



Mayors for Peace News Flash

October 2017 / No.94

Mayors for Peace Member Cities
7,453 cities
in 162 countries and regions
(as of October 1, 2017)

Please also check our website and Facebook page:

Website:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/index.html>

Facebook:

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

“Like” our Facebook page to help spread awareness of our mission.

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■ Support our petition calling for all states to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as soon as possible

Since December 2010, Mayors for Peace has been promoting a global grassroots petition drive to call for negotiations of a nuclear weapons convention.

Following the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in July this year, at the 9th General Conference in August, Mayors for Peace decided to promote a petition drive urging the nuclear-armed states and their allies to participate in the Treaty as soon as possible as part of our initiatives based on our new Action Plan (2017-2020).

A new petition form has been released and available for download on the Mayors for Peace website. An online petition is also available. Please note that we will continue to accept petitions submitted in the previous form.

Through this petition drive, let us create a powerful movement to urge all states to participate in the Treaty as soon as possible!

▼ 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/signature_en/

■ Mayors for Peace Vice President's Attendance to the Signing Ceremony of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

[New York, USA; September 18 - 23, 2017]

Mayor Taue of Nagasaki, a Vice-President of Mayors for Peace, attended the Signing Ceremony of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons held in New York on September 20. During his stay in New York, Mayor Taue also met with government representatives and handed the "Nagasaki Appeal" and the Resolution that were adopted at the 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace held this August. He requested for their cooperation in working towards a world without nuclear weapons and exchanged opinions on the future activities of Mayors for Peace.



(Photo: Nagasaki City)

Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima, President of Mayors for Peace, issued a comment regarding the start of the signing of the Treaty, in which he welcomed "this significant step toward a future without nuclear weapons" and expressed the Mayors for Peace commitment to "continue to call on the UN and national governments in collaboration with our member cities and civil society partners to get all states, including nuclear states and their allies, to join the treaty without further delay."

▼ Vice-President Taue's Attendance at the Signing Ceremony of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/history/2020_2011/2017_9_gallery.html

▼ Remarks by Mayor Matsui regarding the start of the signing of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/statement/openletter/data/MfP_Remark_20170921_E.pdf

▼ Report by Randy Rydell, Executive Advisor of Mayors for Peace who attended the signing ceremony and the CTBT Article XIV Conference on September 20 (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/news/data/2017/Report_R.Rydell_September_20_2017.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.

[France] [AFCD RP-Mayors for Peace France, Choisy-le-Roi, Châlette-sur-Loing, Grigny](#)

[Germany] [Hannover](#)

[Japan] Akita, Hirakata, [Hiroshima](#), Ise, Matsumoto, [Mishima](#), Motosu, [Nagasaki](#), [Otari](#), Takayama

[New Zealand] Wellington

[Spain] [Barcelona](#), [Gavà](#)

[U.K.] [Oldham](#)



(Photo: Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation)

▼ Event Commemorating "International Day of Peace" Held (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/news/170921_news.html

■ Letter of Congratulations to ICAN on Receiving the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize

On October 6, the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced that the Nobel Peace Prize for 2017 has been awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), which contributed to the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Mayors for Peace sincerely welcomes this news as one of ICAN's international partners and as an organization working for the shared goal of a world without nuclear weapons. The Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2017-2020) adopted at the General Conference in Nagasaki in August this year reaffirmed our intention to network with ICAN.

On October 18, Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, Secretary-General of Mayors for Peace, visited Ms. Beatrice Fihn, Executive Director of ICAN at its headquarters in Geneva and handed over a letter from Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima, President of Mayors for Peace. The letter conveyed his heartfelt congratulations to ICAN on being awarded the Prize and expressed the hopes of Mayors for Peace to further promote collaboration with ICAN and its members to achieve our common goal.

