

▼The 25th UN Conference on Disarmament Issues in Hiroshima (The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific website)

<http://unrcpd.org/event/25th-un-conference-on-disarmament-issues-in-hiroshima/>

▼Facebook of the 25th UN Conference on Disarmament Issues in Hiroshima

https://www.facebook.com/pages/United-Nations-Conference-on-Disarmament-Issues-%E5%9B%BD%E9%80%A3%E8%BB%8D%E7%B8%AE%E4%BC%9A%E8%AD%B0/500916419921258?hc_location=timeline

▼GEM meeting in Hiroshima (The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) website)

<https://www.ctbto.org/press-centre/highlights/2015/gem-meeting-in-hiroshima-japan/>

▼Hiroshima Declaration adopted by the GEM meeting in Hiroshima (CTBTO website)

https://www.ctbto.org/fileadmin/user_upload/public_information/2015/Hiroshima_Declaration-FINAL_Aug_25.pdf

■A call to hold events to mark the 2015 International Day of Peace on September 21st and continue to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings

The United Nations has established September 21st as a fixed International Day of Peace (IDP) and an annual day of non-violence and cease-fire. The theme of the 2015 IDP is “Partnerships for Peace - Dignity for All.” Mayors for Peace has been a long-time supporter of the IDP. It is included in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan that all member cities will be encouraged to commemorate the IDP.

Accordingly, the city of Takayama, Japan, a member city of Mayors for Peace, will organize a Peace Bell Ceremony where like-minded bell owners in the city, such as temples and churches, will sound their bells in unison at noon on the IDP. We support the request of the mayor of Takayama City that other member cities do the same in their own, local time, in order to offer as many people as possible an opportunity to renew their determination to bring peace to the globe.

▼Request from Mayors for Peace for Peace Bell Ceremony on IDP (PDF, Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2015/Sep21_peaceday/Request_from_Takayama_City.pdf

▼The 2015 International Day of Peace (The United Nations website):

<http://www.un.org/en/events/peaceday/index.shtml>

Please also consider that this year, all year, can be used to mark the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. As we have requested through email, we are calling for all member cities to hold commemorative events in their municipality or regional group at a time that suit you best. If you intend to organize such an event, the Secretariat would be pleased if you would inform our office.

▼Request to hold commemorative events for the 70th Anniversary of the atomic bombings (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/70th_anniversary/index.html

▼Please mail us information on your event at:

mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

The list of events commemorating the IDP and the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings, as based on reports received from member cities, is available at the link below.

▼List of commemorative events (As of September 11th)(PDF, Mayors for Peace website) :

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

■Bestowal of Gandhi Foundation International Peace Award 2015 upon Tore Naerland, founder of Bike for Peace

The Gandhi Foundation in UK has decided to award its annual International Peace Award for 2015 to Tore Naerland, the founder of Bike for Peace. The Gandhi Foundation exists to spread knowledge and understanding of the life and work of Mohandas (Mahatma) K. Gandhi and his ideas around non-violence, tolerance and pluralism. The Peace Award was inaugurated in 1998 and is awarded to individuals and organisations committed to peace-making and peace-building.

Bike for Peace was founded by Tore Naerland in 1978 and has used the sport of cycling to bring together people from different sides of conflicts to 'bike for peace'. In 2014, Mayors for Peace combined with Bike for Peace in an 'Around the World for Peace' bike tour involving the former Norwegian Prime Minister Kjell-Magne Bondevik, mayors, councillors, professional cyclists and local peace and cycling groups. The tour began in Manchester and went through the UK, France, Italy, China, the United States and ended in Norway. Highlights included receptions with Pope Francis and with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. Amongst the participants were Mayors for Peace Vice President Thore Vestby of Frogn. Bike for Peace has held tours in over 120 countries around the world in its three decades of rich history.

The reception to present the Gandhi International Peace Award to Tore Naerland and Bike for Peace will take place in a Committee Room of the Houses of Parliament in Westminster, London on the evening of the 4th of November.

