and invited all mayors of the German towns and cities engaged in Mayors for Peace to join the meeting.

In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the day proceeded with an evening lecture entitled "Flirting with the bomb – New nuclear strategies in current geopolitical conflicts" and a supporting program displayed the Mayors for Peace Poster Exhibition and DVD screening "On a Paper Crane".

▼ Photos of the event in Hannover on the Mayors for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2015/Germany/flag_day.html

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

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.de/termine/flaggentag.html>

■ Hibakuska's Speech at UK Parliamentary Event through Video Connection

[London, UK; July 16th, 2015]

On July 16th, a special event titled 'Hiroshima: Understanding, collaboration and peace' took place connecting London and Hiroshima with video-conferencing system to deliver hibakusha (A-bomb survivor) testimony to the UK Houses of Parliament. Hosted by Lord Laird in a Committee Room of the House of Lords (the Upper House), Ms. Yoshiko Kajimoto, who was exposed to the atomic bombing of Hiroshima at the age of 14, recounted her experiences on the 6th of August 1945 via a live Skype link. Approximately 80 participants, including the members of the House of Lords and Members of Parliament, listened to Ms. Kajimoto's remarkable message of peace and reconciliation. Ms. Kajimoto also answered questions from the audience. The meeting was organised by the Foundation for International Collaboration, and fully supported by the UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings.

The event also included a special exhibition of paintings done by schoolchildren from the Hiroshima Jogakuin Girls' Middle School three years after the bomb, in 1948. The pictures were provided by the kind permission of retired art teacher Mr. Mike Stevenson and was organised with the support of the Daiwa Foundation. The exhibition will be held in the Daiwa Foundation offices in London in the first week of August.

▼ Photos of the event on the Mayors for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2015/UK_Parliament/skype_Abomb_testimony.html

▼ Event flyer (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2015/UK_Parliament/20150716_Hiroshima_London_event.pdf

▼ Foundation for International Collaboration website:

<http://www.f-i-c.org>

▼ Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation website:

<http://www.dajf.org.uk>

■ The "I was her age." Child-Survivors take the 'long way home' to Hiroshima and Nagasaki

On their "journey to heart of the world," the eight child-survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, sailing on Peace Boat, have visited over 24 countries. In a week's time, they will disembark in Yokohama and head back to family and friends. They will wind up the "I was her age." Project by participating in the 70th anniversary ceremonies of the terrible days when the hometowns of their childhood were first shattered by the atomic explosions and then incinerated by the firestorms. Mayors for Peace congratulates the Child Survivors to their successful voyage.

Along the way, as part of the joint project with Peace Boat, sixteen City Halls were involved in welcoming them to their countries: Kochi, India; Piraeus, Greece; Catania, Italy; Motril, Spain; Lisbon, Portugal; Gonfréville L'Ocher, France; Bruges, Ypres, and Brussels, Belgium; Gdansk, Poland; St. Petersburg, Russia; Hamburg, Germany; Bergen, Norway; Reykjavik, Iceland; Santa Apolonia, Guatemala; and Honolulu, USA. Mayors for Peace thanks them, one and all!

A short film of the voyage is being edited on board Peace Boat as it heads home; it will be ready for distribution – online for free of charge – beginning in August.

▼ "Abolition 2000" website featuring "I was her age." Project:

<http://www.abolition2000.org/?p=3842>

■The Resignation of Mayor Catherine Margaté, Mayor of Malakoff (France) and a Vice President of Mayors for Peace

Ms. Catherine Margaté, who served as the Mayor of Malakoff for 19 years and was also a Vice President of Mayors for Peace, stepped down from office on June 16th due to health concerns.

The City of Malakoff became a member of Mayors for Peace in 1985, a Vice President City in 1997 and a Lead City in 2013. In 1997, the City established l'Association Francaise des Communes, Departments et Regions Pour la Paix (AFCDRP), the French association of Mayors for Peace, whose office is located in Malakoff City Hall and which employs a full-time staff member.

Mayors for Peace sincerely appreciates Ms. Margaté's longstanding and invaluable contributions to its activities and would like to ask her successor, Mayor Jacqueline Belhomme, for her continued support of Mayors for Peace activities.

■Speech by Mayor of Frogn, Norway at the Nordic Seminar on the New Climate Economy

[Visby, Sweden; June 29th, 2015]

On June 28th and 29th, in Visby, Sweden, there was a two-day seminar called "Cities and Mayors Leading the New Climate Economy – the Nordic Road to Paris and Beyond," where mayors and other municipal leaders joined together to discuss how mayors and cities in the Nordics can take the lead in sustainable development and challenges regarding climate change.

