

## Mayors for Peace News Flash (May 2016) No.77

Dear member cities and supporters of Mayors for Peace,

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Below is recent news related to our activities. If your city has any news it wishes to share with others, please feel free to contact us.

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Mayors for Peace member cities as of May 1, 2016

**7,042 cities in 161 countries/regions with 14 new members**

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Please also check our website and Facebook page:

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

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

"Like" our Facebook page to help spread awareness of our mission.

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### ■ Mayors for Peace President's Attendance of the UN Open-ended Working Group on Nuclear Disarmament

[Geneva, Switzerland; May 2 - 4, 2016]

The second session of the UN Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations was convened from May 2 to 13 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva to substantively address concrete and effective legal measures to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons.

Mr. Kazumi Matsui, Mayor of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace, attended the first three days of the session. At its opening, he had a speaking opportunity in which he appealed to policy makers to demonstrate strong leadership toward a world without nuclear weapons, as well as urged them to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Prior to the opening of the session, Mayor Matsui presented the United Nations Office at Geneva with a second-generation A-bombed ginkgo tree. He also had meetings with representatives of UN officials, governments and NGOs during his stay in Geneva.

Please visit the following link to find more details about Mr. Matsui's activities in Geneva as well as the text of his speech at the session.

▼ Mayor Matsui's Attendance of the OEWG (Mayors for Peace website):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/gallery/201605\\_OEWG/index.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/gallery/201605_OEWG/index.html)

During this OEWG period, a number of side events were held in Geneva. On May 8, Randy Rydell, Executive Advisor of Mayors for Peace, attended a briefing and strategy meeting organized by Unfold Zero. On May 11, he met with actor Michael Douglas (UN Messenger of Peace), Won-soo Kim (UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs), and several NGOs to discuss possible initiatives by the Secretary-General and also how to strengthen UN/NGO relations in disarmament. On May 12, Thore Vestby, Honorary Mayor of Frogn, Norway, and a Vice President of Mayors for Peace, spoke at a side event organized by Unfold Zero, the World Future Council, and the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations in Geneva.

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### ■ U.S. President Obama's Scheduled Visit to Hiroshima

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On May 10, the Japanese and U.S. governments announced that U.S. President Barack Obama will visit Hiroshima on May 27, when he attends the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in Ise City, Mie Prefecture, later this month. He will become the first sitting American president to visit the A-bombed city.

Following this announcement, Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima commented, "I cordially welcome the president's bold decision, which is based in reason and conscience," and expressed his hope that the president will see firsthand the realities of the atomic bombing in Peace Memorial Park, acquire a deep understanding about the hibakusha's experiences, and share in the spirit of Hiroshima, which is the earnest wish for peace.

Mayors for Peace hopes that the visit will be a historic first step toward an international effort to eliminate nuclear weapons.

▼ Related information: Articles in "The Japan Times" on President Obama's scheduled visit to Hiroshima:

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/tag/obamas-hiroshima-visit/>

▼ Related information: Article in "The Guardian" on President Obama's possible visit to Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum :

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/13/hiroshima-open-horrors-barack-obama-historic-visit-japan>

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### ■ The 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in Early August 2017 in Nagasaki, Japan

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The 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace will be held in Nagasaki in early August, 2017.

The General Conference is hosted by the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in turn every four years. The agenda for the 9th conference will include discussions on many important topics such as the Action Plan, which calls for the total abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020. We hope many of you will come to Nagasaki next year to join in this conference.

Further information regarding the conference schedule and registration will be provided to each member city as it is decided.

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### ■ The Second Regional Meeting of Mayors for Peace in Mexico City (September 20-22, 2016)

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Mexico City, a Vice President of Mayors for Peace, has started planning the second regional meeting of Mayors for Peace in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will take place on September 20, 21 and 22, 2016. The meeting will coincide with the UN International Peace Day (September 21) and is just weeks before the UCLG World Summit in Bogota (October 12 -15, 2016). The agenda will feature nuclear disarmament, with Mexico City being the historic epicenter of the movement to ban nuclear weapons. Mexico City was the place where the Treaty of Tlatelolco was signed in 1967, being the first inhabited Nuclear Weapon Free Zone. The meeting will also address the proliferation of small arms as their use continues to be the main disarmament challenge for the region, as well as increasing global military expenditures which hamper sustainable development and the eradication of poverty.

For more information, please email Pol D'Huyvetter, Coordinator of Mayors for Peace in Latin America and Executive Adviser of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation at:

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■ **“Peace News from Hiroshima”** (Contributed by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center)  
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In 2015, which marked the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings, the number of international visitors to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park reached a new record high of more than 330,000. This indicates that the number of people overseas who are interested in Hiroshima and the atomic bombings is growing. We should feel reassured by this trend as well as motivated to work even harder so that more people around the world will learn about the reality of what happened in Hiroshima. If the devastating effects of nuclear weapons are more widely known, there will be greater understanding of the inhumanity of nuclear arms. The international community will think more keenly about the use of such weapons and, above all, whether human beings should be permitted to possess them in the first place.

On the heels of the meeting of G7 foreign ministers, held in Hiroshima in April, U.S. President Barack Obama will visit Hiroshima on May 27. More than 70 years after the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the citizens of Hiroshima will finally experience this historic, landmark moment. What words will Mr. Obama direct toward the many victims who were burned to death by the A-bomb’s heat rays, without even knowing what had happened to them, and toward those who survived the atomic bomb but have led lives of endless anxiety over the effects of their exposure to the bomb’s radiation? What message will Mr. Obama send to the world to help boost momentum for the stalled nuclear abolition movement? The world will be watching his every word and action.

