



Mayors for Peace News Flash

October 2018 / No.106

Mayors for Peace Member Cities
7,668 cities
in 163 countries and regions
(as of October 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

- Invitation for applicants to the Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns”
- Call for Input: Examples of initiatives to foster peace-seeking spirit
- Events Commemorating 2018 International Day of Peace
- Mayors for Peace Secretary General’s attendance to ICRC’s Regional Conference on International Humanitarian Law in Asia-Pacific
- Meeting Report: High Level Plenary Meeting to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
- Regional Chapter Activities
- Peace News from Hiroshima” (Provided by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center of the CHUGOKU SHIMBUN)
- Mayors for Peace Collaboration with “The Hibakusha Appeal” Signature Campaign
- Request for Payment of the 2018 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee
- Last Month’s Visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace
- Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,668 Cities in 163 Countries

■ Invitation for applicants to the Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns”

Mayors for Peace has put emphasis on peace education to raise awareness among future generations as its intensified program in the Action Plan from 2017 to 2020, which was adopted at the 9th General Conference.

In order to further promote peace education in its over 7,600 member cities in 163 countries and regions around the world, Mayors for Peace has decided to host a children’s art competition on the theme of “Peaceful Towns” targeted at children in all these cities.

Please advertise this program widely among schools and other organizations in your city, gather up interested local applicants, and submit the required materials by email to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat by Friday, December 28, 2018.

▼ Application Guidelines on the Mayors for Peace Website :

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/ecbn/projects.html#section08>

Submission:

Email the application materials to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat at mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

Submission Deadline:

December 28 (Friday), 2018



■ Call for Input: Examples of initiatives to foster peace-seeking spirit

The Mayors for Peace Secretariat is now seeking examples of initiatives to foster peace-seeking spirit conducted by our member cities around the world. Through sharing them on our website and in Mayors for Peace News Flash, we are hoping that more cities will follow suit and become inspired to launch their own peace education program.

We look forward to hearing from many of you about your city's inspiring examples of peace education!

▼ Call for Input on the Mayors for Peace Website :

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/ecbn/projects.html#section10>

This month, we would like to share two of the unique peace education initiatives conducted in Muntinlupa (Philippines) and Hiroshima (Japan).

➤ Celebrating Peace Consciousness Month 2018 – Muntinlupa, Philippines

This year the Schools Division Office (SDO) of Muntinlupa City (led by Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Mauro de Gulan and its Teach Peace for PEACE Program Director, Mariel Eugene L. Luna), through its partnership with the City Government of Muntinlupa (led by Mayor Jaime Fresnedi) and the City's International Relations Office, issued a [Memorandum](#) designating the whole month of September as the National Peace Consciousness Month. The Memorandum is pursuant to a [Presidential Proclamation](#) in 2004 entitled "Declaring the Month of September 2004 and Every Year Thereafter as the National Peace Consciousness Month".



Forum on September 3 with Mr. Morikawa
(Photo: The SDO of Muntinlupa)

The peace activities planned as part of this initiative included: On-the-spot Poster Making contest; a Peace Crane Project; Demonstration teaching; Spoken Poetry Composition and Recital Contest and Peace Film Festival. The SDO also launched a new Facebook page highlighting its campaign for peace awareness and consciousness in Social Studies classes in junior and senior high schools in Muntinlupa.

On September 3, a lecture forum entitled "Surviving Bombing in Japan" was held with guest speaker Mr. Takaaki Morikawa, an atomic bomb survivor from Hiroshima who was exposed to the A-bomb when he was 6 years old. The event was attended by students, teachers, and representatives from the City Government's International Relations Office and Soka Gakkai Foundation, and SDO officials.

▼ Full report on the Mayors for Peace Website:

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

➤ Junior and senior high school students serving as "volunteer guides for peace" – Hiroshima, Japan

From July 30 to August 3, the second and fourth graders of Hiroshima Secondary School, a municipal combined junior and senior high school, served as "volunteer guides for peace" in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, offering foreign visitors English explanations of some of the peace monuments in the park, including the A-bomb Dome, the Children's Peace Monument. After the on-the-spot explanations, the students presented the guests handmade cards with their messages for peace.



(Photo: Hiroshima Municipal Hiroshima Secondary School)

The students had spent many hours preparing answers to FAQs and having advice from professional guides. On the day of fieldwork, they gathered their courage to talk to visitors and many of them were happy that they were able to convey their message in English and said that they would like to have more chance to communicate in English and share messages of Hiroshima with people from around the world.