Mayor Thore Vestby of Frogn, Norway, who is a Vice President of Mayors for Peace, joined a session on June 29th called "Urban Goals and New Roles for City Leaders," in which participants discussed how cities in the Nordics can contribute to the global transition toward a sustainable future. Mayor Vestby spoke about the mission and goals of Mayors for Peace and how the world expenditure on nuclear weapons is not contributing to sustainable development, and why it is so important for mayors around the world to join hands together to represent as many citizens of the globe as possible, and put pressure on decision makers to move in a sustainable direction.

The seminar was held as part of the Almedalen Week, a major Swedish political event taking place annually in the 27th week in and around Almedalen, a park in the city of Visby on Gotland Island.

▼Link to the website of "Cities and Mayors Leading the New Climate Economy - the Nordic Road to Paris and Beyond":

<http://www.thenordicroadtoparisandbeyond.se/>

■Hosting of a Foreign Ministers' Meeting by Hiroshima City prior to the G7 summit (Ise Shima summit) in May, 2016

On June 26th, the Japanese government announced that it had decided to hold next year's Group of 7 foreign ministerial meeting in Hiroshima, before the Ise-Shima summit of the major nations in Mie Prefecture on May 26th and 27th in 2016.

Following the announcement, the Mayor of Hiroshima commented, "I'm very happy and honored," and said, "We would like to offer opportunities for the foreign ministers to visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and listen to A-bomb survivors' testimonies."

Mayors for Peace hopes to take this opportunity to send out a strong message in support of nuclear abolition to the world.

■“Peace News from Hiroshima”

- Contributed by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center

As of the end of March 2015, the average age of the A-bomb survivors reached 80.13, exceeding 80 for the first time. This average age has risen by 0.69 years from 79.44, a year earlier. As the survivors grow older, the activities of their groups are seriously affected. In this significant year, which marks the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings, survivors' associations in Fukuyama, located in southeastern Hiroshima Prefecture, and Koda, in the northern city of Akitakata, have disbanded. Another group in Shobara, also in northern Hiroshima Prefecture, will dissolve as well. How can we carry on the efforts launched by survivors of the bombings, who have been actively calling for a world without nuclear weapons or war? This is a dire problem now facing Hiroshima. In good news, it has been announced that Hiroshima will host a meeting of foreign ministers ahead of a summit that will take place in Japan next year. The U.S. Secretary of State and the foreign ministers of the United Kingdom and France, all nuclear-weapon states, will visit Hiroshima for the first time. A-bomb survivors and citizens have high hopes that the meeting will create an opportunity to promote nuclear disarmament.

Please visit the following links for articles from the Hiroshima Peace Media Center:

- Average age of A-bomb survivors now exceeds 80

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=46730>

- Shobara A-bomb survivors group moves to disband

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=46417>

- Foreign ministers' meeting prior to next year's summit to be held in Hiroshima

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=46507>

- Foreign ministers' meeting in Hiroshima seen as good opportunity to urge action on nuclear disarmament; hopes of A-bomb survivors rise

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=46511>

- “Hiroshima and the Holocaust”: Students report on study tour to Europe

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=45958>

■Member City Activities

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Gernika-Lumo, Spain

“Origamiak from Gernika to Hiroshima” Project Event
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On June 12th, a major event of part of the “Origamiak from Gernika to Hiroshima” project took place in Astra, a former bomb and gun factory which is now a cultural center, in which two hundred 12-year old students from Gernika and surrounding areas participated.

▼ Full report and photos of the event on the Mayors for Peace website:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2015/Gernika-Lumo/origami.html>

▼ Link to the promotional video of the “Origamiak” project:

www.origamiak.org

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Hamburg, Germany

Discussion Between Hiroshima and Nagasaki Hibakusha and Survivors of the 1943 Firestorm of Hamburg
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On June 3rd, three survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki met three survivors of the Hamburg firestorm of 1943 at an event hosted by the City of Hamburg. The event took place at St. Nicholas' Church, Hamburg's most important memorial dealing with the war and Nazi dictatorship during 1933-1945. The location of the church was also a landmark and target for British bomber aircraft in 1943 during “Operation Gomorrah,” the heaviest bombardment of a

German city at the time.

Approximately 60 students aged 13 to 16 from four different schools joined the discussions with the survivors. Mayor Olaf Scholz of Hamburg and a representative from the NGO World Future Council also spoke at the event.

The delegation of Hibakusha visited Hamburg as part of “I Was Her Age” project organized by the Peace Boat and Mayors for Peace. They stayed overnight in the Guesthouse of the Senate of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, at which they also had more intensive discussions over dinner with the survivors of the 1943 firestorm.

