

and praised Mayors for Peace; also attending were Mr. Juma Assiigo (Kenya), Coordinator of the Safer Cities network of UN Habitat; Mr. Jonathan Granoff who represented Nobel Peace Laureate International Peace Bureau; Mr. Akira Kawasaki, Executive Committee member of the NGO Peace Boat.

During the two-day meeting, participants discussed and exchanged knowledge on important themes such as the promotion of a culture of peace, non-violence and the peaceful resolution of conflicts, as well as the protection of human rights. The participants also learned about the leading role of Mexico City in constructing peace in the metropolis through its effective programs for voluntary disarmament and social and economic inclusion.

The Mexico City Peace Declaration, which reflects the range of issues that were discussed, particularly nuclear disarmament, is currently being finalized by CDMX and will be released soon.

▼ Full report on Mayors for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/memberscity/2016/Mexico_City/second_regional_meeting.html

▼ **Message from Mayor Kazumi Matsui of Hiroshima for the Regional Meeting** (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/memberscity/2016/Mexico_City/Message_from_Mayor_of_Hiroshima_CDMX.pdf

▼ **Message from Mayor Cownie of Des Moines, Iowa, a lead city of Mayors for Peace, for the Regional Meeting** (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/memberscity/2016/Mexico_City/Message_from_Mayor_of_Des_Moines_CDMX.pdf

■ **Special Events Hosted by the UK and Ireland Chapter of Mayors for Peace**

In late September and early October, the UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter hosted two special events in collaboration with a wide range of organisations. The September event was held on the International Day for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and was the culmination of Oldham Peace Week, at which Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council formally joined Mayors for Peace at a special ceremony. The October event included a special joint meeting with the Japanese Peace Boat group, including a number of 'hibakusha' or survivors of the August 1945 atomic bombings. The chapter's recent briefing paper outlines the two events including some photos and an update on progress with the chapter.

▼ UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Policy Briefing 7 (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/memberscity/2016/Manchester/M4P_Briefing_No_7_Peace_Boat_&_Oldham_Peace_Wk.pdf

■ **Publication of Mayors for Peace Article by US Online News Site on the Occasion of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons** [September 26, 2016]

This year's deliberations in the UN General Assembly's First Committee are being held from October 3 through November 3 and one of the subjects for discussion is its mandate for the commencement of negotiations in 2017 on a treaty to ban nuclear weapons, based on the recommendations of the Open-ended Working Group on nuclear disarmament.

In order to support the discussion and further promote the momentum for global nuclear disarmament, Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima, who is the President of Mayors for Peace, submitted an article to "The Nation," an American online news site, **which was published on** the occasion of the United Nations International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons of September 26. It encourages all States, including those possessing nuclear weapons, to stop relying on the dangerous doctrine of nuclear deterrence and to engage in constructive dialogue on a nuclear weapons convention.

▼ The link to Mayor Matsui's article in "The Nation":

<https://www.thenation.com/article/its-time-to-ban-and-eliminate-nuclear-weapons/>

■ Planting of a Sapling of the Second Generation A-bombed Ginkgo Biloba at United Nations Office at Geneva

[Geneva, Switzerland; October 3, 2016]

On October 3, a second generation A-bombed Ginkgo biloba sapling was planted on the compound of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

The sapling, whose seed originates from Hiroshima, had been raised by a Mayors for Peace member city Lucerne, Switzerland, until it was donated to UNOG in May, when Mayors for Peace President Kazumi Matsui of Hiroshima City visited UNOG to participate in the second session of the Open-ended Working Group on nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Jan Durnez, Mayor of Ypres, Belgium, Vice-President of Mayors for Peace, was invited to represent Mayors for Peace and delivered a message on behalf of the President of Mayors for Peace that expressed his hopes that the tree will serve as a symbol of peace and that prayers for peace will be shared widely and for a long time.

In his remarks at the ceremony, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon expressed his respect for the hibakusha who have transformed their tragedy into a message of hope for the world, reemphasized the responsibility of all States to pursue nuclear disarmament as an urgent priority, and concluded as follows: "It is my hope that future generations will see this symbolic tree and remember how the world united to create a safer, more secure, and nuclear-weapon-free future."

▼ Photos of the planting ceremony (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2016/Planting_ceremony/index.html

▼ Message from Mayor Jan Durnez of Ypres for the Planting Ceremony (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2016/Planting_ceremony/Message_from_Mayor_Durnez.pdf

▼ Message from Mayor Kazumi Matsui of Hiroshima for the Planting Ceremony (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/jp/topic/2016/Planting_ceremony/Message_from_Mayor_Matsui.pdf

▼ Remarks of Secretary General Ban Ki-moon (The United Nations website):

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/speeches/2016-10-03/remarks-planting-ceremony-second-generation-hibakusha-tree>

■ Release of a Mayors for Peace Appeal to Nuclear Armed States and Their Umbrella Allies

[October 3, 2016]

On the eve of the UN General Assembly's first committee from October 3 to November 3, Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima, who is the President of Mayors for Peace, issued an appeal to nuclear armed states and their umbrella allies calling on their innovative leadership in advancing global nuclear disarmament through their national policies and international cooperation.

