



Mayors for Peace News Flash

December 2017 / No.96

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

7,514 cities

in 162 countries and regions

(as of December 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

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■ Mayors for Peace Attendance of the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony

[Oslo, Norway, December 10, 2017]

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) officially accepted this year's Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo City Hall on December 10. Mr. Kazumi Matsui, Mayor of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace and Mr. Tomihisa Taue, Mayor of Nagasaki and a Vice President of Mayors for Peace received the invitation from the Nobel Institute and attended the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony, representing the two A-bombed cities and Mayors for Peace.

During their stay in Oslo, Mayor Matsui and Mayor Taue joined in the celebration of the prize being awarded to ICAN owing to the joint appeal made by hibakusha and the members of ICAN for the need of a legal prohibition of nuclear weapons. They also took this great opportunity to draw attention to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, calling on all states, including those possessing nuclear weapons, to sign and ratify the Treaty to enable its early entry into force.

In addition to attending various events related to the Peace Prize, the two Mayors met and exchanged views with the foreign ministers of Mexico and Costa Rica, and the ambassadors of Austria, Mexico, Ireland, and Costa Rica, the states that led the negotiations of the Treaty. They also met with the Mayor and Governing Mayor of Oslo, which joined Mayors for Peace last year, and some of the Executive Members of Mayors for Peace in Europe: Frogn (Norway), Biograd na Moru (Croatia), and Manchester (UK) to discuss strengthening collaboration to create greater momentum toward a world without nuclear weapons.

The details about Mayors for Peace activities in Oslo will be posted on our website soon.



Mayor Matsui handing a wreath of paper cranes to the Mayor of Oslo (right) and the Governing Mayor of Oslo (center).

■ Mayors for Peace President's Visit to Germany, Italy, and Vatican City

[November 9 - 16, 2017]

In November, Mr. Kazumi Matsui, Mayor of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace, visited Germany, Italy, and Vatican City with the primary purpose of attending an event held in connection to the 23rd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 23) to the U.N. Convention on Climate Change, in Bonn, Germany.

In addition to attending the event in Bonn, Mayor Matsui gave presentations at a university in Berlin and the Italian Parliament on the atomic bombings, the hibakusha's wish for peace and the efforts being made by Mayors for Peace for a world without nuclear weapons. In the Vatican, he had a chance to greet Pope Francis and asked him to visit the A-bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Please visit the following link to find more details about Mayor Matsui's activities in Europe.

▼ President Matsui's visit to Germany, Italy, and Vatican City (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/history/2020_2011/2017_11_gallery.html

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

[November 6 - 21, 2017]

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. This program was established with the aim of improving the international functions of the Secretariat. It is hoped that the experience of learning about the realities of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima and sharing in the city's wish for peace will help interns identify more personally with the organization, inspiring them to contribute to its development and to peace activities in their home countries, and ultimately strengthening the network among member cities.

Ms. Renata Costa Bravo Oliveira, from Santos, Brazil, a Lead City of Mayors for Peace, worked as an intern at the Mayors for Peace Secretariat from November 6 to 21. The Secretariat will have hosted three more interns from Volgograd (Russia), Tehran (Iran), and Granollers (Spain) by the end of March 2018.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/1816795015247890>

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/1818618131732245>

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/1822433851350673>

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/1823271844600207>

■ Regional Chapter Activities

< Catalan Chapter >

* Participation in the Conference "Challenges for Coexistence and Peace in Cities"

Mayor Josep Mayoral of Granollers, which is a Vice President City and the Lead City of the Catalan Chapter, participated in the conference "Challenges for Coexistence and Peace in Cities" held in Madrid on December 1 and 2, 2017. The event was organized by the Spanish Association of Research for Peace (AIPAZ) and the Institute of Human Rights, Democracy and Culture of Peace and Non-Violence (DEMOSPAZ) and was supported by the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP) and the Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace.

The event brought together representatives of local governments, the academic world, international organizations and NGOs, and civil society to reflect on peace and coexistence while analyzing the roles and effects of cities using local agendas to help make a global peace. Mayor Mayoral highlighted that working for peace requires an active involvement with citizens and a global-local strategy.