▼Link to event coverage on the City of Hamburg website (in German):

<http://www.hamburg.de/pressearchiv-fhh/4505964/2015-06-03-pr-ueberlebende-hiroshima/>

▼Link to German news media event coverage in the “Deutsche Welle”:

<http://www.dw.com/en/in-hamburg-hiroshima-survivors-share-tragedies-of-war/a-18497055?maca=en-aa-pol-863-rdf>

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Ituzaingo, Argentina

A Kindergarten’s Origami Paper Crane Workshop for Peace

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On June 16th in the city of Ituzaingo, an origami paper crane workshop was held by Ms. Tomoko Aikawa who is the founder of “Fundacion Sadako,” an NGO on peace and environmental education, and also serves as a Hiroshima Peace Ambassador, as designated by the City of Hiroshima.

▼Full report and photos of the event on the Mayors for Peace website:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2015/Ituzaingo/orizuru.html>

▼Fundacion Sadako NGO blog (in Japanese):

<http://blog.livedoor.jp/tomokoar/>

▼Link to the event coverage on the City of Ituzaingo website (in Spanish):

<http://www.miituzaingo.gov.ar/verNoticias.asp?id=182054&Seccion=11>

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Manchester, UK

Local Seminars on the Manchester Peace Trail, as Part of the 'Discover Peace in Europe' Project

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On June 12/13 and June 26/27 the formal launch of the new Manchester Peace Trail took place, with seminars and walkthroughs to test the Trail with a variety of attendees.

▼Full report and photos of the event on the Mayors for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2015/Manchester/peace_trail.html

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Muntinlupa, Philippines

“The Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki”: A Poster Exhibition in a Local Mall

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On June 18th and 19th, the City of Muntinlupa hosted a photo exhibit of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings in one of the leading shopping malls in the city. The exhibit was held through the initiative of Mayor Fresnedi of Muntinlupa City in order to increase public awareness of the Mayors for Peace vision, "A Nuclear Free World in Year 2020", in all levels and walks of life. The posters gathered a great number of attendees and are currently being considered for exhibition in all public high schools in the city.

▼Photos of the exhibit on the Mayors for Peace website:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2015/Muntinlupa/exhibition.html>

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Wellington, New Zealand
Launching of the Wellington Peace Hui

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On May 27th, Mayor Celia Wade-Brown of Wellington hosted an event commemorating the launch of the “Wellington Peace Hui.” A “hui” means a social gathering or assembly, and originally comes from Maori language. Mayor Wade-Brown and representatives of local peace organizations made presentations under the theme, “Working Towards a Peaceful, Nuclear Weapons Free World.”

▼ Link to the event coverage on the Soka Gakkai International of NZ website:
<http://www.sginz.org/home/wellington-mayor-s-peace-network/>

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/membercity/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 a 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 its URL:
mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

■ A request to hold commemorative events for the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings

This year, Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be facing the landmark 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings. As we have requested through email, we are calling for all member cities to hold commemorative events in their municipality or regional group.

The events may be of any type, but we ask they be held by March 2016. You will find some examples of what types of events are possible on the webpage below.

We would appreciate notification of when you will hold an event, and the submission of an event report afterwards to the Secretariat. The report form is provided on the Mayors for Peace website. Additional information such as photos of the event and a link to a website showing details of the event are also welcome.

▼ “A request regarding the holding of various measures as based in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan” (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/70th_anniversary/various_measures_En.pdf

▼ Report form (Word):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/70th_anniversary/Report2015.doc

■ A plea to 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, Mayors for Peace members agreed to promote a global grassroots petition drive as a way in which all member cities can call for an immediate start to negotiations of a nuclear weapons convention. Promotion of this petition drive is also included in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2013-2017) that was adopted at the 8th General Conference in August 2013.

Thanks to many supporters across the world, we have received 2,077,183 signatures as of July 1, 2015.

Let us gather millions more and make our voices heard.

(The petition is available to print or to sign 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-z.city.hiroshima.jp/pcf/en/form.htm>

■Visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace last month

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

*June 25th - H.E. Mr. Carlos Fernando Almada Lopez, Ambassador of Mexico to Japan

■Mayors for Peace member cities - 6,733 cities in 160 countries/regions

Through your invaluable support, on July 1st, 2015, we added 29 new member cities, bringing total membership to 6,733.

Thanks to the continued efforts of the team at the Teheran Peace Museum, 20 cities from Iran joined this month and the total number of Iranian member cities reached 692.

We also welcomed six cities from Germany, Italy, Nepal, and Norway.

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.

▼List of new members (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2015/newmembers1507_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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