



Please read more about President Obama's visit to Hiroshima in the "Peace News from Hiroshima" section below, contributed by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center.

▼ Remarks by President Obama and Prime Minister Abe of Japan at Hiroshima Peace Memorial (The White House Website):

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/05/27/remarks-president-obama-and-prime-minister-abe-japan-hiroshima-peace>

▼ Interview with Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, Chairperson of Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation on President Obama's visit to Hiroshima (Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation Website):

<http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/hpcf/english/about/chairpersonsE/article011.html>

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**■ Letter to the Mayor of Rio de Janeiro and the President of IOC Proposing a Minute of Silence at the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games**

[May 20, 2016]

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The 31st Summer Olympic Games will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, this year and its Opening Ceremony is scheduled for the evening of August 5, local time. In Japan, it will be the morning of August 6, a period which includes 8:15am, the time when the atomic bomb exploded in Hiroshima on August 6, 71 years earlier.

On May 20, Mr. Kazumi Matsui, Mayor of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace, sent a letter to the Mayor of Rio de Janeiro and the President of International Olympic Committee (IOC) proposing them to invite all participants at the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games to observe a minute of silence to remember all victims of armed conflicts and terror, and to revive the Olympic Truce, which calls for an end of violence and the establishment of a sustainable peace.

▼ Letter from Mayor Matsui to the Mayor of Rio de Janeiro and the President of IOC (Mayors for Peace website):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/statement/request/160520\\_Rio\\_IOC.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/statement/request/160520_Rio_IOC.pdf)

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**■ Message for the 100-Day Countdown to the International Day of Peace**

[June 13, 2016]

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The President of Mayors for Peace issued a message on June 13th for the 100-day countdown to the International Day of Peace.

The United Nations has established September 21 as the International Day of Peace (IDP) and an annual day of non-violence and cease-fire. The UN invites all nations and people to honor a cessation of hostilities during the IDP, and to otherwise commemorate the International Day of Peace through education and public awareness on issues related to peace and wellbeing for all.

Mayors for Peace has been a long-time supporter of the IDP. It is included in our Action Plan that all member cities are encouraged to commemorate the International Day of Peace on September 21st. In this context, we humbly ask that you hold an event to mark the 2016 International Day of Peace.

▼ Message for the International Day of Peace, 100-Day Countdown by the President of Mayors for Peace (Mayors for Peace website):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2016/Sep21\\_peaceday/160613\\_IDP100day\\_message\\_E.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2016/Sep21_peaceday/160613_IDP100day_message_E.pdf)

<<PLEASE SEND INFORMATION ON YOUR CITY'S IDP 2016 EVENT >>

If your city is planning to organize an event to commemorate the International Day of Peace, please send your event report to our secretariat. We will share the report on the Mayors for Peace website, etc.

▼ Please email us with an outline of your event at:

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

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## ■Receiving an Intern from Hannover at the Mayors for Peace Secretariat

[May 26 - June 8, 2016]

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Following the decision at the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in August 2013, Mayors for Peace has conducted an internship program since 2014, inviting staff from member cities to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat in Hiroshima City and having them engage in peace-related and other work.

This program was established in an aim to improve the international functions of the Secretariat. It is hoped that the experience of learning about the realities of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima and sharing in the city's wish for peace will help interns identify more personally with the organization, inspiring them to contribute to its development and to peace activities in their home countries, and ultimately strengthening the network among member cities.

Mr. Henrik Herwig, from Hannover, Germany, a Vice President and Lead City of Mayors for Peace, worked as an intern at the Mayors for Peace Secretariat from May 26 to June 8. The Secretariat will receive four more interns from Volgograd (Russia), Wellington (New Zealand), and Bangkok (Thailand) by the end of March 2017.

▼Post on the Mayors for Peace Facebook page about Mr. Herwig's internship in Hiroshima:

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/1606684752925585>

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## ■The 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in 2017

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The 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace will be held in Nagasaki next year. The dates of the Conference are not confirmed yet, but tentatively scheduled for August 7-10, 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 will be provided to each member city as it is decided.

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## ■“Peace News from Hiroshima” (Contributed by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

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Listening to U.S. President Barack Obama speak in front of the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims, some may have felt as if they were hearing a philosopher or religious leader rather than a politician. On May 27, Mr. Obama visited Hiroshima and became the first sitting president of the country that dropped the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki 71 years ago to come to this A-bombed city. In a dignified speech, Mr. Obama paid his respects not only to the Japanese civilians who lost their lives, but also the Korean nationals and American prisoners of war who fell victim to the bombing. And as he did in the speech he made in Prague, Mr. Obama stated with firm conviction that a world without nuclear weapons is an aim that must be realized. He said: “The scientific revolution that led to the splitting of an atom requires a moral revolution as well,” and “...Hiroshima and Nagasaki are known not as the dawn of atomic warfare, but as the start of our own moral awakening.” Though he did not apologize for the atomic bombings, we believe he intimated that the use of nuclear weapons is morally wrong.