▼ Letter of Congratulations to ICAN on receiving the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize (Mayors for Peace website): http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/statement/openletter/data/171013_Letter_to_Beatrice_Fihn_E.pdf

■ Postponement of the Forum on Solidarity and Peace in the Mediterranean in Tarragona, Spain

The City Council of Tarragona and the Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace have regretfully postponed the Forum on Solidarity and Peace in the Mediterranean planned for October 18 and 19, 2017 in Tarragona due to the recent events that have affected the social and political situation in Catalonia. In their joint announcement about the postponement, they condemned the most recent incidents on October 1 and expressed their absolute rejection of all forms of violence. They went on to stress the need for dialogue and peace for the resolution of conflict and expressed solidarity with any whose rights have been violated.

The rescheduled dates will be announced as soon as they have been decided.

▼ The announcement on the postponement of the Forum on the Mayors for Peace Catalan Chapter website (in Catalan): <http://wp.granollers.cat/alcaldesperlapau/2017/10/09/ajornament-del-forum-per-la-solidaritat-i-la-pau-a-la-mediterrania/>

■ Bestowal of Medal of Honor by the King of Norway upon Tore Naerland, founder of Bike for Peace

Tore Naerland, the founder of Bike for Peace, has been awarded a Medal of Honor by the King of Norway.

Bike for Peace is a Norway-based organization founded in 1978 that seeks to promote peace and nuclear disarmament through bike rides and peace education. It has held tours in over 120 countries around the world. Mayors for Peace has collaborated with Bike for Peace on various projects such as a bike tour project named "Around the World for Peace" in 2014.

On September 29, the Medal of Honor was delivered to Mr. Naerland by the Mayor of Time, the municipality in which he lives. At the ceremony, Svein Arne Jerstad, a member of Bike for Peace and a former Mayor of Kvinesdal, a member city of Mayors for Peace, read a congratulatory message from the

Secretary General of Mayors for Peace. In his message of thanks, Mr. Naerland promised to continue to work for the abolition of nuclear weapons in cooperation with Mayors for Peace.

[Report by Thore Vestby, Honorary Mayor of Frogn, Norway]

■ Regional Chapter Activities

< French Chapter >

* Participation in the Peace Symposium “The Paths to Peace Today”

Mayors for Peace French Chapter, AFCD RP-Maires pour la Paix France, participated in the peace symposium “The Paths to Peace Today,” organized by the Gabriel Peri Foundation on September 22, concluding a one-year seminar on peace called “Building Peace, Deconstructing War”.

Philippe Rio, Mayor of Grigny and President of the Chapter and Executive Member of Mayors for Peace, moderated the first session titled “Thinking and Acting in an unsure World.” Mrs. Miho Cibot-Shimma, Hiroshima Peace Ambassador, was a panellist of the second session “Acting for disarmament/against militarization”.

Participants included civil society and government representatives from Europe, USA, Congo, Colombia, Palestine and Israel.

▼ More information about the symposium (Gabriel Péri Foundation website, in French):

<http://www.gabrielperi.fr/construire-la-paix,-d%C3%A9construire-la-guerre.html>

▼ Facebook post on the symposium (in French):

<https://www.facebook.com/afcdrp/posts/1940947626117036>

■ Member City Activities

< French member cities >

*Activities report (September – October 2017)

A number of member cities in France hosted various peace events during September and October, especially on and around September 21, the International Day of Peace. Each of them promoted the "Culture of Peace" in a unique way: through art, music, or sports.

▼ Reports and links to Facebook posts on Mayors for Peace website:

[Malakoff](#), [Grigny](#), [Allonnes](#), [Gentilly](#), [Lasséran](#), [Choisy-le-Roi](#), [Châlette-sur-Loing](#)

< Santos, Brazil >

*Activities report (August 2017)

The City of Santos, a sister city of Nagasaki City and a Lead City of Mayors for Peace, designated August 9 as the City’s annual “Day of the Fight for Nuclear Disarmament”.

On August 9 this year, with the presence of the Mayor of Santos, the City commemorated the day by holding various events including the unveiling of a plaque officiating the delivery of the restoration of the sculpture by late Tomie Otake, a plastic artist and a Japanese naturalized Brazilian.

Throughout the month of August, Santos hosted various peace seminars, workshops, and exhibitions. The young students who had visited Hiroshima as part of Mayors for Peace Youth Exchange for Peace were involved in organizing some of these events.

