



The negotiations, which were decided at the UN General Conference in December last year, will take place from March 27 - 31 and June 15 - July 7. Mayors for Peace will send Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, the Secretary General of Mayors for Peace to the March conference, hoping to bring the voices of our member cities and our civil society partners to the negotiations.

▼ Mayors for Peace Open Letter Issued prior to the Start of the UN Negotiations on a Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons (Mayors for Peace website) :

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/statement/request/MfP\\_Open\\_Letter\\_March2017.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/statement/request/MfP_Open_Letter_March2017.pdf)

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

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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 has been sent to all member cities. You can also download the program from the Mayors for Peace website.

▼ The 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in Nagasaki (Mayors for Peace website):

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

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## ■ Invitation for Applicants to Two Programs of the 2017 Youth Exchange for Peace

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Among the intensified activities of Mayors for Peace is “Conveying the A-bomb experience to the future generations through youth exchanges.” This year, Mayors for Peace will invite selected youths from member cities to following two programs and provide financial and other support.

### 1. “HIROSHIMA and PEACE”

“HIROSHIMA and PEACE” is an intensive summer course at Hiroshima City University, in which students from around the world study and discuss Hiroshima and peace in English.

- Age of support recipients: under 40 years old who have completed at least the first year of university/college education
- Application now open
- Deadline for application: Friday, April 14, 2017 at 3pm in Japan Standard Time (UTC +9)

### 2. International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future, Hiroshima 2017

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.

- Age of support recipients: approximately between 16 and 25
- Application opens on Thursday, March 23 in Japan Standard Time
- Deadline for application: Friday, April 28, 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](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/Youth_Exchange_for_Peace/Youth_Exchange_for_Peace_.html)

\*Details for “International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future, Hiroshima 2017” will be open on March 23.

▼ Please email completed application documents to:

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

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## ■ The Registration to Attend “The World Forum Against Violence and For Peace Education” (April 19-21) is Extended to April 9

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From the 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 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 and debates in an Agora open space.

The deadline to fill in the enrollment form has been extended to April 9. Anyone who would like to attend is asked to make a registration online:

▼ Pre-registration page (in English):

[https://www.tilesa.es/ei/getdemo.ei?id=423&s=\\_4RC0NV7ZP](https://www.tilesa.es/ei/getdemo.ei?id=423&s=_4RC0NV7ZP)

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

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

▼ For inquiries about the Forum, please contact the Forum Secretariat:

Email: [capitaldepaz@madrid.es](mailto:capitaldepaz@madrid.es)

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## ■ Regional Chapter Activities

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### < Catalan Chapter, Spain >

#### \*The Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace launches a new website

The Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace, led by the City of Granollers, has launched a new website, Facebook, and Twitter. All content is in Catalan language. Please check them out!

▼ Website : [www.alcaldesperlapau.cat](http://www.alcaldesperlapau.cat)

▼ Facebook: Xarxa d'Alcaldes i Alcaldesses per la Pau de Catalunya

▼ Twitter : @alcaldespau

### < French Chapter >

#### \*General Assembly of Mayors for Peace French Chapter on March 17

Mayors for Peace French Chapter, AFCD RP (Association Française des Communes, Départements et Régions pour la Paix), held its annual General Assembly on March 17, 2017, in Malakoff, a Vice President and Lead City of Mayors for Peace.

Member cities' representatives from all across France gathered to exchange news on the activities they implemented and to discuss new projects to promote peace culture and raise awareness about nuclear disarmament.

A report on the outcome of this meeting will be provided in the next issue of the News Flash.

▼ Please visit the French Chapter of Mayors for Peace website for more information (in French):

<https://afcdrp.com>

### < UK and Ireland Chapter >

#### \*Mayors for Peace in the UK welcomes visit from two 'hibakusha'

Mayors for Peace members in the UK are welcome to take part in events held around a week of meetings and visits to the UK by a Hiroshima and a Nagasaki survivor of the August 1945 atomic weapon attack. The events are being organised by the Hiroshima A-bomb survivors group 'Gensuikyo' in cooperation with CND (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament), Mayors for Peace, Religions for Peace, Parliamentary CND and the Scottish Parliament's Cross-Party Group on Nuclear Weapons.

The two hibakusha (the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki) are Reiko Yamada from Hiroshima and Midori Yamada from Nagasaki. Reiko was a young girl at the time of the bombings, whilst Midori is a second generation hibakusha. The Japanese delegation will be in the UK from 26th March - 1st April and visit London, Scotland, Manchester and Oldham to share their experiences and also to meet a number of people, including some MPs in Parliament, the Scottish First Minister, and Deputy Lord Mayor of Manchester, and Mayor of Oldham.

Full details of the trip has been emailed to all UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace members by the Chapter Secretary, who are encouraged to participate in the events close to them. A few tickets for the public meeting in Manchester on Saturday 1st April are still available by registering at:  
<http://survivors-stories-saturday.eventbrite.co.uk/>

▼ Full story on the Mayors for Peace website:

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/memberscity/2017/UK&Ireland\\_Chapter\\_hibakusha\\_visit/hibakusha\\_visit\\_to\\_UK.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/memberscity/2017/UK&Ireland_Chapter_hibakusha_visit/hibakusha_visit_to_UK.html)

## < UK and Ireland Chapter >

### **\*MfP Chapter Secretary speaks about a report detailing accidents in the UK's nuclear weapons programme**

The Chapter Secretary for Mayors for Peace in the UK & Ireland, Mr. Sean Morris, spoke at an official announcement of a new report commissioned by the UK's Nuclear Information Service. The NIS report details 110 accidents, near misses, and dangerous occurrences with the UK's nuclear weapons programme over the last 65 years, including numerous incidents related to the production, transport, storage, and handling of nuclear weapons, and including 45 accidents with nuclear capable subs, ships or aircraft, and 21 additional security-related incidents. At the Parliamentary launch of the report, Mr. Morris also referred to an informative ICAN UK report titled, "The Nukes of Hazard", highlighting the many risks involved in transporting nukes.