▼ Mayors for Peace Appeal to Nuclear Armed States and Their Umbrella Allies (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/statement/request/161003_MfP_Appeal_E.pdf

■ Events Commemorating "International Day of Peace"

The United Nations has established September 21 as a fixed International Day of Peace (IDP) and an annual day of non-violence and cease-fire. Mayors for Peace has been a long-time supporter of the IDP and this year again all

member cities were encouraged to commemorate the IDP. In Hiroshima and member cities around the world, various commemorative events were held.

▼Event Commemorating “International Day of Peace” Held

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2016/Sep21_peaceday/IDP.html

The list of events including those commemorating the IDP is available at the link below.

▼List of peace events as based on those in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (As of October 13)(Mayors for Peace website)

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/2013_2017action_plan/2016/161013_List_of_Activities_E.pdf

■Mayors for Peace Vice President’s Attendance to the 2nd Annual Commemoration of World Alliance of Religions’ Peace Summit

[Seoul, South Korea; September 17-19, 2016]

Honorary Mayor Thore Vestby of Frogn, Norway, a Vice President of Mayors of Peace, was invited as a speaker to the World Alliance of Religion’s Peace (WARP) 2nd Annual Summit in Seoul, Republic of Korea. Approximately 750 former and incumbent heads of state, ministers and government officials, international law experts, religious leaders, the media, as well as representatives from civil society participated in the summit to discuss its theme “to advocate for the implementation of international law on the cessation of war and world peace”.

Honorary Mayor Vestby introduced Mayors for Peace and spoke about the impact of peace disturbing activities by the MIMAC-Military Industrial Media Academic Complex. He closed his remark as follows: “War is complex, we must unravel the complexity. Peace is simple, peace starts with a smile.”

■The 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in 2017 - Request to Fill Out the Questionnaire

Mayors for Peace will hold its 9th General Conference in Nagasaki from August 7 through 10, 2017. Please consider joining this conference and save these dates in your calendar.

To ensure that this General Conference is guided by our member cities, we are seeking your opinions through the questionnaire we sent to every member city on September 9. Though the deadline for the questionnaire is over, members who have not yet presented it are kindly requested to fill it in and return it by e-mail, fax or physical mail to the Secretariat in Hiroshima. The questionnaire form is available in English, French, German and Spanish and can be downloaded and submitted through the Mayors for Peace website.

▼Questionnaire for the 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace Scheduled in Nagasaki City in August 2017 (Mayors for Peace website):

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/meeting/9th/questionnaire/index.html>

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

Around the August 6 anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, the city is sweltering with summer heat. As the heat eases, many elementary, junior high, and high school students from around the country visit this city. The high season for school trips is October and November, as well as May and June. Five months have passed since U.S. President Barack Obama visited Hiroshima, but the city is still attracting the interest of students.

Since the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, not a single nuclear weapon has been used in warfare. Nevertheless, 15,000 nuclear weapons still exist in the world, enough to destroy this planet many times over. One nation recently conducted

its fifth nuclear test, ignoring calls from the international community to put a halt to such testing. What happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki is not a thing of the past. As long as nuclear weapons exist, it is possible that they could be used. We must help the students visiting Hiroshima understand that the issue of nuclear arms is not disconnected from their own lives. When we see these children walking through the Peace Memorial Park, near the A-bomb hypocenter, we feel anew that this is our responsibility as adults.

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

- A-bomb survivors issue message, appealing for nuclear abolition, to mark 60th anniversary of group's founding

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=65614>

- Nihon Hidankyo to carry out first survey of second-generation A-bomb survivors

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=65618>

- Kiyoshi Tanimoto Peace Prize awarded to Hiromi Peterson, second-generation A-bomb survivor

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=65612>

- A-bomb survivors pursue signature drive in Tokyo on International Day for Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=65205>

- Japanese and American high school students gather for first time at U.N. to discuss peace issues

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=65284>

■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. We would be grateful if you could plan events as based on those in the Action Plan within your municipality or regional group. You will find some examples of the types of events you can organize throughout the year on the webpage below.

▼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 and your city's login information are included in an email which was sent to each member city on July 15, 2015. To newly joined members after August 2015, the same information was sent when they joined Mayors for Peace.

▼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 2,432,196 signatures as of October 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 visitor last month and asked her to support the activities of Mayors for Peace and cooperate towards membership expansion.

*September 5 - H.E. Ms. Laura Boldrini, President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Parliament

■ Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,146 Cities in 162 Countries/Regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on October 1, we added 14 new member cities, bringing total membership to 7,146.

Five municipalities of Azerbaijan joined as the country's first members of Mayors for Peace, making our membership network expand to 162 countries and regions.

We also welcomed two cities from the Philippines and one city each from Argentina, Germany, Japan, Kosovo, the Netherlands, Senegal, and the Syrian Arab Republic.

