



Mayors for Peace News Flash

March 2019 / No.111

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

7,735 cities

in 163 countries and regions

(as of March 1, 2019)

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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■ The New Zealand Chapter of Mayors for Peace has issued a message on the terrorist attack in Christchurch

[March 22, 2019]

In the wake of mass shootings targeting two mosques in Christchurch on March 15, Mayor Justin Lester of Wellington, the Lead City of the Mayors for Peace New Zealand Chapter, responded and issued a message of sympathy and solidarity to all those affected by the attacks. He said in the message that "We remember those New Zealanders who were victims of a terrorist act", and reaffirmed solidarity and resolve in the fight against racism in every form.

The message was immediately shared with all Executive Members of Mayors for Peace and widely supported.

▼ Wellington's message on the Christchurch terrorist attack on the Mayors for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/190325_message_Christchurch_attack.html

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■ Secretary General Komizo's Visit to the US

[March 5 - 12, 2019]

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In early March, Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, Secretary General of Mayors for Peace, visited the US to attend the 2019 Carnegie International Nuclear Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. on 11-12 March.

Prior to his visit to Washington, D.C., Mr. Komizo visited California to meet with mayors of US member cities, as well as educators, researchers, and peace activists, to discuss future collaboration on Mayors for Peace activities in the US. Among the many key figures he met with were: the former Governor of California, the Mayor of Oakland, the Manager of State and Federal Affairs for San Francisco, the Mayor of Los Angeles, and the Mayor of Santa Barbara. During the meetings, Mr. Komizo expressed his hope that US member cities, led by the US Lead City, Des Moines, Iowa, will engage in proactive activities and take initiatives to build peace and keep cities safe and resilient. Mr. Komizo also met with and affirmed further collaboration with representatives from peace NGOs, including Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), which has led the "Back from the Brink" campaign that encourages US cities to pass resolutions and proclamations in support of nuclear disarmament.



▲ Meeting with Mayor of Oakland



▲ Meeting with Mayor of Los Angeles



◀ Meeting with Mayor of Santa Barbara (seated front left) and officials of Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

On March 11 and 12, Mr. Komizo was invited to join the “[2019 International Nuclear Policy Conference](#)” hosted by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Over 800 experts and officials from over 45 countries and international organizations attended. This conference is organized semi-annually to provide an update on the current global state of affairs relating to nuclear weapons and to enable non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament experts to meet, refresh acquaintances, and establish future contacts. Mr. Komizo was an invited speaker on a panel entitled, “Proliferation Prognostication: Predicting the Nuclear Future”, in which he related the message of the hibakusha and the work of Mayors for Peace, as well as discussing the significant role of city mayors in nuclear disarmament. He also stressed the need for diverse civil society actors to consolidate their efforts to achieve a world without nuclear weapons.



Addressing at the “2019 International Nuclear Policy Conference”

Reports on Mr. Komizo's activities in the US will be posted on the Mayors for Peace website soon.

■ Applications for the 2019 Youth Exchange for Peace: Support Program for “HIROSHIMA and PEACE” Course

“HIROSHIMA and PEACE” is an intensive summer course hosted by the Hiroshima City University, in which students from around the world study and discuss Hiroshima and peace in English. This year again, Mayors for Peace will conduct a program to provide financial and other support to selected youth from member cities participating in the course and is now accepting applications for participation in this program from member cities.

We request that each member city widely advertise this program in their city, choose up to three local applicants, and email the required documents **by Friday April 12, 2019** at 3pm in Japan Standard Time (UTC +9).

Hiroshima City University and the Mayors for Peace Secretariat will select the participants and notify member cities of the results in the middle of May 2019.

▼ Details of the program on the Mayors for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/ecbn/projects/2019_HAP.html

▼ Please email completed application documents to:

mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

▼ Report of last year's program on the Mayors for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/ecbn/projects/2018_HAP_result.html

■Cervia has become the Lead City of Italy

On February 13, the City of Cervia, located in the north-east of Italy, formally became the Lead City of the Italian Chapter of Mayors for Peace. The City has been committed to raising awareness for peace among its citizens, especially young generations, including many peace events centering on a second-generation A-bombed ginkgo tree from Hiroshima, which was planted in the city in 2015. Since 2016, the City has organized special events every year connecting the city and Hiroshima with video-conferencing system to deliver hibakusha testimonies to students in a local primary school. In 2017, the City invited a hibakusha from Hiroshima to share her A-bomb experiences with its citizens.

As of March 1, with 511 member cities, Italy is home to the fourth largest number of member cities of Mayors for Peace in the world after Japan, Iran, and Germany. It is hoped that the network of Italian member cities will be strengthened and Mayors for Peace activities in Italy will be further promoted through Cervia's leadership.