The NIS report calls on the UK Government to introduce procedures for publicly reporting accidents involving nuclear weapons, place defence nuclear programmes under the external regulation of the Office for Nuclear Regulation and support an international ban on nuclear weapons to permanently eliminate the risks posed by accidents involving such weaponry.

Mayors for Peace welcomes the publication of this important report and encourages its members to read it.

▼ Download the NIS report at the Nuclear Information Service Website:

<http://nuclearinfo.org/article/nis-reports/playing-fire-nuclear-weapons-incidents-and-accidents-united-kingdom>

▼ Download the ICAN UK report on nuclear weapon convoys at:

<http://nukesofhazard.co.uk>

▼ Full story on the Mayors for Peace website:

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/memberscity/2017/UK&Ireland\\_Chapter\\_report/UK&Ireland\\_Chapter\\_report.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/memberscity/2017/UK&Ireland_Chapter_report/UK&Ireland_Chapter_report.html)

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

[February 13 - 24, 2017]

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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 and Secretariat related work.

Ms. Alexia Berny, from Malakoff, France, a Vice President and Lead City of Mayors for Peace, worked as an intern at the Mayors for Peace Secretariat from February 13 until 24.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/1707226712871388>

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/1709905489270177>

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/videos/1712327995694593/>

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

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We are now very concerned about the moves being made by U.S. President Donald Trump.

In his first major policy speech, delivered to Congress on February 28, he said that he would make a budget request for one of the biggest military buildups in American history. He advocated the idea of “peace through strength,” which means that he will seek to revive the nation’s strength through an expanding military, like the administration of Ronald Reagan in the 1980s. The Trump administration is reportedly pursuing a 10-percent increase in military spending, a rise of about 6 trillion yen. This money would come from spending cuts on environmental protection and foreign aid, among other targets. The increase alone would exceed all of Japan’s budget for national defense, which demonstrates how large this spending push would be. This is of grave concern to us, because such a move would certainly have an impact on the military balance of power around the world.

The expression “peace dividend” was used decades ago. This term was coined in the United States, in the 1990s, after the Reagan administration and the Cold War came to an end. It was natural, then, to reflect on the unchecked arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union and reduce military expenditures, channeling this money toward economic recovery. This was a sign of how the times had changed. Along with this trend, progress was made in nuclear disarmament.

The Trump administration appears to be moving in the opposite direction. One vital issue is how he will handle nuclear weapons. He did not discuss this issue directly in his policy address, but before the speech, he was interviewed by Reuters and he said that the United States should not fall behind other countries in its nuclear capability. Mr. Trump also suggested that his administration may revise the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which was concluded with Russia under the administration of Barack Obama.

Mr. Obama visited Hiroshima last year and he has advocated the idea of a world without nuclear weapons. If the Trump administration now moves in a different direction, contrary to this aim, the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki would find such actions totally unacceptable. The world must not enter into another nuclear arms race.

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

- Obama’s visit to Hiroshima raises Peace Museum visitors to record high

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=69926>

- Government officials from South Sudan receive training in Hiroshima

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=69928>

- Japanese foreign minister to explain effort for nuclear-free world to Trump administration

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=69934>

- Trump vow to build up U.S. nuclear arsenal prompts anger and disappointment among Hiroshima A-bomb survivors

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=69937>

- A-bomb survivors’ organizations ask Hiroshima governor to sign petition to ban nuclear weapons

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=69939>

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**■Mayors for Peace Official Website Renewal**  
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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.

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

▼ List of peace events as based on those in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (As of March 16):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/2013\\_2017action\\_plan/2017/170316\\_List\\_of\\_Activities\\_E.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/2013_2017action_plan/2017/170316_List_of_Activities_E.pdf)

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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 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](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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**■ 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, 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](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/outlines/membership_fee.html)

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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 2,474,808 signatures as of March 1, 2017.

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.

- \*February 1 - H.E. Mr. Galust Sahakyan, President of National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia
- \*February 7 - H.E. Ms. Sarah Wooten, British Consul General in Osaka
- \*February 10 - H.E. Dr. Makio Miyagawa, Ambassador of Japan to Malaysia
- \*February 14 - H.E. Mr. Ben Perkasa Drajat, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia
- \*February 17 - H.E. Mr. David Alan Lawson, Consul General of Australia in Osaka
- \*February 27 - H.E. Mr. Charles Flanagan, T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland

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**■ Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,223 Cities in 162 Countries/Regions**  
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Thanks to your invaluable support, on March 1, we added 4 new member cities, bringing total membership to 7,223.

Thanks to the efforts by the City of Hannover, Germany, a Vice President and Lead City of Mayors for Peace, two cities from Germany joined this month.

Thanks to the efforts by the City of Muntinlupa, Philippines, a Lead City of Mayors for Peace, one city from the Philippines joined this month.

We also welcomed one city from Japan this month.

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/2017/newmembers1703\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2017/newmembers1703_en.pdf)

▼ Map of Member Cities:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/membercity/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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