



Mayors for Peace News Flash

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Mayors for Peace Member Cities

7,632 cities

in 163 countries and regions

(as of August 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.

Table of Contents

- Peace Memorial Ceremonies in Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- Hiroshima Day and Nagasaki Day Commemorations Around the World
- A Call to Hold Events to Mark the 2018 International Day of Peace on September 21
- Regional Chapter Activities
- Member City Activities
- "Peace News from Hiroshima" (Provided by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center of the CHUGOKU SHIMBUN)
- Request to Promote Various Measures Based on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2017-2020)
- Mayors for Peace Collaboration with "The Hibakusha Appeal" Signature Campaign
- Request for Payment of the 2018 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee
- Visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace (August 1-8)
- Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,632 Cities in 163 Countries/Regions

■Peace Memorial Ceremonies in Hiroshima and Nagasaki

[August 6 and 9, 2018]

The Cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki held commemorative ceremonies on August 6 and 9, respectively, marking the 73rd anniversary of the atomic bombings.

On August 6, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony was held and attended by approximately 50,000 people, including representatives from 85 countries and the European Union (EU). The delegation from Bangkok, a Mayors for Peace Executive City and the Lead City in Thailand, attended and offered a wreath of flowers at the ceremony on behalf of the executive members of Mayors for Peace.

On August 9, the Nagasaki Peace Ceremony was held and attended by approximately 5,200 people, including representatives from 71 countries. Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations participated in the ceremony as the first UN Secretary-General to do so.

The mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki announced the 2018 Peace Declaration. The full texts of the declarations are available at the links below.

▼Hiroshima Peace Declaration in English:

<http://www.city.hiroshima.lg.jp/www/contents/1343890585401/index.html>

▼Nagasaki Peace Declaration (available in 11 languages):

<https://nagasakipeace.jp/english/appeal/archives1.html>

■ Hiroshima Day and Nagasaki Day Commemorations Around the World

Many cities, municipalities and peace organizations around the world observed commemorative events on and around Hiroshima Day (August 6) and Nagasaki Day (August 9). Mayors for Peace sincerely appreciates the efforts of those around the world who have organized commemorative events to console the souls of A-bomb victims and pray for peace.

The list of events including those marking the Hiroshima and Nagasaki days, as based on reports received from member cities, is available at the link below.

▼ List of peace events as based on those in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (As of August 13):

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

■ A Call to Hold Events to Mark the 2018 International Day of Peace on September 21

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. The theme of the 2018 International Day of Peace is “The Right to Peace - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70”. The theme celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Mayors for Peace has been a long-time supporter of the IDP and encourage all member cities to commemorate the International Day of Peace on September 21. In accordance with these initiatives, the city of Takayama, Japan, a member city of Mayors for Peace, will organize a Peace Bell Ceremony where like-minded bell owners in the city, such as temples and churches, will sound their bells in unison at noon on the IDP. Furthermore, the mayor of Takayama City requests our member cities to do the same in their own, local time, in order to offer as many people as possible an opportunity to renew their determination to bring peace to the globe.

In this context, we humbly ask that you consider calling for the ringing of bells at noon on September 21 at facilities and organizations which own bells in your city. If you intend to organize such an event, the Secretariat would be pleased if you would inform our office.

▼ Request from Takayama City (Mayors for Peace website):

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/news/data/20180817.pdf>

<<PLEASE SEND INFORMATION ON YOUR CITY’S 2018 IDP EVENT >>

If your city is planning to organize an event to commemorate the International Day of Peace, please send your event report to our secretariat. We will share the report on the Mayors for Peace website, etc.

▼ Please mail us with an outline of your event at:

mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

■ Regional Chapter Activities

< German Chapter >

***Collecting petition forms calling for all states to join the TPNW**

The City of Hannover, a Vice-President City member of Mayors for Peace and Lead City for Germany, has encouraged the German members to sign the petition forms calling for all states to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

During the past seven months, approx. 900 signatures have been collected by the members of Mayors for Peace throughout Germany. At the German Mayors for Peace Conference on June 15th in Münster, Deputy Mayor Hermann of Hannover handed the list of signatures over to Mr. Christoph Hallier, a government official in charge of nuclear disarmament and arms control, who was invited as the keynote speaker at the conference. In handing the list to Mr. Hallier, Mr. Hermann reaffirmed the German Chapter members’ wish that Germany will join the Treaty soon.



