



Mayors for Peace News Flash

July 2018 / No.103

Mayors for Peace Member Cities
7,614 cities
in 163 countries and regions
(as of July 1, 2018)

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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■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 in 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

Conduct peace education to raise awareness among future generations

Among the high-priority action items in the Action Plan is our efforts to conduct peace education to raise awareness among future generations. The Mayors for Peace Secretariat will compile examples of peace education conducted by member cities and share them on the Mayors for Peace website and other media so more cities will be able to engage in such initiatives. The Secretariat will soon send a request to all members to share examples of peace education in your city or neighboring cities. We would appreciate your kind cooperation.

This month, we would like to share two of the unique initiatives at public schools in Hiroshima to pass down the city’s A-bomb experience and foster multicultural understanding.

➤ **“Drawing A-bomb memories with hibakusha” Motomachi Senior High School**

Since 2007, the school has run a project to have students majoring in art create paintings on the theme of the atomic bombing by listening to the accounts of A-bomb survivors (hibakusha). As the students gain a better understanding about the bombing through working closely with the hibakusha, it is hoped that the project will contribute to passing down the memories of the atomic bombing to young generations. The paintings will be donated to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.



Ten students had worked with eight hibakusha since August 2017 and completed their paintings in July this year. At the exhibition’s opening ceremony, the students shared how they felt about the collaboration with hibakusha and the message for peace expressed in the paintings. One student said “It was hard to imagine things I have never seen, such as the scenes of fire or corpses, but I listened to the hibakusha’s story again and again, and also went through related materials. I am glad that I have completed my painting.” Another student said “I did my best on this painting, working with the hibakusha. I hope that people will have a chance to think about peace when they look at this painting.”

➤ **“Global Friendship Class” Motomachi Elementary School**

Motomachi Elementary School is located in the city’s largest public housing area. In the 1980s, Japanese nationals who had been living in China during the war began to settle in this area, and later started to bring their families from China. As the school received more such returnee students, a special Japanese language class named “Global Friendship Class” was established. Today, about 65 percent of the students have their roots in countries other than Japan, including not only China but also the Philippines, the U.S., Nepal, and Indonesia.



Teaching in a small group

Upon entering school, such students take a vocabulary test and are interviewed so the school can assess their proficiency in Japanese. Based on the result, the school creates an individual teaching plan. Depending on their Japanese level, the students either learn in a small group away from their class or take regular classes with other Japanese students with the help from an assisting teacher. The school holds a gathering once a month for such students with international backgrounds so that they can build ties with each other, establish their identity and cherish the culture of their origin.



Day of Global Understanding
(Photo: Motomachi Elementary School)

Also, once every year, the school organizes an event named “Day of Global Understanding”, in which Japanese students learn about different cultures to foster respect and support for their counterparts with different backgrounds. The event is among the many examples of the school’s initiatives for encouraging students to learn from each other in a multicultural environment.

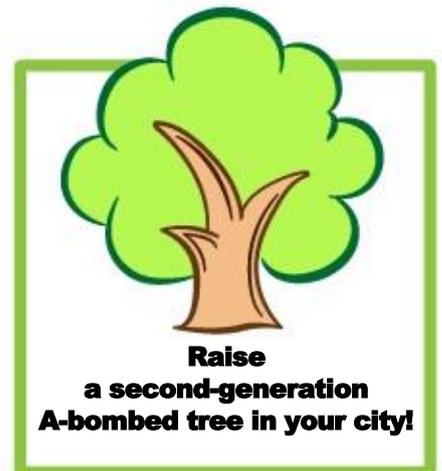
■ Raise a Second-Generation A-bombed Tree in Your City

Mayors for Peace runs a project to distribute seeds from A-bombed trees to all member cities wishing to receive them. It is hoped that the acts of raising these trees, which serve as symbols of peace, will help raise citizen’s awareness of peace.

The project is available for member cities of Mayors for Peace. If your city is interested in receiving seeds of A-bombed trees, please contact the Mayors for Peace Secretariat.

Email: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

Between April and July this year, the following member cities held planting ceremonies of seeds or seedlings of A-bombed trees:
Otari (Nagano, Japan), Matsumoto (Nagano, Japan), Koga (Fukuoka, Japan), Larvik (Norway), Skedsmo (Norway), Fredrikstad (Norway), Evora (Portugal), Paris (France), Gernika-Lumo (Spain)



Also, a project is underway to exchange A-bombed trees with seedlings from the Callery pear tree that endured the September 11, 2001 terror attacks at the World Trade Center. On April 24 this year, during the presentation ceremony of the 2018 Tribeca Film Festival's Ninth Annual Tribeca Disruptive Innovation Awards in New York, honorees including Ms. Beatrice Fihn, Executive Director of ICAN, and Ms. Koko Kondo who is a hibakusha from Hiroshima, planted seeds of Ginkgo, Japanese hackberry and Jujube from Hiroshima in pots. It is planned that the seedlings or seeds from the Survivor Tree will be presented to Hiroshima in the near future.

