

▼ Letter of Request on Mayors for Peace website (in Japanese):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/jp/activites/statement/request/161124_jp/161124request_.pdf

■ The First Mayors for Peace Event in Basque Country, Spain

[Vitoria-Gasteiz, Basque, Spain; November 28, 2016]

On November 28, the first Mayors for Peace event in Basque Country, Spain, was celebrated in Vitoria-Gasteiz, the capital city of the Country. The meeting was held in the headquarters of the Basque President's office, gathering 15 mayors in the region. The purpose of the event was to introduce the activities of Mayors for Peace and invite more mayors in the area to join the network.

There were also representatives from EUDEL, an association that gathers the 251 mayors of the Basque Country. While some of the mayors who are actively involved in peace projects were not able to attend due to other commitments, EUDEL will share information about the event to all its members and invite them to join Mayors for Peace.

The meeting was opened by two representatives from the central Basque Government: Jonan Fernandez, General Secretary of Peace and Mediation, and Monika Hernando, General Director of Peace and Human Rights. Then the participants were presented with a video message from Yasuyoshi Komizo, Secretary General of Mayors for Peace, followed by a presentation by Jon Musatadi, who is the manager of a local consulting firm working with the Basque Government. He introduced Mayors for Peace and also talked about his recent work related with the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The final speaker was Mayor Josep Mayoral of Granollers, a vice president of Mayors for Peace and also a lead city representing the Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace, who gave a very meaningful speech about Granoller's initiative in peace and nuclear disarmament.

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

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

■ Message to Mr. Donald Trump, President-elect of the United States from the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

[November 16, 2016]

On November 16, the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki sent a letter to Mr. Donald Trump, who was elected the 45th president of the United States. The letter expressed congratulations on Mr. Trump's victory in the election and asked him to visit the A-bombed cities.

▼ Message to Mr. Donald Trump from the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2016/Letter_to_Donald_Trump.pdf

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

[November 28 - December 9, 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.

Ms. Paula Quagliato, from Santos, Brazil, a Lead City of Mayors for Peace, worked as an intern at the Mayors for Peace Secretariat from November 28 to December 9. The Secretariat will have hosted three more interns from Des Moines, Iowa (U.S.), Muntinlupa (Philippines), and Malakoff (France) by the end of March 2017.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/1674277249499668>

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/1677062805887779>

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/1677073119220081>

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/1678552019072191>

■ Regional Chapter Activities

< Netherlands Chapter >

*New educational material released by the Mayors for Peace Netherlands Chapter

The Mayors for Peace Netherlands Chapter has produced educational material in Dutch for primary and secondary school pupils (10-14 years) titled "Atoomwapens de wereld uit!" (Get rid of nuclear weapons worldwide). The 16-page material makes it clear why there is no place for nuclear weapons in our world. It encourages young people to reflect on peace, freedom and security, helping them to think about what you can do in order to realize a nuclear-weapon-free world.

The material was officially released in the City Hall of Wageningen, one of the leading Dutch Mayors for Peace members, on September 21, the UN International Peace Day, with the presence of four members of Mayors for Peace: Mayor Hans Gaillard of Son en Breugel, Mayor Hetty Hafkamp of Bergen NH, Mayor Jan Hoekema of Wassenaar, and Mayor Geert Van Rumund of Wageningen.

▼ Full report and links to the material on Mayors for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2016/Netherlands_Chapter/Netherlads_Chapter_new_material.html

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

Will future historians recognize 2016 as the year in which the first sitting president of the United States visited the A-bombed city of Hiroshima? On May 27, Barack Obama, the 44th president of the United States, visited the Peace Memorial Park in Naka Ward, Hiroshima. His 17-minute speech, which accounted for almost a third of the time he spent in the park, did not include concrete steps to advance the abolition of nuclear arms or an apology for the A-bomb attack. But he referred to the horrors wrought by the atomic bombing many times and expressed his determination to pursue nuclear abolition. It is certain that his visit had a significant impact on the world.

In November, Donald Trump was elected to succeed Mr. Obama. Mr. Trump is known for his provocative remarks. During the presidential election campaign, he said that he would accept the idea of Japan and South Korea arming themselves with nuclear weapons. Because Mr. Trump has no experience in politics, it is hard to predict what policies he will pursue after taking office in January of next year. Many people are anxious about the kind of diplomatic and nuclear policies he will craft and how this will impact the international community.

In Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we can continue telling the world, and conveying to future generations, what happened under the mushroom clouds that rose above these cities. Before the year ends, we bring to mind again the importance of persisting in our efforts so that the historical significance of President Obama's visit will not be compromised.

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

- Speech in Hiroshima by U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees expresses hope that Japan will lead in building global peace

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=67097>

- Mourning in Hiroshima over death of Fidel Castro, who showed concern for A-bomb survivors

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=67119>

- A-bomb survivors disappointed by U.S. decision not to adopt policy of "no first use" of nuclear weapons

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=67115>

- Radiation Effects Research Foundation may be relocated to Hiroshima general health center building

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=67092>

- Hiromi Peterson receives Kiyoshi Tanimoto Peace Award for handing down A-bomb memories
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=66772>

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

Mayors for Peace will hold its 9th General Conference in Nagasaki from August 7 through 10, 2017.

The General Conference is our highest decision-making body which meets every four years. Please consider attending this conference and save the dates in your calendar. Further information regarding the conference will be provided to each member city as it is decided.

■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

▼ List of peace events as based on those in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (As of December 9):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/2013_2017action_plan/2016/161209_List_of_Activities_E.pdf

■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/lec7/1m/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

■ 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).

The due date for payment of this year's annual fee is December 31st. 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 2,451,068 signatures as of December 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.

*November 2 - Mr. Lee Joon-Gyu, Ambassador of Republic of Korea to Japan

*November 4 - Mr. Raphaël Comte, President of the Council of States, Swiss Confederation

*November 9 - Mr. Nursultan Abishevich Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

*November 11 - Mr. Emilio Toribio Olivo, Director of the Dominican Agrarian Institute

*November 12 - Mr. Justin Bedan Njoka Muturi, Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya

*November 14 - Dr. Hubert Heiss, Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to Japan

*November 28 - Mr. Filippo Grandi, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

■ Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,196 Cities in 162 Countries/Regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on December 1, we added 32 new member cities, bringing total membership to 7,196.

Thanks to the continued efforts of the team at the Tehran Peace Museum, 11 cities from Iran joined this month and the total number of Iranian member cities reached 925.

We also welcomed twelve cities from Japan, four cities from Germany and one city each from Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Greece, and Norway.