Presentation of the list of signatures from Deputy Mayor Hermann to Mr. Hallier (Photo: The City of Hannover)

The German Mayors for Peace will continue to support the goal for a nuclear weapons free world and peace in the future.

< UK&Ireland Chapter >

* Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemoration events and wider progress report

Many members of the Mayors for Peace UK and Ireland Chapter held events to commemorate the 73rd anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic weapon attacks. These have been noted in a wider policy briefing developed by the Chapter Secretariat which also focuses on its next meeting, being held around International Peace Day, on September 20th in Clydebank Town Hall, Scotland. This meeting links in to a series of ICAN UK events which will culminate with a march and rally from the Faslane peace camp to the entrance of the naval base where Trident submarines are moored. Registration is now open for the seminar on the 20th which will include speakers from the United States, the Scottish Parliament and local examples of best practice in developing peace education.



Commemoration Event for Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Manchester
(Photo: The City of Manchester)

▼ More information on the UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Briefing No.18 (Nuclear Free Local Authorities website):

http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/M4P_Briefing_No_18_Hiroshima_and_Nagasaki_events.pdf

▼ Flyer for the September 20th seminar (Nuclear Free Local Authorities website):

http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/NFLA-M4P-ICAN_joint_seminar_Clydebank_Sept_20th_flyer.pdf

Member City Activities

< Montreal, Canada >

*Activities Report (April – June 2018)

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the signing of the sister-city relationship between Montreal and Hiroshima in May 1998, the City of Montreal, a Mayors for Peace Executive City and the Lead City in Canada, intends to participate in as many local, national and international events in order to spread Mayors for Peace's message.

In April, Montreal sent a delegation to Geneva to join the Mayors for Peace delegation to the the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference in Geneva and in June, on the eve of the G7 Summit taking place in Charlevoix, Canada, Montreal hosted an important and influential event entitled: « Cities, Global Issues and the G7 » a high-level panel discussion to highlight the role cities play on global issues, and in particular with respect to themes addressed by the G7.



Event related to G7 Summit in June
(Photo: The City of Montreal)

▼ Detailed activities report on the Mayors for Peace Website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/180803_Activities_Montreal.html

< Mexico City, Mexico >

*Relaunching the "For your Family, Voluntary Disarmament" program

On July 30, Mexico City, a Vice-President City of Mayors for Peace and the Lead City in Mexico began this year's 2nd stage of "For your Family, Voluntary Disarmament". Originally launched in 2012, this program seeks to raise awareness among the population regarding the risks of owning guns and ammunition. It consists of an exchange of weapons for economic assistance, domestic appliances, or computer material. The program also contemplates the exchange of toy weapons for educational toys. This exchange is voluntary, and the anonymity of those handing over the weapons is guaranteed.



(Photo: Mexico City)

As part of this program, from 2012 to March 2018, more than 30,000 fire weapons were turned in and destroyed and the City's Social Development Office has announced a budget of more than 18.8 million Mexican pesos for the rest of 2018.

▼ Full story on the Mayors for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/180820_voluntary_disarmament_program_CDMX.html

< Ormoc, Philippines >

Conducting peace education through a picture book

The City of Ormoc, which joined Mayors for Peace in July, is implementing peace education utilizing a picture book “Paper Crane Journey”. The book is about Sadako Sasaki, a young girl from Hiroshima who died of radiation-induced leukemia ten years after the atomic bombing. While she was in the hospital, she folded paper cranes to make her wish to get better come true.

A Hiroshima-based nonprofit organization ANT-Hiroshima has been translating this book into foreign languages and recently completed a Visayan version, one of the main languages in the region. With the help of ANT-Hiroshima, Ormoc’s Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Education Ministry, copies of this book have been donated to all the elementary schools in the city.



Donation ceremony of the picture book
(Photo: ANT-Hiroshima)

The city organized a peace poster contest and a peace essay contest for local junior high school students who have read this book and donated one of the prize-winning works to Hiroshima. The City of Ormoc intends to promote various peace initiatives to pass down the message of peace to younger generation.

< Biograd na Moru, Croatia >

Mayor of Biograd na Moru receiving Japanese Imperial Decoration

In April this year, the Government of Japan announced the foreign recipients of the 2018 Spring Imperial Decorations. Mr. Ivan Knez, Mayor of Biograd na Moru, is among this year’s foreign recipients awarded with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette in recognition of his contributions to the promotion of understanding about Japan in Croatia as well as facilitating regional exchange between Japan and Croatia.