▼ Full report and a photo on the Mayors for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/171215_Challenges_for_Coexistence_and_Peace_in_Cities.html

▼ Report in Catalan on the Catalan Chapter website:

<http://wp.granollers.cat/alcaldesperlapau/2017/12/04/el-vicepresident-dalcaldes-per-la-pau-participa-a-madrid-a-la-jornada-reptes-per-la-convivencia-i-la-pau-a-les-ciutats/>

< German Chapter >

* Holding events for the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize Award Ceremony

To mark the occasion of ICAN being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, several German members organized activities and events. The City of Hannover, a Mayors for Peace Vice President and the Lead City of German Chapter, held a lecture on ICAN's initiatives for a Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and a discussion event on December 10, the day of Nobel Peace Prize Award Ceremony for ICAN. The German Chapter also held a petition drive campaign calling for all states to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

▼ Report in Germany on the German Chapter website:

<https://www.hannover.de/Leben-in-der-Region-Hannover/Politik/Politische-Gremien/Mayors-for-Peace/Aktivitäten/Friedensnobelpreis-für-ICAN>

< UK & Ireland Chapter >

* Activities report (December 2017)

The UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter met in Manchester on December 1st. The meeting was chaired by the Lord Mayor of Manchester and considered the national and international impacts of ICAN being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. It also highlighted changes to widening the remit of Mayors for Peace and plans for the Chapter in the New Year.

Manchester City Council has also been advancing its 'Project G' scheme with ginkgo tree seeds from Hiroshima. In December, five of the trees were delivered to four Manchester primary schools and to Manchester Children's Hospital. They are being planted by the children, and a follow-up event to be held in Manchester University is being planned for March 2018.

The Chapter Secretary took part in the Mayors for Peace delegation that attended the events around the 2017 Nobel Peace Ceremony. Apart from the events noted above by the Hiroshima Secretariat, the European delegates attended a special reception with ICAN representatives and Norwegian members of Mayors for Peace with the Mayor of Oslo in City Hall and also the inspiring Nobel Peace Prize Concert.

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

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/171219_UK&Ireland_Report_December2017.html

▼ More detailed report on the Nuclear Free Local Authorities website:

http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/M4P_seminar_ginkgo_and_Nobel_report.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 December 11):

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)

I attended the United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues held recently in Hiroshima. U.N. officials overseeing disarmament efforts, diplomats involved in nuclear disarmament, researchers, members of NGOs, and journalists freely exchanged views. The main focus was on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was adopted in July.

The divide between the nuclear weapon states and their allies on one side and the non-nuclear nations on the other was again seen at this meeting. There were no panelists from the United States at this conference. Nevertheless, there were also rays of hope. A researcher from Australia said that this divide was not brought about by the treaty, but that the treaty has made each country's position clear, adding that it is wrong to assume that the treaty will further divide the international community or hamper disarmament efforts. This is only the beginning of actions aimed at bridging this gap by overcoming the current rift between the two sides.

Sunao Tsuboi, the chair of the Hiroshima Prefectural Confederation of A-bomb Sufferers Organizations, made an impressive speech. Mr. Tsuboi, who experienced the atomic bombing at a distance of 1.2 kilometers from the hypocenter, highlighted the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons, saying that the bomb killed men and women of all ages. Then he stressed that war itself must be eliminated. The loud applause given to this 92-year-old survivor surely represents international public opinion.

As the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) receives the Nobel Peace Prize for 2017, we must take this opportunity to seek more support for nuclear abolition by involving the nuclear weapon states.

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

- U.N. Conference on Disarmament Issues opens in Hiroshima
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=79421>
- Nobel Lecture by SETSUKO THURLOW
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=79194>
- Special contribution Setsuko Thurlow
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=78859>
- Messages from ICAN Members and Friends
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=78794>
- Group of Eminent Persons closes meeting in Hiroshima
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=79347>

Request to Promote Various Measures Based on the New Action Plan (2017-2020)

At the 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace held in Nagasaki August 2017, we decided our Action Plan for up to the year 2020, aiming for lasting world peace. Together, we hope to make significant strides toward realizing this goal. Please promote all appropriate measures based on the Action Plan within your own municipality or regional group.

▼ Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2017-2020):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/report/meeting/data/9th_meeting/Action_Plan_2017-2020_E.pdf

For example, you can promote the following measures:



■ 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.

*November 29 - H. E. Elayne Whyte Gómez, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the UN Office at Geneva

*November 30 - Rt. Hon. U Win Myint, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar

■ Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,514 Cities in 162 Countries/Regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on December 1, we added 45 new member cities, bringing the total membership to 7,514.

From Germany, we welcomed six cities thanks to the continued efforts of Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City of the German Chapter of Mayors for Peace. From Iran, 14 cities joined this month, thanks to the continued efforts of the team at the Tehran Peace Museum. From Italy, we welcomed three new cities: Jesolo, Macerata, and Pompei. The Mayors of Macerata and Pompei signed the registration form in the presence of the Honorable Laura Boldrini, President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Parliament, when Mayor Matsui visited the Italian Parliament on November 14. We also welcomed 17 cities from Japan, two cities from Spain, and one city each from Ecuador, Lithuania, and Peru 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/03_newmembers/2017/newmembers1712_en.pdf

▼ Map of Member Cities:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/memberscity/map.html>

If you have any comments or questions, please contact us at:

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