

▼ Secretary General Komizo's Attendance of the First Session of the UN Negotiations on a Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/history/2020_2011/2017_3_gallery.html

■ Mayors for Peace Official Website Renewal

We are pleased to announce that the official website of Mayors for Peace was thoroughly renewed on March 28. The homepage URL has not changed (<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/>), but if you have bookmarked any pages on our website other than this homepage URL, they may not work after the renewal, so please make sure you update them. We will continue updating the website to enhance its usability.

■ The 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace: Registration Now Open

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

Registration of the General Conference is now available on the Mayors for Peace registration webpage. On this webpage, aside from the registration of the conference, you can make requests for exhibition booths and presentations, as well as reservations for accommodation and sightseeing tours.

▼ The 9th General Conference online registration website (Mayors for Peace website):

<https://amarys-jtb.jp/peacenagasaki9/?&g=1>

The Advance Program which contains the conference outline and registration information has been sent to all member cities by email. 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/report/meeting/9th_meeting.html

■ Invitation for Applicants to the International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future, Hiroshima 2017

This year, as part of our initiative to convey the A-bomb experience to future generations through youth exchanges, Mayors for Peace will invite selected youths from member cities to the "International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future, Hiroshima 2017" and provide financial and other support to the selected participants.

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.

The application for participation in this program is now open:

- Age of support recipients: between approximately 16 and 25
- Deadline for application: Friday, April 28, 2017 at 3pm Japan Standard Time (UTC +9)

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

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/news/170323_news.html

▼ Please email completed application documents to:

mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

■ The 20th General Assembly of the French Chapter of Mayors for Peace [Malakoff, France; March 17, 2017]

Mayors for Peace French Chapter, AFCD RP (Association Française des Communes, Départements et Régions pour la Paix),

held its 20th General Assembly on March 17, 2017, in Malakoff, a Vice President and Lead City of Mayors for Peace. This year's General Assembly mostly focused on future activities. With the global situation being more and more difficult, from the refugee crisis to the rise of extremism in Europe, local authorities feel their commitment to implement a culture of peace is more important than ever.

More than twenty cities' representatives shared information on initiatives they implemented in their cities and their plans for the future. Among others, the Normandy Region, who became a member in 2015, announced that it planned to organize a yearly peace summit, starting 2018.

All representatives welcomed the various events that are going to take place this year, from the negotiations on the nuclear ban treaty to the 9th General Conference, along with Madrid's Forum on Urban Violence and Education for Coexistence and Peace and the Conference of Cities for Peace in the Mediterranean (October 18-19, 2017). Several member cities are planning on attending those events.

Particular attention was given to the need to develop Mayors for Peace membership in France. Representatives agreed in contacting fellow Mayors who are not yet members and invite them to join.

Finally, Mayor Belhomme of Malakoff was formally given a letter from the Mayor of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace, entrusted to Alexia Berny, the chapter's Project Executive, during her internship at Mayors for Peace Secretariat.

▼ Full story on AFCD RP-Mayors for Peace France website (in French):

<https://afcd rp.com/assemblee-generale-2017/>

▼ Photos of the assembly on AFCD RP-Mayors for Peace France on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1862841103927689.1073741841.1604647966413672&type=1&l=a4634a7da4>

■ Regional Chapter Activities

< The Netherlands Chapter >

***Release of an open letter to the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs regarding the UN negotiations on a nuclear weapons ban treaty**

On March 15, an open letter was sent to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands Bert Koenders regarding the UN negotiations on a treaty to ban nuclear weapons. The Netherlands is the only NATO-member state participating in the conference and thereby resisting the strong pressure from the NATO-Alliance not to participate.

This support letter was an initiative of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) Holland, and signed by a unique civil society coalition from (inter)national organizations - ideological (humanistic, Protestant, Roman Catholic), medical, humanitarian (Red Cross, Mayors for Peace-the Netherlands, Peace Movement), lawyers and even a bank!

Through this letter the coalition strongly recommended the Dutch delegation to:

1. Involve as many states as possible in the negotiations. The Netherlands can play an essential role in these negotiations by building bridges between nuclear weapons states and the others.
2. Work towards a treaty containing the obligation for the complete prohibition and disarmament of nuclear weapons and clear frameworks for reaching this goal.
3. Steer towards a treaty text based on international humanitarian law and in compliance with the principles of this law. We also recommend to acknowledge the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons in the treaty text.