As a Vice President City and a Lead City of Mayors for Peace, Biograd na Moru has been a driving force for the activities of Mayors for Peace in Croatia. Since 2010, every year on August 6, Biograd has organized a commemoration ceremony for the victims of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki hosted next to the paper crane monument established as a symbol of peace.



Mayor Knez (right) receiving The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette
(Photo: The City of Biograd na Moru)

In conjunction with this year’s commemoration ceremony on August 6, an award ceremony took place, at which the Japanese ambassador to Croatia Keiji Takiguchi presented Mayor Knez with the Order.

▼ Report and photos of the City of Biograd na Moru website (in Croatian):

<http://www.biogradnamoru.hr/novosti/1045-japanski-veleposlanik-odlikovao-gradonacelnika-ivana-kneza-ordenom-izlazeceg-sunca>

<<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 August 13):

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)

The 73rd anniversary of the atomic bombings was observed with the annual Peace Memorial Ceremonies in Hiroshima, on August 6, and in Nagasaki, on August 9. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was a focus of the ceremonies again this year. What can be done to get the nuclear weapon states and their allies involved in this treaty? Japan, in particular, the only country to have experienced nuclear attack, remains opposed to the treaty. How can Japan be swayed to change its stance? There are still no answers to these questions, and the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki must now recognize the challenges they face.

To rouse international public opinion, we need to convey to people the horrific nature of nuclear weapons and emphasize the folly of the nuclear-armed states and their allies continuing to cling to nuclear weapons for their security.

In that sense, the speech made by Hiroshima Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki was the most striking of the speeches made at the peace ceremonies in the two cities. He discussed the idea of nuclear deterrence as if speaking to children about the relationship between their family and their neighbors.

“We don’t get along well with our next-door neighbor,” the governor said. “So we have set a bomb that can blow up their house with all the family inside, just in case. Our neighbor, on the other hand, has also set a bomb to blow up our house. Of course, neither family wants both families to end up dead, we will never go into battle against each other. And the bombs will probably not malfunction. So, you don’t have to worry.”

Mr. Yuzaki was essentially posing this question: Shouldn’t adults feel ashamed of themselves for being misled by such sophism? The way he spotlighted the problem was very impressive.

While we have been making sincere efforts to convey to the world the terrible devastation and suffering that the atomic bombs wrought in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we must also use plain-spoken and persuasive words to change the minds of those with different views. We must continue to pursue the most effective ways to achieve this aim.

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

○Hiroshima Peace Declaration, on 73rd anniversary of A-bombing, calls for nuclear-free world

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=86028>

○Peace Message by Hidehiko Yuzaki, Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=85416>

○Hiroshima observes 73rd anniversary of atomic bombing

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=85347>

○Hiroshima Peace Media Center website is redesigned to help readers learn more about Hiroshima

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=85604>

Request to Promote Various Measures Based on the Mayors for Peace 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

For example, you can promote the following measures:



■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

■Visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace (August 1-8)

Hiroshima City received many visitors on and around August 6. President Kazumi Matsui welcomed the following visitors between August 1 and 8 and asked them to support the activities of Mayors for Peace and cooperate towards membership expansion.

*August 5 – Dr. Thomas Hajnoczi, Director for Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Vienna, Austria

*August 5 – Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations

*August 5 – H.E. Mr. Grenenger Kidney Msulira BANDA, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Malawi

*August 6 – Mr. Roy Amemiya, Managing Director of the City of Honolulu

*August 6 – Dr. Vallop Suwantee, Chairman of Advisers to the Governor of Bangkok

*August 6 – The Honorable Mr. Joey Patrick San Nicolas, Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan

*August 7 – H.E. Mr. William Francis Hagerty IV, U.S. Ambassador to Japan

On August 8, President Matsui joined the Mayor of Nagasaki in meeting the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, who was visiting Nagasaki to attend the peace ceremony. President Matsui took the opportunity to express his respect for Mr. Guterres for his tireless efforts in working for nuclear disarmament since he became the Secretary-General, and ask for his consideration for collaboration between the UN and Mayors for Peace.

■Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,632 Cities in 163 Countries/Regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on August 1, we added 18 new member cities, bringing the total membership to 7,632.