▼ Report and photos of the events in Santos in August on Mayors for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/data/2017/Activities_Santos_Aug2017.pdf

<<PLEASE SEND US INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CITY'S PEACE ACTIVITIES>>

Please help us tell others about what you are doing! We can create a link to your city's website or the website of your peace event to help you advertise. Please send us information including the date, venue, organizers and a description of the event. We look forward to receiving information from your city.

▼ 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 October 10):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/03_newmembers/2017_List_of_Activities_en.pdf

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

The Nobel Peace Prize for 2017 has been awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). In collaboration with survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings, the organization has been calling for the elimination of nuclear arms based on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of such weapons. The Nobel committee cited ICAN's groundbreaking efforts for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was adopted at the United Nations in July. While we would be happier if A-bomb survivors themselves, or their organizations, had been named co-winners of the prize, this development is still good news for Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Some see this decision by the Nobel committee as a warning to North Korea, which has continued to pursue its efforts to conduct nuclear tests and develop its missiles. Even though this might be part of the reason for the Nobel Peace Prize selection this year, it is also a strong message to the world that nuclear weapons must be abolished as soon as possible.

In a statement, ICAN said that the award was also “a tribute...to the survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki — the hibakusha.” In this sense, it can be said that this peace prize has been awarded to all the A-bomb survivors and others who have persisted in conveying the message of “No more Hiroshimas, No more Nagasakis” to the world over the past 72 years.

It is now important to recognize the necessity of adopting strong methods of persuasion in order to actually move the world toward this greater goal. During the negotiations for the nuclear weapons ban treaty at the U.N., ICAN members were tough and tenacious in their approaches to the representatives of national governments. They pursued creative media tactics that included placing a paper crane at the seat of the representative of Japan, when the A-bombed nation was absent from the talks. It is hoped that the power of young people and new ideas will accelerate the movement for nuclear abolition.

Sadly, opinions remain divided in the international community. There is a deep rift between the non-nuclear nations that have signed the treaty and the nuclear powers that have turned their back on it, symbolized by the cold response of the United States to the news of the peace prize. This rift must be overcome.

Mayors for Peace is one of ICAN's international partners. We hope that even greater cooperation between these two organizations will lead to a more powerful groundswell for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The past month has seen some people that Hiroshima treasured depart from this world. One was Junko Morimoto, a picture book author who shared her experience of the atomic bombing with the world in English through her books and spoke about her account in Australia, where she lived. Another was Toshiko Saiki, who cleaned around the Atomic Bomb Memorial Mound in the Peace Memorial Park for over 40 years. She also shared with many people her experience of the atomic bombing, in which she lost 13 relatives. We must not ignore the wish of those who have died before nuclear abolition could be realized. The awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to ICAN is only the beginning.

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

- Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to ICAN
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=77306>
- A-bomb survivors have fueled efforts of Nobel Peace Prize winners
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=77302>
- Toshiko Saiki died, cleaned A-bomb Memorial Mound for 40 years
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=77388>
- Junko Morimoto, A-bomb survivor and picture book author, died
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=77068>
- Over 50 nations sign nuclear weapons ban treaty
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=77383>

■ 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 your 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

■ Request for Payment of the 2017 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee

Since 2015, Mayors for Peace has instituted an annual membership fee. We ask each member city to pay a Fee of 2,000 Japanese yen per city every year (about USD19/ EUR16 as of September 13, 2017). If your city has not paid the membership fee in previous years, we ask your city to pay the total amount owed for each unpaid year since 2015. The funds raised by this fee will be utilized as a resource for the projects listed on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan.

A request for payment of the 2017 membership fee was sent to each city by email on May 31. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

▼ Request for the 2017 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/outlines/membership_fee.html

■ 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.

* September 6 - Hon. Mr. Issa Kort Garriga, President of the Chile-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Group

* September 15 - H.E. Mr. Carlos Miguel Pereira Hernández, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary for the Republic of Cuba to Japan

