

Wisconsin, Arkansas, Michigan, Massachusetts, Oregon, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, California, Maryland, and New York. This year, for the first time, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and Washington, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser added their names as co-sponsors.

<Report provided by Jackie Cabasso, Mayors for Peace North American Coordinator>

▼ Full text of the resolution with the complete list of sponsors (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2016/USCM/84th_resolution.html

▼ Official link (USCM website):

http://usmayors.org/resolutions/84th_Conference/proposedcommittee-review.asp?committee=International%20Affairs

▼ Article about the resolution by Mayor Cownie, published in “The Nation”:

<https://www.thenation.com/article/there-are-15000-nuclear-weapons-still-posing-an-intolerable-threat-to-humanity/>

■ Secretary General Komizo’s Visit to the U.S.

[June 21 - 30, 2016]

Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, Secretary General of Mayors for Peace, visited Des Moines (Iowa), Chicago (Illinois), Indianapolis (Indiana), and Washington, D.C. from June 21 to 30.

Mr. Komizo met with Des Moines Mayor Cownie and asked the City of Des Moines to take on a lead city role in the U.S. Mayor Cownie accepted this proposal and signed the agreement on the spot. In Indianapolis, Mr. Komizo attended the United States Conference of Mayors' 84th Annual Meeting and delivered a speech at the International Affairs Committee meeting. In Chicago and Washington D.C., Mr. Komizo had meetings with government officials and representatives of NGOs in Chicago and Washington, D.C. to explain the activities of Mayors for Peace and exchange views on future cooperation toward the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Please visit the following link to find more details about Mr. Komizo’s activities in the U.S.

▼ Mayors for Peace Secretary General’s Trip to the U.S. (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/gallery/201606_USA/index.html

■ Response from IOC to the Mayors for Peace Letter Proposing to Observe a Minute of Silence at the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games

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 the International Olympic Committee (IOC) proposing that they invite all participants at the Opening Ceremony of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games to observe a minute of silence. The 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 8:15 a.m., the time when the atomic bomb exploded in Hiroshima on August 6, 1945.

The Mayors for Peace Secretariat received a letter in response dated June 9 from the Director General of IOC. The letter mentioned that the IOC has decided to create a place of mourning within the Olympic Village during the period of the Olympic Games, which will allow athletes and all those in the Olympic Village to mourn those who have passed away, in a special and dignified way. The letter also mentioned that the IOC has further decided to devote a moment during the Closing Ceremony to allow everybody in the stadium, as well as those watching around the world, to remember loved ones who have passed away.

Mayors for Peace fully appreciates that the A-bomb survivors in Brazil and other anti-nuclear groups continue their campaign for a minute of silence and that the support for such efforts to seek peace is growing around the world.

■ Flag Day of German Members of Mayors for Peace

[July 8, 2016]

204 cities in Germany raised the Mayors for Peace nuclear disarmament flag on July 8 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the ICJ case and to promote global nuclear abolition. The Flag day events were coordinated by the City of Hannover, with the support of a number of German non-governmental organizations.

'We, the Mayors for Peace, are very concerned that there still exist around 16,000 nuclear warheads in the world,' said Stefan Schostok, Mayor of Hannover and a Vice-President of Mayors for Peace. 'A world that is increasingly marked by numerous violent conflicts, acts of war and terrorism. A world that seems to go off the rails. In view of the planned deployment of new, technically upgraded nuclear weapons in Europe, it is therefore all the more important that Flag Day draws attention to the goal of a nuclear-free world.'

The Flag Day events also focused on the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations (OEWG). 'With the hoisting of the Mayors for Peace banner in front of our City Hall we appeal also to the governments of the world to participate actively and seriously in the OEWG discussions on nuclear disarmament,' said Mayor Schostok.

<Report provided by Alyn Ware, Global Coordinator of PNND>

▼ Photos of the event in Hannover:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/atomwaffenfrei-jetzt/sets/72157670775811515>

▼ Photos and movie of the event in Stuttgart:

<https://youtu.be/n-wa99kSvj8>

▼ Related story with a list of participating cities (German Mayors for Peace website, in German):

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

■ Receiving an Intern from Volgograd at the Mayors for Peace Secretariat

[June 16 - June 29, 2016]

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- and Secretariat-related 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.

Dr. Elena Parubochaya, from Volgograd, Russia, a Vice President and Lead City of Mayors for Peace, worked as an intern at the Mayors for Peace Secretariat from June 16 to June 29. The Secretariat will have hosted two more interns from Wellington (New Zealand), and Bangkok (Thailand) by the end of March 2017.

▼ Posts on the Mayors for Peace Facebook page about Dr. Parubochaya's internship in Hiroshima:

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/1610158612578199>

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/1610739739186753>

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/1612980528962674>

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

The 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace will be held in Nagasaki from August 7 to 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.