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

[June 18 – July 13, 2018]

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. Ricarda Schuller, who works for the City of Munich, Germany, served as an intern at the Mayors for Peace Secretariat from June 18 to July 13. Ms. Schuller made the following comment about her four-week internship: "Before I came to Hiroshima I knew some things about the A-bomb. However, I was not aware of the complex consequences that the nuclear catastrophe has even now. Working with the Secretariat I learned a lot and I am impressed how Hiroshima deals with its history. Survivors are never tired of talking about their experiences and the city is so committed to peace. I hope that I can bring some of the Hiroshima spirit back to Munich."

The Secretariat will have hosted five more interns from Fongo Tongo (Cameroon), Santos (Brazil), Tehran (Iran), Volgograd (Russia), and Montreal (Canada) by the end of March 2019.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/1923374117923312>

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace/posts/1946844158909641>

■ New call to attend the 2nd World Forum Against Violence and for Peace Education in Madrid in November

After the terrorist attacks on the French capital in November 2015, the Mayors of Madrid and Paris, Manuela Carmena and Anne Hidalgo, decided to hold an international summit against violence and for peace education. The first edition was held in April 2017, bringing together more than 3,500 participants from 70 different countries.

The City of Madrid, the capital of Spain and a member of Mayors for Peace, will host the second edition of the World Forum Against Violence and for Peace Education from 5th to 8th of November this year. The City of Granollers is among the members of the organizing committee and will be involved in the Forum from the planning stage.

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. Moreover, the Forum will be the home of the UCLG World Council 2018 so that the topics of the forum can be brought to the Policy Councils of UCLG and its agenda. This will ensure international attendance from the highest levels of politics, global networks and NGOs.

There will be open sessions to discuss certain topics, workshops where cities and organizations can present initiatives and parallel activities focusing on violence in sports, violence against women, violence in social networks, youth violence, violence as racism, violence as terrorism, violence against LGBTs, violence as urban inequality and violence against refugees.

Through the official Forum website, pre-registration to attend the forum can be made and also proposal for an activity or initiative can be submitted.

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

<http://www.ciudadesdepaz.com/>

▼ General pre-registration to attend (available in English, Spanish, and French):

<http://www.ciudadesdepaz.com/en/general-pre-inscription/>

▼ Participation initiatives/proposals form (available in English, Spanish, and French):

<http://www.ciudadesdepaz.com/en/participation-initiatives/>

■ **Flag Day of German Members of Mayors for Peace**

[July 8, 2018]

On July 8, in over 270 German cities, the Mayors for Peace flag was hoisted in front of many town halls. Flying the flag on this day signifies opposition to nuclear weapons and the hope for a peaceful world. It is a reminder of a legal opinion handed down by the International Court of Justice on July 8th, 1996, concluding that even the threat of using nuclear weapons is an offence against international law.

In the City of Hannover, a Vice President of Mayors for Peace and the Lead City of the German Chapter of Mayors for Peace, Mayor Stefan Schostok called for all states to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as soon as possible. “Despite the reduction of nuclear warheads a clear nuclear abolition is not in sight. Therefore we vehemently advocate for the goal of a nuclear weapons-free world.” Then, local peace groups organized a guided bicycle tour to various stations in Hannover showing some possible damages in the case of a nuclear explosion over the city center.

▼ Related story on the German Mayors for Peace website in German:

<https://www.hannover.de/Leben-in-der-Region-Hannover/Politik/Politische-Gremien/Mayors-for-Peace/Flaggentag/Flaggentag-der-Bürgermeister-für-den-Frieden>

■ **Report of Mayors for Peace President’s Visit to the U.S.**

As reported in last month’s issue, Mr. Kazumi Matsui, Mayor of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace, visited the U.S. in June to attend the 86th Annual Meeting of the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) held in Boston, MA. He also visited the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School in Cambridge, MA and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington D.C. Reports of his visit have been posted on the following websites.