Last year, two of the Vice Presidents of Mayors for Peace accepted the role of Lead City: Ypres as the Lead City of Belgian Chapter in May and Biograd na Moru for the Croatian Chapter in June. There are currently 24 Lead Cities around the world, which we hope will lead the promotion of proactive and independent activities appropriate to each region.

■Save the date: the 2nd Mayors' Summit and International Conference on Living Together in Düsseldorf

On June 10 and 11, 2015, [the International Summit of Mayors on Living Together](#) was held at the initiative of the City of Montréal, a Vice President of Mayors for Peace and the Lead City in Canada. The summit was a high-level meeting of Mayors from all regions in order to discuss the main challenges around social cohesiveness and diversity in cities worldwide. The discussions within the summit resulted in the signing of [the Montreal Declaration on Living Together](#), as well as the creation of the International Observatory of Mayors on Living Together. The Observatory is a tool for collaboration and the exchange of best practices related to “living together.”

We are pleased to inform you that the City of Düsseldorf, also a member city of Mayors for Peace, working together with Montréal and the Observatory, will host the next summit. The 2nd Mayors' Summit and International Conference on Living Together will thus be held from August 30 to September 1. We invite mayors who are interested in participating to save the date.



(Flyer provided by International Observatory of Mayors on Living Together)

More details will follow. Please stay tuned for more information.

<Report from the City of Montréal >

▼ For more information, please contact:

internationales@duesseldorf.de

▼ Save the date: 2nd Mayors Summit on Living Together (International Observatory of Mayors on Living Together website):

<https://observatoireivreensemble.org/en/save-the-date-2nd-mayors-summit-on-living-together>

■Regional Chapter Activities

< Catalan Chapter >

* **Holding a conference for the eighth anniversary of the start of the Syria conflict**

On March 15, the Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace held a conference in Barcelona to remember the eight years of conflict in Syria. The violence in Syria has caused hundreds of thousands of deaths, millions of refugees and displaced persons, tens of thousands of cities and towns destroyed by bombs. It is considered one of the most serious humanitarian crises in the 21st century. For that reason, the Catalan Chapter and a Catalan NGO Fundipau co-organized the conference “8 years of conflict in Syria. The role of cities: solidarity, refugees and peacebuilding”, coinciding with the beginning of a peaceful popular revolt on March 15, 2011 against the regime of Bashar al-Assad, in the framework of the Arab springs.



(Photo: The Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace)

The event was divided into three round tables made up of Syrian refugees, political analysts, experts and local actors from Catalan institutions and organizations.

<Report from the Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace>

▼ Statement on Syria by the Mayors for Peace network of Catalonia:

http://www.granollers.cat/sites/default/files/usuaris/u760/jornadasiria_manifest_eng.pdf

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

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/190322_eight_years_Syria.html

■ Member City Activities

< Varese, Italy >

*Event to celebrate Varese's joining Mayors for Peace

In January this year, Varese, a city in northern Italy joined Mayors for Peace. The City joined thanks to the help of Professor Giorgio Zamperetti of the University of Insubria, which has a campus in Varese, after Professor Zamperetti visited Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima in 2015.

On February 27, the City organized a public event jointly with the University of Insubria to publicize Varese's becoming a member of Mayors for Peace. The event was held in the town hall of Varese, attended by about 50 people, including the Mayor of Varese, Professor Zamperetti, and many other City and university officials.

On the occasion of this celebration event, Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima sent a video message as the President of Mayors for Peace to express his warmest welcome saying that "I feel truly encouraged that the City of Varese has become our ally."



(Photo: University of Insubria)

▼ Press release about Varese's joining Mayors for Peace (in Italian, the University of Insubria website):

<https://www.uninsubria.it/eventi/varese-entra-far-parte-di-mayors-peace>

< Oświęcim, Poland >

*International art competition for children and youth "Let's Give Peace to the World"

The City of Oświęcim, Poland, which is known for being the site of the Auschwitz concentration camp, has been a member city of Mayors for Peace since 1993. The City is currently supporting the 18th edition of the international art competition: "Let's Give Peace to the World". Children and youth aged 7-19 are invited to submit artworks that present the surrounding reality in an artistic way, expressing the right to live in a world free of wars. The submission deadline is June 28, 2019.

▼ Details for submission, including where to send the entries:

<http://www.ock.org.pl/plik.php?id=870>

<<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 March 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 Chugoku Shimbun has thoroughly revamped some of its sections this month. One of them is the “Peace Page,” a section for peace-related news, which usually appears on Monday. A new section has been added that will feature articles which discuss various issues from the viewpoint of Hiroshima. The first article in this section was about “usable nuclear weapons” being developed by the United States.