It was disappointing, though, that Mr. Obama presented no concrete ideas for advancing the goal of nuclear abolition. This indicates the difficulty of pursuing disarmament policies, with less than a year left in his presidency, while facing opposition from the Republican Party domestically and Russia internationally. His speech in Hiroshima can be interpreted in different ways, depending on which part is the subject of focus. Regardless, there is no doubt that this speech brought the A-bombed city of Hiroshima and the hibakusha to the attention of the world. This does not mean, however, that a clear path has been found for progressing toward the elimination of nuclear weapons. Nor has it been acknowledged that the atomic bombings were unnecessary or that nuclear arms are inhumane weapons. Moving

forward, how can we make the most of Mr. Obama's historic visit? This is Hiroshima's new challenge.

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

- A-bomb survivor shakes hands with U.S. president in Hiroshima, urges action for nuclear abolition  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=60439>

- Hiroshima speech by Obama lacking in clear resolve and concrete steps to advance nuclear abolition  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=60441>

- Critical views of President Obama's speech in Hiroshima  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=60428>

- Editorial: Hiroshima finds hope in President Obama's visit to the A-bombed city  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=60480>

- Commentary: Touching image of Obama's embrace of A-bomb survivor oversimplifies reality  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=60484>

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**■ Member City Activities**  
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Hull City, UK

Lord Mayor of Hull welcomes ginkgo tree seeds from Hiroshima to Hull College's Horticultural Centre  
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The Lord Mayor of Hull, Councillor Sean Chaytor, officially received ginkgo tree seeds from an A-bombed tree from Hiroshima, at a ceremony in Hull College's Horticultural Centre on the 9th June. Hull becomes the fifth UK member of Mayors for Peace to accept ginkgo tree seeds from Hiroshima as visible symbols of peace and renewal.

Lord Mayor Chaytor said it was a great honour for the City of Hull to receive these seeds. He said: "It is through this type of close cooperation among cities that we can raise international public awareness about abolishing nuclear weapons and work towards achieving genuine and lasting world peace. As these seeds mature into trees we will have a sustainable reminder of the role we all have in working to resolve the problems that threaten peaceful coexistence within the human family."

Hull is the UK City of Culture in 2017 and will look to hold in that year a special event to formally plant the trees at sites across the city. Other UK members with ginkgo trees include Manchester, Edinburgh, the Shetland Islands and Aberdeen, who are all organising special projects around their seeds.

<Report provided by Sean Morris, UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary>

▼ Photos of the ceremony (Hull College website):

<http://www.hull-college.ac.uk/news/hull-college-horticulture-centre-becomes-home-to-bearer-of-hope-ginkgo-seed>

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**■ Request to Promote Various Measures as Based in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan**  
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At the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace held in August 2013, an Action Plan for up to the year 2017 was decided on with the aim of raising international support for nuclear weapons abolition through a variety of different measures. You will find some examples of types of events you can organize throughout the year on the webpage below.

We would also be grateful if you could plan events especially on and around Hiroshima Day (August 6), Nagasaki Day (August 9) and the International Day of Peace (September 21) within your municipality or regional group.

▼ Examples of measures:

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/70th\\_anniversary/various\\_measures\\_En.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/70th_anniversary/various_measures_En.pdf)

▼Mayors for Peace A-bomb poster exhibition:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/poster/index.html>

▼DVD rental for screenings:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/DVD/index.html>

▼Please send a report about your event to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat to:

[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 USD19/EUR17) per city. This year again, we would like to ask each city to contribute the same amount. If you have not paid the 2015 Membership Fee but intend to do so, please send it along with this year's payment. 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 2,368,194 signatures as of June 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.

\*May 16 - H.E. Mr. László Kövér, Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary

\*May 19 - H.E. Mr. João Miguel Vahekeni, Ambassador of the Republic of Angola to Japan

\*May 20 - H.E. Mr. Lu Hao, Chairman of the Environment Protection and Resources Conservation Committee in the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China

\*May 21 - Honorable Mr. Tirath Singh Thakur, Chief Justice of India

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**■ Mayors for Peace Member Cities – 7,063 Cities in 161 Countries/Regions**  
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Thanks to your invaluable support, on June 1st, we added 21 new member cities, bringing total membership to 7,063.

Thanks to the continued efforts of the team at the Tehran Peace Museum, 15 cities from Iran joined this month and the total number of Iranian member cities reached 866.

We welcomed the City of Richmond, Canada as a new member. The City's Councilor, Bill McNulty, visited the Mayor of Nagasaki in April and handed him the registration form to join Mayors for Peace on behalf of the Mayor of Richmond.

We also welcomed two cities from Germany, and one city each from Belgium, Italy, and the Netherlands.

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/newmembers1606\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2016/newmembers1606_en.pdf)

▼ Map of Member Cities:

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

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**If you have any comments or questions, 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](mailto:mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)

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