▼ The letter translated into English (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/data/2017/170413_Open_Letter_to_MoFA_Netherland_Chapter.pdf

▼The original letter in Dutch is on the IPPNW-Netherlands' website:

<http://www.nvmp.org/vn-onderhandelingen-verbod-op-kernwapens-open-brief-aan-de-minister/>

< **UK and Ireland Chapter** >

* **Release of the UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Policy Briefing No.9**

On April 11, the UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter released its briefing paper which provides an overview of the first of two UN conferences in 2017 at the United Nations General Assembly to discuss the developing of an international treaty banning the holding of nuclear weapons. This report also considers a recent UK tour by two 'hibakusha' or atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima that deliberately coincided with the UN Conference. Mayors for Peace members and NGOs cooperated on this tour with events held in London, Edinburgh, outside the Faslane naval base, Manchester, Oldham and Oxford. The paper also reports on the chapter's recent statement over the London terrorist attack at Westminster.

▼UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Policy Briefing 9 (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/data/2017/170413_M4P_Briefing_No_9.pdf

■ **Member City Activities**

< **Oldham, UK** >

* **Latest Issue of the Oldham Peace Times**

The Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council released the April issue of the Oldham Peace Times, the newsletter of the Oldham Pledge to Peace Forum. It is a regular publication to inform people and organisations with an interest in working for peace about the Forum and its work. It contains an especially uplifting article on the recent visit of the Japanese Hibakusha -A-bomb survivors- to Oldham to plant seeds from a tree that itself survived the Hiroshima bombing.

▼Oldham Peace Times Issue 9 - April 2017 (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/data/2017/170413_Oldham_Peace_Times_Issue%209.pdf

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

We feel a mix of great hope and keen disappointment. The first round of talks to establish a treaty to ban nuclear weapons has closed at United Nations headquarters in New York.

Disappointment is felt over the fact that the United States and the other nuclear powers boycotted the conference, and because the Japanese government followed suit and did not participate in the talks. The actions taken by Japan are baffling not only to the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but to others as well.

Yet hope is felt, too, as we came to perceive the whole picture of the new treaty through the discussions that were held. A draft of the treaty is expected to be ready as early as May.

There was reportedly near-universal agreement among the participants on prohibitions involving the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, and deployment of nuclear weapons, let alone their use. A ban like this on nuclear arms, without exceptions, is very different from the provisions of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT). While there are many ideas about the sort of form the new treaty should take, the proposed agreement is what the A-bomb survivors have been hoping would be realized. Some conference participants also called for the word "hibakusha" to be included in the preamble of the treaty.

During the negotiations, non-governmental organizations exerted strong influence. One such NGO is Reaching Critical Will, the disarmament program of a New York-based international women's organization. One of its core members said that she has been inspired by the efforts long made by the A-bomb survivors, which she learned about, along with the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, when she visited the Peace Memorial Museum in Hiroshima. It is gratifying that the persistent messages conveyed from the A-bombed cities over the years are now contributing to the creation of this new treaty.

The actions of Mayors for Peace will now be challenged. The organization's general meeting, to be held in August in Nagasaki, will provide an ideal opportunity to rouse international public opinion. Toward this end, Mayors for Peace should seek to strengthen its ties to international NGOs that are involved in crafting the treaty.

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

- United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=70620>

- Belgium's Lower House Speaker visits Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and calls nuclear weapons "terrible violence"

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=70935>

- Irish foreign minister visits Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, vows to promote nuclear abolition

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=70823>

- Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki call on Japanese government to join negotiations for treaty to ban nuclear weapons

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=70946>

■ 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.

If you have lost or forgotten the login information, please contact the administrator at the following email address.

▼ 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 soon. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

■Plea to Support Our Nuclear Weapons Convention Petition Drive

Mayors for Peace is promoting a global grassroots petition drive as a way in which all member cities can call for 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 2,482,601 signatures as of April 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/english/ecbn/data/11_petitionform_en.pdf

▼ Online petition:

https://www.ssl-z.city.hiroshima.jp/pcf/signature_en/

■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.

*March 10 - Mr. Eduardo Ulibarri Bilbao, former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Costa Rica at the United Nations

*March 17 - H.E. Mr. Sheikh Khalid bin Hilal bin Nasser bin Saif Al-MAAWALI, Chairman of Shura Council of the Sultanate of Oman

■Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,247 Cities in 162 Countries/Regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on April 1, we added 25 new member cities, bringing the total membership to 7,247.

Thanks to the continued efforts of the team at the Tehran Peace Museum, 10 cities from Iran joined this month and the total number of Iranian member cities has reached 950.

We also welcomed seven cities from Japan, four cities from Spain, three cities from Germany, and one city from Argentina.

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/english/whatsnew/news/data/2017/newmembers1704_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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