▼ Attendance of Mayors for Peace President and Secretary General at the Annual Meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors (The Mayors for Peace Website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/history/2020_2011/2018_6_gallery.html

▼ Mayor of Hiroshima Visits CRLS (The Cambridge Rindge and Latin School Website):

https://crls.cpsd.us/news/mayor_of_hiroshima_visits_crls

▼ Avoiding Nuclear War—A Discussion with the Mayor of Hiroshima (The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Website):

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2018/06/11/avoiding-nuclear-war-discussion-with-mayor-of-hiroshima-event-6912>

■ **Regional Chapter Activities**

< **Catalan Chapter, Spain** >

***The 2nd Ordinary General Assembly of the Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace**

The Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace held its 2nd Ordinary General Assembly on June 25th in Granollers. Some 30 mayors, deputy mayors and technical advisors from different city councils from all over Catalonia attended the meeting. The conference served to share the efforts developed during past years under the responsibility of the Secretariat of the Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace, report results from these activities and adopt an action plan for the following years 2018-2020.

Mayor Mayoral, the President of the Catalan Chapter and the person responsible for leading the conference, pointed out the upcoming establishment of the European Chapter of Mayors for Peace, the digital creation of a database with materials and resources for cities related to peace education, the publication of a document that will provide guidelines for the cities in order to develop local action plans for peace and the celebration of the 2nd World Forum Against Violence and for Peace Education in Madrid.

In Catalonia, over 200 cities belong to the Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace, a clear demonstration of the strength and dynamism of Catalan municipalities in the field of peace culture, solidarity and the defence of human rights.

▼ Report with photos on the Mayors for Peace Catalan Chapter website (in Catalan):

<http://wp.granollers.cat/alcaldesperlapau/2018/06/26/la-xarxa-dalcaldes-i-alcaldesses-per-la-pau-celebra-la-s-eva-2a-assemblea-general-a-granollers/>

< German Chapter >

***German Mayors for Peace Conference in Muenster**

On June 15, the German Mayors for Peace Conference was held in Muenster, a Mayors for Peace member city. Before the conference got underway, about 40 members listened to the keynote speech given by Christoph Hallier, a government official, about the re-nuclearization of the European Security Policy. On the previous evening, almost 200 guests attended a public lecture entitled “Between vision and reality: New ways towards a nuclear-free world” held as part of the Mayors for Peace Conference.

▼ Related story on the German Mayors for Peace website (in German):

<https://www.hannover.de/Leben-in-der-Region-Hannover/Politik/Politische-Gremien/Mayors-for-Peace/Aktivitaeten/Bergermeister-frieden-tagen-in-Muenster>

< UK and Ireland Chapter >

***UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Briefing No.17 issued**

The UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary has developed a short report on related activities and meetings that have taken place. These include the ICAN UK Partners meeting and the launch of the Manchester City Centre Young Person's Peace Trail. The report also notes and encourages its members to hold commemoration meetings in August for the 73rd anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic weapon attacks. The next Chapter meeting will take place in Clydebank Town Hall on Thursday September 20th. This will coincide close to International Peace Day and link in with a week of activities organised by ICAN UK Partner Groups. This will culminate with a peace rally close to the Faslane naval base, where Trident nuclear submarines are situated.

▼ UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Briefing No.17 (Mayors for Peace website)

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/data/2018/M4P_Briefing_No_17_ICAN_UK_and_Manchester_Peace_Trail.pdf

■ Member City Activities

< Granollers, Spain >

Mayor of Granollers met the Executive Director of ICAN in Madrid

On June 28, Mayor Mayoral of Granollers, a Vice President City and the Lead City of the Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace, had a private meeting with Manuela Carmena, the Mayor of Madrid, and Beatrice Fihn, the Executive Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize-winning campaign coalition.

Fihn expressed her wish to receive support from local governments to work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and combine efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons. Both mayors expressed their commitment to share this petition with other cities and to work towards the fight to abolish nuclear weapons to be included in the agenda of local governments.

Mayor Carmena invited Ms. Fihn to attend the 2nd World Forum Against Violence and for Peace Education, an event that will bring together mayors, international local leaders, personalities stemming from civil society and

great thinkers for an exchange of experiences, strategies, campaigns and policies in Madrid from November 5 to 8.

▼ Report with photos on the Mayors for Peace Catalan Chapter website (in Catalan):

<http://wp.granollers.cat/alcaldesperlapau/2018/06/29/ciutats-compromeses-amb-la-prohibicio-de-les-armes-nuclears/>

< Volgograd, Russia >

Hosting the event “Friendship Day” dedicated to Hiroshima

On June 27, the City of Volgograd, a Vice President of Mayors for Peace and the Lead City in Russia, hosted an event titled “Friendship Day” dedicated to Hiroshima, one of Volgograd’s twin-cities. The event was held on the eve of the World Cup football match between Japan and Poland in the hope of offering a united platform for international guests, football fans, members of youth and civil society, and school and university students.