The initiative was launched under the guidance of the Municipal Board of Education with the aim of raising awareness among the students about their mission to send messages of peace to the world, living up to the image of their hometown as the International Peace Culture City. It is also hoped that the students will improve their global communication skills through interactions with visitors with various cultures and backgrounds.

▼ Report and photos of the activity (in Japanese, Hiroshima Municipal Hiroshima Secondary School Website):

http://www.hiroshima-s.edu.city.hiroshima.jp/h30topikku/h300730gaidobora/h300730_heiwagaidobora.html

■Events Commemorating 2018 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.



(Photo: City of Barcelona)

In Hiroshima and member cities around the world, various commemorative events were held.

- [Australia] [Subiaco](#)
- [Belgium] [Belgium Chapter](#)
- [Germany] Bonn, [Hannover](#)
- [Japan] Akita, Matsumoto, Takayama, Motosu, Hirakata, [Nagasaki](#)
- [Philippines] [Muntinlupa](#)
- [Spain] [Barcelona](#), [Canovelles](#), Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
- [U.K.] UK and Ireland Chapter
- [U.S.] [Pittsburgh \(PA\)](#)



(Photo: Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation)

▼ Events Commemorating 2018 International Day of Peace (Mayors for Peace Website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/news/180921_news.html

■Mayors for Peace Secretary General's attendance to ICRC's Regional Conference on International Humanitarian Law in Asia-Pacific

[September 26, 2018]

On September 26, Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, Secretary General of Mayors for Peace, attended the Regional Conference on International Humanitarian Law in Asia-Pacific in Jakarta, Indonesia, hosted by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) where he delivered a presentation for various legal experts and high-level government officials from the Asia-Pacific region at a session titled "Humanitarian Considerations around Nuclear Weapons".



(Photo: The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC))

In his presentation titled "Civil Society Perspective towards a World without Nuclear Weapons: Mayors for Peace at Work", Mr. Komizo related the ardent wish of the hibakusha for nuclear disarmament and the work of Mayors for Peace united in working to achieve two key objectives: "Realization of a world without nuclear weapons" and "Realization of safe and resilient cities", and stressed the need for diverse civil society actors to consolidate their efforts to achieve our ultimate goal, that of lasting world peace.

■Meeting Report: High Level Plenary Meeting to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

[September 26, 2018]

On 26 September of each year since 2014, the UN has marked the "International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons", typically commemorated as a "high-level meeting".

This year's high-level meeting lasted the entire day and consisted of statements by senior UN and governmental representatives, certain intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. Over 50 governmental officials (including the Holy See) addressed the meeting, in addition to the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), and the World Futures Council. Also speaking were Secretary-General Guterres and General Assembly President Garcés, who jointly opened the meeting.

The meeting report by Randy Rydell, an Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace who participated in the meeting on behalf of the organization, is available on the Mayors for Peace website.

▼ Meeting Report: High level plenary meeting to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/data/2018/Intl_Day_notes_2018_MEMO.pdf

■ Regional Chapter Activities

< Belgium Chapter >

* Request by 152 Belgium mayors for the Belgian Government to sign the TPNW

On the occasion of the International Day of Peace on September 21, Mayor Jan Durnez of the City of Ypres, a Vice President and Lead City of the Belgium Chapter, took an initiative for nuclear disarmament together with the two other members of Mayors for Peace, Ghent and Liège, and also the Anti-Nuclear Movement, a coalition of peace groups in Belgium.



(Photo: The City of Ypres)

At the request of the Anti-Nuclear Movement, the three mayors invited their 586 mayor colleagues in Belgium to sign an open letter urging their federal government and Prime Minister to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was adopted at the UN last year by a vote of 122 states in favor. The cities were also invited to hang peace flags at their municipal buildings on September 21. 152 mayors agreed to the request to sign the open letter and 192 hoisted the peace flag at their city halls. This initiative was covered in Belgian newspapers and websites.

A growing number of Belgian cities have participated in the peace flag initiative on the International Day of Peace to express their support for peace and nuclear disarmament.

<Report by Filip Deheegher, City of Ypres, Lead City of Belgium Chapter>

▼ The open letter with a full list of Belgium cities that have signed the open letter (in Dutch):

<https://www.dagvandevrede.be/open-brief/>

< UK and Ireland Chapter >

* Release of the UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Policy Briefing No.19

There have been a number of events held by the UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter in September and October, and the Chapter Secretariat has developed a full report on them. It outlines the recent Chapter meeting held in Scotland for International Peace Day, which agreed upon a model resolution for UK and Ireland Councils to consider in formally supporting the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The report also notes progress with how 6 member Councils are using their ginkgo tree seeds from Hiroshima as excellent tools of peace education. The report provides an overview of a number of events, including the re-dedication of a memorial stone to nuclear weapons test veterans in Leeds, the recent visit of the Japanese Peace Boat group to Liverpool and Dublin and the upcoming visit of Hiroshima Peace Legacy Ambassadors to Manchester, Oldham and Coventry in early November.