▼ Gandhi Foundation International Peace Award (The Gandhi Foundation website):

<http://gandhifoundation.org/activities>

▼ Bike for Peace website:

<http://www.bikeforpeace.info>

■ **“Peace News from Hiroshima”**

- Contributed by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center

The 70th anniversaries of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the end of World War II, have been marked this year. And yet there are still 16,000 nuclear weapons in the world. A world free of nuclear weapons, the earnest desire of the A-bomb survivors, will take more time to realize. In light of this, Hiroshima must carry on with its duty of making the world aware of the terrible inhumanity of nuclear arms. A number of international conferences on the theme of nuclear disarmament were held in Hiroshima in late August. The participants of these conferences, including former U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry, expressed their strong hope that Hiroshima will convey the tragedy wrought by the atomic bombing to the world and to younger generations. The people of Hiroshima must take this responsibility very seriously.

Visit the following links for articles from the Hiroshima Peace Media Center.

- Former U.S. secretary of defense speaks in Hiroshima, expresses deep concern over nuclear weapons

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=50987>

- Meeting of CTBTO's Group of Eminent Persons opens in Hiroshima; members to explore ways to bring about treaty's entry into force

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=50734>

- Meeting of “Group of Eminent Persons” closes after adopting Hiroshima Declaration

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=51184>

- U.N. Conference on Disarmament Issues proposes working group on abolishing nuclear weapons

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=50989>

- U.N. Conference on Disarmament Issues closes with hope for concrete action to advance nuclear abolition

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=51189>

■ **Member city activities**

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Cuernavaca, Mexico

Commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

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On August 6th, the City of Cuernavaca hosted an event at the Cuernavaca City Museum titled “Uniting for Peace”, which commemorated the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

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

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2015/Cuernavaca/70th_Hiroshima_Nagasaki.html

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Kahrizsang City, Iran

Exhibition of Posters, Paintings and Photos to Commemorate the Victims of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bombings

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On August 6th, Kahrizsang City held an exhibition of works of art with the themes of peace, friendship and the commemoration of the victims of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

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

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2015/Kahrizsang/150806exhibition.html>

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Volgograd, Russia

Peace ceremony in memory of the victims of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima

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On August 6th, an annual ceremony to commemorate the atomic bombing of Hiroshima was hosted by the City of Volgograd at the State Historical and Memorial Museum-Reserve “The Battle of Stalingrad.”

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

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2015/Volgograd/August_6th_ceremony.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

■ 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 any transfer 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 recently sent to each member city.

▼ Mayors for Peace Information System:

<https://www.mfpinfosys.org/>

▼ Mayors for Peace Information System Operating Manual:

https://www.mfpinfosys.org/manual/secure/pdfs/lec7/lm/07manu_pdf_en.pdf

▼ Please email us at the following address if you have any inquiries about the Mayors for Peace Information System:

mfpsystem@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

■ A request for payment of the 2015 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee

At the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in August 2013, introduction of an annual Membership Fee was determined in order to strengthen the foundation of Mayors for Peace and the sense of solidarity amongst member cities. This year, we launched an annual Membership Fee of 2,000 Japanese Yen (about USD15 / EUR12) per city. If you are able to pay by credit card, your city may do so through the Mayors for Peace Information System, and you will not need to bear any handling fees. The Membership Fees will be utilized as a resource for new and continued projects listed on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2013-2017). We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

■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 2,154,674 signatures as of September 1st, 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 (August 8st - 31st)

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.

*August 10th - Dr. Mamdouh Mohamed Gad Eldamaty, Minister of Antiquities of the Arab Republic of Egypt

■Mayors for Peace member cities - 6,820 cities in 161 countries/regions

Through your invaluable support, on September 1st, 2015, we added 43 new member cities, bringing total membership to 6,820.

Thanks to the continued efforts of the team at the Tehran Peace Museum, 22 cities from Iran joined this month and the total number of Iranian member cities reached 735. We also welcomed 14 cities from Argentina, Cameroon, Canada, Germany, Italy, Latvia, and the USA.

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/newmembers1509_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.