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

- Commentary: President Obama’s visit to test Hiroshima’s resolve  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=59316>
- Special Report: President Obama to visit Hiroshima, Part 1  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=59309>
- A-bomb survivors react to Hiroshima mayor’s message at U.N. working group on nuclear disarmament  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=59340>
- New website on A-bomb accounts is launched from Hiroshima  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=59338>
- Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum attracts record number of international visitors in fiscal 2015  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=59354>

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■ **Member City Activities**  
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Fremantle, Australia  
Presentation of a Peace Sculpture to Nagasaki Peace Park  
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The delegation of the Mayors for Peace West Australia, led by the City of Fremantle, a Mayors for Peace Lead City, visited Nagasaki from April 16 to 20 to present Australia’s first sculpture gift to Nagasaki Peace Park. The sculpture titled “The Tree of Life: Gift of Peace” originates from Yalata (remote South Australia), a community affected by British-led atomic testing in Australia, and is a peace gift to the people of Nagasaki from one atomic survivor community to another. The official gifting ceremony was held on April 18 with official guests in attendance including Mayor Taue (Nagasaki City), Deputy Mayor Josh Wilson (City of Fremantle), Mr. Jeremy LeBois (Maralinga Tjarutja Council), Russell Bryant (Yalata Community Inc.), and Nagasaki City and Australian Embassy officials. The delegation also visited Hiroshima from April 20 to 22, touring the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and listening to an A-bomb survivor’s testimony.

▼ Photos and Deputy Mayor Wilson’s speech (Mayor of Fremantle Brad Pettitt’s blog):

<https://cofremantle.wordpress.com/2016/04/20/australian-sculpture-in-nagasaki-peace-park/>  
▼ More photos of the ceremony (Facebook “Nagasaki City - Peace & Atomic Bomb”, in Japanese):  
<https://www.facebook.com/nagasakipeace/posts/991217417599198>  
▼ Information about the sculpture-making (the “Nuclear Futures” program website):  
<http://www.nuclearfutures.org/>

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Mitaka City, Tokyo, Japan  
Launch of “Mitaka Digital Peace Museum”  
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In February this year, as part of a city project to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the end of WWII, Mitaka City established a special section of its website, titled “Mitaka Digital Peace Museum”. This new section contains photos of artifacts and testimonies about WWII provided by the citizens of Mitaka City, as well as other archived materials conveying to future generations the horrors of war and people’s lives during wartime. It also introduces pictures drawn by local elementary school students on the theme of peace, peace projects organized by the City of Mitaka, and relevant battle sites in the City. This digital museum section of the city’s website includes an automatic translation feature for those who wish to read in English, Chinese, and Korean.

▼ Mitaka Digital Peace Museum (Mitaka City website):  
Japanese: <http://www.city.mitaka.tokyo.jp/heiwa/>  
English: <http://www.city.mitaka.tokyo.jp.e.nf.hp.transer.com/heiwa/>  
Chinese: <http://www.city.mitaka.tokyo.jp.c.nf.hp.transer.com/heiwa/>  
Korean: <http://www.city.mitaka.tokyo.jp.k.nf.hp.transer.com/heiwa/>

<<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](mailto:mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)

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**■ Mayors for Peace Information System**  
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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 utilize this system for their activities related to Mayors for Peace.

Please check your city’s information on the system such as the name and contact information of the mayor, contact person, etc. If this information needs revision, we ask that you log into the system and make corrections. We would greatly appreciate each city keeping its own information up-to-date.

Instructions on how to use this system are included in an email which has been 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](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:  
[mfpssystem@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp](mailto:mfpssystem@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)

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**■ Request for Payment of the 2016 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee**

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At the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in August 2013, the 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. Following this decision, last year, we launched an annual membership fee of 2,000 Japanese Yen (about USD15-16 / EUR12-15) per city. This year again, we would like to ask each city to contribute the same amount. The funds raised by this fee will be utilized as a resource for the projects listed on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2013-2017).

A request for payment of the 2016 membership fee will be sent each city soon. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

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**■Plea to Support Our Nuclear Weapons Convention Petition Drive**  
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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. Mayors for Peace is promoting 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 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 2,269,613 signatures as of May 1, 2016.

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](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>

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**■Visitor(s) to the President of Mayors for Peace Last Month**  
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President Kazumi Matsui welcomed the following visitors last month and asked them to support the activities of Mayors for Peace and cooperate towards membership expansion.

\*April 7 - Members of the Austrian Parliament belonging to the Austria-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Association

\*April 18 - H.E. Mr. Takehiro KAGAWA, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Arab Republic of Egypt

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**■Mayors for Peace Member Cities – 7,042 Cities in 161 Countries/Regions**  
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Thanks to your invaluable support, on May 1st, we added 14 new member cities, bringing total membership to 7,042.

Thanks to efforts by the City of Fongo-Tongo, Cameroon, a Vice President of Mayors for Peace, we welcomed three cities from Cameroon this month for a total of 97.

We also welcomed five cities from Japan, two from Germany and one city each from Canada, Italy, the Netherlands, and the USA.

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

▼List of New Members (PDF):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2016/newmembers1605\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2016/newmembers1605_en.pdf)

▼Map of Member Cities:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/membercity/map.html>