It was initiated by the Volgograd branch of the Russian Peace Foundation – its Chair is Yury Starovatykh, the ex-Mayor of Volgograd and an Honorary Citizen of both Hiroshima and Volgograd. Among the event’s guests of honor was Mr. Tokuro Furuya, the Deputy Minister of the Japanese Embassy in Russia.

The event included an exhibition about Hiroshima and the cooperation between Volgograd and Hiroshima, a presentation about why the two cities became twinned and what happened to Hiroshima in 1945, a workshop of paper cranes by local college students, among others. At the end of the event, a carp streamer, a symbol of Hiroshima, was put on a flagpole and run up by Deputy Minister Furuya and local children.

▼ Report of “Friendship Day” on the City of Volgograd website:

<http://www.welcomevolgogradcity.com/NewsEn.aspx?idn=427>

<<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 at:

mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

▼ List of peace events as based on those in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (As of July 11):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/03_newmembers/2018_List_of_Activities_en.pdf

■ “Peace News from Hiroshima”

(Provided by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center of the CHUGOKU SHIMBUN)

Born in the suburbs of Melbourne, Australia in 1985, Tim Wright took part in a yearly campaign to fold and send paper cranes to Hiroshima as a child. In 2006, he became one of the founding members of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), a non-governmental organization which was established in Australia. Mr. Wright now serves as ICAN’s treaty coordinator and is a pivotal member of the group, which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017.

Mr. Wright began lobbying for a treaty to ban nuclear weapons in his early twenties, and his activism in the international arena has drawn attention. Like Beatrice Fihn, ICAN’s executive director, the younger generation of peace activists is stirring international public opinion.

It has been one year since the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted at the United Nations. But the nuclear weapon states and their allies remain opposed to the treaty. Against this backdrop, a symposium will be held at the International Conference Center Hiroshima on July 22. The participants will discuss their visions for a world without nuclear weapons from a variety of angles. Mr. Wright will deliver the keynote speech, and Akiko Naono, a professor at the Hiroshima Peace Institute at Hiroshima City University, will serve as the moderator. The symposium is sponsored by Hiroshima City University, the Chugoku Shimbun, and the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition at Nagasaki University. As diplomatic negotiations for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula move forward, issues involving that region will be one of the important topics for discussion. We hope the symposium will be another opportunity for Hiroshima to express its determination to continue its efforts to help realize the abolition of nuclear arms.

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

- International symposium on July 22 in Hiroshima to seek way forward for realizing nuclear abolition
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=83940>
- A-bomb survivors gather signatures of support for nuclear weapons ban treaty
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=83950>
- After U.S.-North Korea summit: Survivors ask... What's next?
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=83380>
- Editorial: U.S.-North Korea summit
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=83218>
- Children's Peace Monument marks 60th anniversary
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=82666>

■Mayors for Peace Collaboration with “The Hibakusha Appeal” Signature Campaign

Based on the Action Plan decided at the 9th General Conference in August 2017, Mayors for Peace is promoting a petition drive urging the nuclear-armed states and their allies to participate in the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It was also decided that in doing so, Mayors for Peace would collaborate with “The Hibakusha Appeal”, a signature campaign launched by the hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Mayors for Peace Secretariat will compile the number of signatures collected and present it to affiliates of the United Nations.

▼For more information about “The Hibakusha Appeal”:



■Request for Payment of the 2018 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee

In order to facilitate future activities and strengthen the sense of solidarity amongst member cities, Mayors for Peace introduced an annual Membership Fee in 2015.

This year again, we ask each member city to pay a Fee of 2,000 Japanese yen (about 19 USD/16 Euro as of April 16, 2018) per city. If your city has not paid their Membership Fee in previous years, we ask your city to pay the total amount owed for each unpaid year since 2015. The collected Membership Fees will be allocated toward new and existing projects listed on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan 2017-2020.

A request for payment of the 2018 membership fee was sent to each city by email on April 2. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

▼Request for the 2018 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee (Mayors for Peace website):

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

■Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,614 Cities in 163 Countries/Regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on July 1, we added 19 new member cities, bringing the total membership to 7,614.

This month, we welcomed a new member, the City of Blantyre from Malawi. On May 31, President Matsui attended the Monthly Meeting of African Diplomatic Corps in Tokyo, where he requested African Ambassadors to Japan for their help in expanding the membership of Mayors for Peace in Africa. The Ambassador of Malawi to Japan responded to this call and invited mayors in his country to join Mayors for Peace, which led to Blantyre's decision to join our network. Two more Malawian cities are scheduled to be registered as our new members on August 1,.