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

As the days grow hotter, the 71st anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima draws near. The excitement over U.S. President Barack Obama’s historic visit to this city in May still lingers. The paper cranes he folded, along with photos of his visit, are now on display at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. With his visit making headlines in and out of Japan, the number of visitors to the museum in the month since his appearance here rose by 50 percent compared to the same period last year. This statistic reflects the significance of his visit.

At the same time, there are different views and continuing debate with regard to his presence in the Peace Memorial Park, which lasted less than an hour, and the content of the speech he made from this A-bombed city.

One thing is clear: There is still a long way to go before we can reach the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons from the world. In order to advance toward this goal, how can we make the most of Mr. Obama’s visit, which drew the world’s attention to Hiroshima? The wise actions not only of the Hiroshima city government and Mayors for Peace, but the proactive efforts of each and every citizen are needed.

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

- Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum displays photos of President Obama’s visit

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=61491>

- Hiroshima mayor to send invitation to A-bomb exhibition in Chicago to President Obama

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=61493>

- Hiroshima mayor to cite President Obama’s Hiroshima speech in August 6 Peace Declaration

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=61495>

- Growing number of visits by foreign dignitaries to Hiroshima

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=61497>

- Hidankyo’s general meeting reconfirms seeking U.S. apology for A-bombings

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=61499>

■Member City Activities

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Events held in Manchester and other cities around the UK and France for the centenary of the Battle of the Somme
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Memorial events were held in Manchester and other cities across the UK and in France to commemorate the centenary of the start of the Battle of the Somme, one of the most destructive battles of the First World War. On the 1st July 1916, a large offensive began in northern France between British and French armies and German forces to break the stalemate of trench warfare. The 1st July was the bloodiest day in the history of the British Army with over 57,470 casualties and 19,240 deaths alone. After 141 days of the battle, over a million people had died or were seriously injured.

▼ Full report on the Mayors for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2016/Manchester/Somme_report.html

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Manchester, UK

Manchester to return historic paintings to Hiroshima
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Pictures held in Manchester, that were painted by pupils of a school destroyed in the atomic attack in the Second World War, are now being returned to Hiroshima over 60 years after they were painted. The paintings were originally made by students in Hiroshima in the early 1950s, and exhibited at a UNESCO Conference in the United States before being

brought to England by an art teacher. The collection's current custodian, Michael Stevenson, has been keen to see the paintings return home to Japan after being in Manchester for decades.

On July 12, current Lord Mayor of Manchester Carl Austin-Behan met with Michael Stevenson to congratulate him on his successful project to work with Manchester City Council to return the artwork home to Japan after being in Manchester for decades.

▼ Manchester City Council's media release with a photo:

http://www.manchester.gov.uk/news/article/7489/manchester_to_return_historic_paintings_to_hiroshima

▼ Full report on the Mayors for Peace website:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2016/Manchester/paintings.html>

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Wellington, New Zealand

Events to commemorate the 71st anniversary of the atomic bombings

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To mark the 71st anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Wellington City is hosting events at the Botanical Garden Peace Flame and Wellington City Library on August 7th 2016. The Peace Flame event commemorates through speeches by key note speakers regarding the total abolishment of nuclear weapons. The opening of Tumanako ("hope" in Maori) during the afternoon at the Wellington City Library marks the second year for this event which is based around an exhibition of artworks by children expressing their hopes and dreams for a peaceful world to thrive in.

▼ More information on the Peace Flame event:

<http://hdwn.webs.com/>

▼ More information on the Tumanako event:

<http://www.sginz.org/hope>

<<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

■ Request to Promote Various Measures as Based in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan

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/2013_2017action_plan/index.html

▼ 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

■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 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

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

mfpsystem@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

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

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 was sent to each city on June 24. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

▼Request for the 2016 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/outlines/membership_fee.html

■Plea to Support Our Nuclear Weapons Convention Petition Drive

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 2,381,925 signatures as of July 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

▼Online petition:

<https://www.ssl-z.city.hiroshima.jp/pcf/en/form.htm>

■Visitor(s) to the President of Mayors for Peace Last Month

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.

*June 1 - H.E. Mr. Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermúdez, First Vice-President of the Councils of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba

*June 20 - H.E. Mr. Yerlan Baudarbek-Kozhatayev, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Japan

■Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,095 Cities in 161 Countries/Regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on July 1st, we added 34 new member cities, bringing total membership to 7,095.

Thanks to the continued efforts of the team at the Tehran Peace Museum, 14 cities from Iran joined this month and the total number of Iranian member cities reached 880.

We also welcomed six cities from Austria, Germany, and Italy.

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/newmembers1607_en.pdf

▼Map of Member Cities:

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

If you have any comments or questions, please contact us at:

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Email: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp.
