

attend and hold a special conference. There was also some interest in looking at a Northern Europe Conference of Mayors for Peace. A number of different peace education initiatives were also discussed. A model resolution would be devised by the Chapter Secretariat to encourage support for upcoming UN disarmaments and attract new members. The planned Bike for Peace tour in May from Belfast to Dublin would also be promoted to Irish members. The Chapter welcomed the Executive and General Conference of Mayors for Peace to be held in Nagasaki in August and encouraged members to attend it. The next Chapter meeting would be in the autumn.

■ Lead City Mayor of Des Moines Speaks about Mayors for Peace at the USCM Winter Meeting
[Washington, D.C., US; January 18, 2017]

The United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) 85th Winter Meeting was held January 17-19, in Washington, D.C. The USCM is the non-partisan association of U.S. cities with populations of 30,000 or more. The USCM has adopted strong resolutions in support of nuclear disarmament and Mayors for Peace at its annual summer meetings for eleven consecutive years. Mayors for Peace considers it increasingly important to expand its activities in the United States, a nuclear superpower.

Mayor T.M. Franklin Cownie of Des Moines, Iowa, addressed the International Affairs Committee of the USCM on January 18. Des Moines took on a lead city role for Mayors for Peace in July of last year. Mayor Cownie spoke about growing nuclear threats facing the U.S. and the world and asked all in attendance to support the initiatives of Mayors for Peace. Two new mayors signed up to join Mayors for Peace on the spot.

Working closely with Des Moines, Mayors for Peace intends to redouble its efforts to build momentum for nuclear disarmament in the United States. A city employee from Des Moines, Ms. Pa Vang Goldbeck, visited Hiroshima and assisted Mayors for Peace as an intern for two weeks in January. Ms. Goldbeck will follow up with prospective members from the USCM meeting in January.

▼Remarks by Mayor Cownie to the International Affairs Committee (Mayors for Peace Website) :
http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2017/Des_Moines/Remarks_by_Mayor_Cownie.pdf

■ Receiving an Intern from Muntinlupa at the Mayors for Peace Secretariat
[January 26 - February 8, 2017]

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. Mary Anne Simon, from Muntinlupa, Philippines, a Lead City of Mayors for Peace, worked as an intern at the Mayors for Peace Secretariat from January 26 until February 8.

By the end of March 2017, the Secretariat will have hosted one more intern from Malakoff (France).

▼ Posts on the Mayors for Peace Facebook page about Ms. Simon's internship in Hiroshima:
<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/1701257253468334>
<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/1704233746504018>

■ Mayors for Peace Participation to the United Nations Negotiations on a Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons and the 2017 NPT Preparatory Committee

As decided at the UN General Assembly in December last year, negotiations on a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons will take place at the United Nations in New York from March 27 - 31 and June 15 - July 7. Mayors for Peace is planning to send the Secretary General of Mayors for Peace in March and President of Mayors for Peace (Mayor of Hiroshima) in July to

attend the negotiating conferences.

In between these negotiations, the first Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) will be held from May 2-12 in Vienna, Austria. Mayors for Peace is planning to form a mayoral delegation of executive members including the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Besides sending representatives to these meetings, Mayors for Peace intends to take various opportunities to bring to these meetings the voices of our member cities and our civil society partners including releasing open letters. Activities of Mayors for Peace on each occasion will be reported on the Mayors for Peace website and News Flash accordingly.

■ The Registration to Attend “The World Forum Against Violence and For Peace Education” is Now Open

From 19th to 21st of April, Madrid will host the World Forum Against Violence and For Peace Education. Mayors for Peace is among the networks that are supporting the event and the City of Granollers, a vice-president and lead city of Mayors for Peace, has joined the organizing committee.

The meeting will bring together mayors, international local leaders, personalities stemming from civil society and great thinkers for an exchange of experiences, strategies, campaigns and policies. The Forum will be agile, dynamic and highly audio-visual, structured in panel discussions, debates and an Agora open space.

There are three areas of intervention: governance (corrective policies on inequalities in cities, new forms of government), peaceful coexistence (managing diversity among groups, new forms of social organization) and culture, education and values (initiatives promoting the peaceful transformation of conflict).

Registration should be made before 28th of February by sending the designated form to the forum office.

▼ The Forum website (available in English, Spanish, and French):

<https://capitaldepaz.madrid.es/>

▼ Forum document and Form for Initiatives / Participation Proposals (in English, Spanish, French, Arabic and Portuguese):

- English:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2017/Madrid/Dossier_Inglés.pdf

- Spanish:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2017/Madrid/Dossier_Español.pdf

- French:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2017/Madrid/Dossier_Frances.pdf

- Arabic:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2017/Madrid/Dossier_ARABE.pdf

- Portuguese:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2017/Madrid/Dossier_Portugues.pdf

▼ Please email completed registration form to:

Email: capitaldepaz@madrid.es

■ Invitation for Applicants to the 2017 Youth Exchange for Peace: Support Program for “HIROSHIMA and PEACE” Course

This year again, Mayors for Peace will conduct a program to provide financial and other support to selected youth from member cities participating in the course, “HIROSHIMA and PEACE”, at Hiroshima City University. “HIROSHIMA and PEACE” is an intensive summer course in which students from around the world study and discuss Hiroshima and peace in English.