The report concludes with summarising major events taking place for the commemoration of the centenary of the First World War in the UK and Ireland, and notes some events many British and Commonwealth citizens are taking part with in Belgium, particularly in Mons and Ypres / Ieper.

<Report by Sean Morris, UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary>

▼ UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Policy Briefing 19 (Nuclear Free Local Authorities website):

http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/M4P_Briefing_No_19_Chapter_meeting_Peace_Boat.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 at:

mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

▼ List of peace events as based on those in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (As of September 7):

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 winners of this year’s Nobel Peace Prize have been announced. The prize has been awarded to Denis Mukwege, a Congolese doctor, and Nadia Murad, a survivor of human trafficking from a Kurdish religious minority in Iraq known as Yazidis. Both have fought to stop sexual violence. It is important that the international community be united in the aim of eradicating not only war and regional conflicts but all appalling sexual violence.

The words that Dr. Mukwege spoke during an interview with Kyodo News Service hold grave significance. He said that fighting over rare metals continues across the world, involving Japan as well, and cited this as the cause of conflict in Congo, which leads to sexual violence against women. He also said that people and companies all over the world think only about making money, and that their pursuit of profits is directly linked to the suffering inflicted upon the victims of sexual violence. We should reflect on the fact that conflict and war on this earth cause various types of damage and that this damage is not at all removed from our own lives.

Because ICAN (the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) received the Nobel Peace Prize last year, it was believed highly unlikely that individuals or groups making efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons would be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize again this year. However, it is true that people in the world are still keenly interested in the issue of nuclear abolition, as demonstrated by the fact that “High School Student Peace Ambassadors,” who have been calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons in and out of Japan over the past two decades, were recommended for the first time as a candidate for this year’s prize.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was opened for signature a year ago and it is expected that the number of ratifications will soon reach 25, which is half of the 50 nations and regions that are required for the treaty to go into effect. But compared to past treaties, including the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the pace of ratification for this new treaty is not any slower. Like the efforts made by around 200 high school student peace ambassadors to date, let us take steady steps to strengthen public opinion for this treaty around the world.

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

- President of Tajikistan visits Hiroshima

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=87080>

- Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons ratified by four more nations

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=87078>

- Dutch soldier to be registered in Nagasaki as A-bomb victim

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=86919>

- Hopes are high that Pope will send out message from A-bombed cities

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=86967>

- Hibakusha Appeal network to dispatch two survivors to N.Y. with signatures calling for nuclear weapons ban treaty

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=87036>

■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

Last Month's Visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace

President Kazumi Matsui welcomed the following visitors last month and asked them to support the activities of Mayors for Peace and cooperate on membership expansion.

- *September 11 - H.E. Mr. Gediminas Varvuolis, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Lithuania
- *September 16 - H.E. Mr. Roberto Ampuero Espinoza, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chile
- *September 21 - H.E. Mr. Laurent Pic, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of France to Japan

Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,668 Cities in 163 Countries/Regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on October 1, we added 18 new member cities, bringing the total membership to 7,668.

From the U.S., we welcomed two cities in California: East Palo Alto and Menlo Park. The two cities passed proclamations in June and August respectively, which supported the U.S. Conference of Mayors' unanimous resolution "Calling on the Administration and Congress to Step Back From the Brink and Exercise Global Leadership in Preventing Nuclear War". The proclamations also affirmed their support for membership in Mayors for Peace, which led to the cities' decision to join Mayors for Peace with the encouragement of the local branch of civil society group Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). From Portugal, we welcomed the City of Águeda. In May this year, Deputy Mayor of Águeda visited Hiroshima with the Ambassador of Portugal to Japan. President Matsui then requested Águeda join Mayors for Peace, which led the city's joining our network. From Germany, seven cities joined thanks to the continued efforts of Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City of the German Chapter of Mayors for Peace. From Iran, thanks to the continued efforts of the team at the Tehran Peace Museum, seven cities joined this month. We also welcomed one city from France this month.

We encourage further initiatives to promote membership and can provide support from Hiroshima as needed. Please continue inviting mayors who are not yet members to join Mayors for Peace.

▼ List of New Members (PDF):
http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/03_newmembers/2018/newmembers1810_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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