Mayors for Peace is now accepting applications for participation in this program from member cities. If interested, please refer to the Application Guidelines on our website and submit required documents by email by Friday, April 14, 2017 at 3pm in Japan Standard Time (UTC +9).

▼ Details of the program on the Mayors for Peace Website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/Youth_Exchange_for_Peace/Youth_Exchange_for_Peace_.html

▼ Please email completed application documents to:

mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

▼ Report of last year's program on the Mayors for Peace Website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/Youth_Exchange_for_Peace/Result_HIROSHIMA_and_Peace_.html

In addition to this Support Program for "HIROSHIMA and PEACE" Course, Mayors for Peace will provide financial and other support to selected youth (ages approximately between 16 and 25) from member cities participating in an international exchange program organized by the Hiroshima Municipal Board of Education this year. The aim of this program is for young people around the world to deepen **their** understanding **of** each other **by living** together and discussing what they can do to create a peaceful world. Details for application will be open in late March.

■ Regional Chapter Activities

< German Chapter >

*Mayors for Peace Germany launches new website

The website of Mayors for Peace Germany has been completely updated and renewed since January this year. The new website has been integrated into the website of the City of Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City of Mayors for Peace. It has a new design and a clearer structure. All content is in German. Please visit this site!

▼ New website of Mayors for Peace Germany (in German):

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.de>

■ Member City Activities

Vila-real and Granollers, Spain

The itinerant exhibition "Hiroshima-Nagasaki: For a world free from nuclear weapons" has opened in the city of Vila-real [January 12 - February 12, 2017]

In collaboration with Mayors for Peace, the city of Vila-real has put the itinerant exhibition "Hiroshima-Nagasaki: For a world free from nuclear weapons" on display at the Casa Polo Museum. The opening ceremony was led by Josep Mayoral, the Mayor of Granollers and a vice president of Mayors for Peace. José Benlloch, the Mayor of Vila-real, and other persons from the town council were also in prominent attendance. At the inauguration, a second-generation seedling of an A-bombed Ginkgo tree was also planted in the Museum's garden.

The exhibition is a joint production by the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Peace Museums and the City Council of Granollers in collaboration with Mayors for Peace and it has been traveling around different Spanish cities since 2015. Both the exhibition and the planting of the ginkgo tree show the firm commitment of the City Council of Vila-real and the city of Granollers to prevent any repetition of the A-bomb tragedy, to raise awareness about the inhumane cruelty of nuclear weapons, and to continue to work for their urgent abolition.

▼ Full report on the Mayor for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2017/Vila-real_and_Granollers/Vila-real_and_Granollers.html

▼ Report on the City of Granollers' website (in Catalan):

<http://www.granollers.cat/noticies/alcalde/el-museu-casa-polo-de-vila-real-castell%C3%B3-acull-1%2E%80%99exposici%C3%B3-%E2%80%99Chiroshima-nagasaki-un>

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

Since being sworn in as president of the United States on January 20, Donald Trump has signed one executive order after another, creating more confusion than expected. In particular, the executive order intended to put a temporary halt on refugees and immigrants from seven Muslim-majority nations has been the subject of criticism not only in the United States but across the globe as well.

Mr. Trump tweeted that the executive order was designed to make the United States safe again, and it appears that about half of the American public supports this idea. But there is growing concern that his policy could encourage discrimination based on religion or nationality, leading to a fracturing of that nation or the international community.

Some legislators have also criticized the executive order. The acting attorney general, who questioned the ban, was fired. It is not surprising that voices are criticizing Mr. Trump’s actions, saying that he has arbitrarily overstepped his authority.

In order to weather tough competition, the top executive of a company may sometimes need to make risk-taking decisions that draw criticism. But this is not what political leaders are expected to do. While it is natural that politicians of any country would place the utmost importance on their own country’s interests, this should not mean that they freely sacrifice the interests of other nations or their people. We believe that the rational mind of human beings brought an end to “the law of the jungle” and we must not return to such times. Mr. Trump should consider what the United States can do to help realize a world where all human beings are able to live happily, the aim long called for by the citizens of Hiroshima.

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

- A-bombed building to be preserved and turned into hub for peace education and research

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=69390>

- Donald Trump is sworn in as U.S. president, A-bomb survivors to watch nuclear policy

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=68811>

- Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum obtains 2,100 photos on A-bombing from U.S. institutions

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=68990>

- Editorial: Deep concerns in Hiroshima over new U.S. president

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=68806>

- Interview with Professor Mitsuru Kurosawa: Japan must mediate conflicting opinions among nations on nuclear abolition

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=69306>

■The 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace

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

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. The Advance Program which contains the conference outline and registration information will be sent to all member cities by early March.

■Mayors for Peace Official Website Renewal

It has been more than ten years since the official website of Mayors for Peace was launched with the current design. The Mayors for Peace Secretariat is currently in the process of renewing its design and contents thoroughly to enhance the website's usability for the viewers. The renewal will be completed in late March.

■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 February 10):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/2013_2017action_plan/2017/170210_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/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

■ 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, Mayors for Peace has instituted an annual membership fee of 2,000 Japanese Yen (about USD19/ EUR17) per city. We would like to thank everyone for their 2016 membership fee contributions. 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 request for payment of 2017 membership fee will be sent in April. 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