The administration of former U.S. President Barack Obama spent a huge amount of money on nuclear arms, while advocating a “world without nuclear weapons.” Then last year President Donald Trump said that his administration would pursue “flexible and secure nuclear capability.” On February 25, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) announced that it had completed its first production unit of low-yield submarine-launched ballistic-missile warhead after modifying its existing strategic nuclear warheads. The NNSA is responsible for the production and management of nuclear warheads under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Energy.

On February 7, a bill to ban “the research and development, production or deployment of the Trident D5 low-yield nuclear warhead” was introduced by 22 members of Congress from the Democratic Party. A similar bill was put forth last year, but it was rejected. Another attempt is now being made after the Democrats regained a majority in the House of Representatives in the mid-term elections that were held last November. Anti-nuclear groups and arms control experts have expressed their support for the bill.

There must not be “usable nuclear weapons” — nuclear weapons that are condoned for use. We must continue to watch this situation closely and, at the same time, send out our messages from Hiroshima. The focus of our efforts will always be on a world without nuclear weapons.

Please visit the following links for more peace-related news.

- Editorial: U.S. begins efforts to produce low-yield nuclear warhead

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=89782>

- Editorial: U.S. unable to call on North Korea to denuclearize when it continues to conduct nuclear tests

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=87505>

- Peace Message by Hidehiko Yuzaki, Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture

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

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

The Mayors for Peace Secretariat has been seeking examples of peace education initiatives conducted by any organization (city hall/school/NGO, etc.) in Mayors for Peace member cities that are conducive to raising peace-seeking spirit among future generations. The Mayors for Peace Secretariat accepts reports on a rolling basis, so please send your report whenever your project is completed. The submitted reports will be posted on our website and in the Mayors for Peace News Flash as a source of information for other member cities that are planning to launch their own peace education program.

▼ Call for Input on the Mayors for Peace website:

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

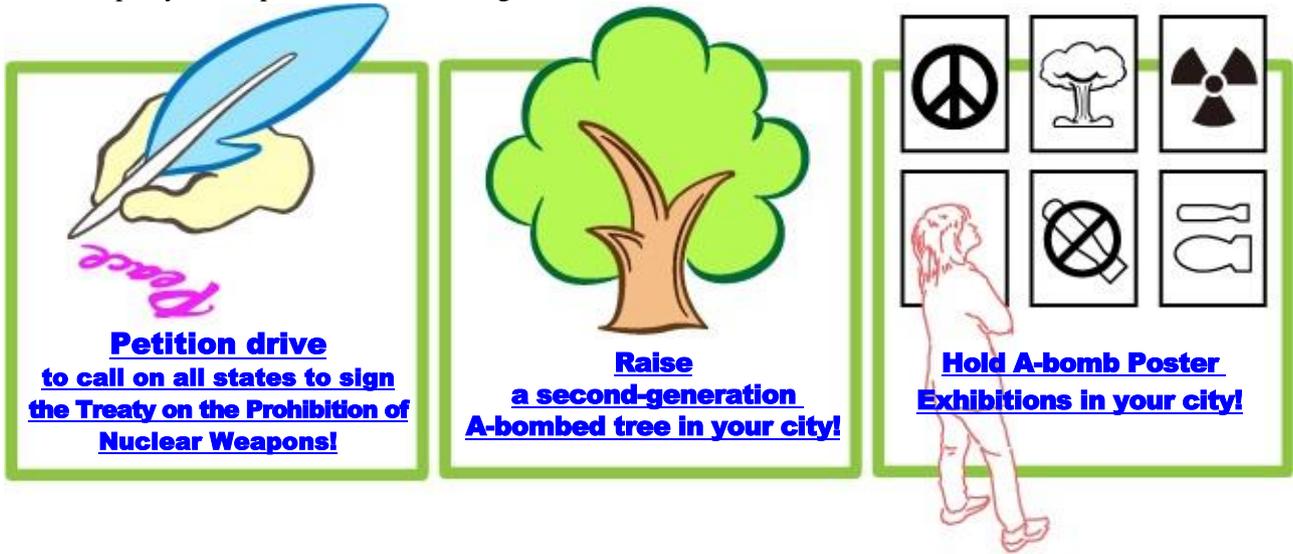
■Request to Promote Various Measures Based on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2017-2020)

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”:



■Last Month’s Visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace

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

*February 16 - H. E. Mr. Sebastian Kurz, Chancellor of the Republic of Austria

■Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,735 Cities in 163 Countries/Regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on March 1, we added 26 new member cities, bringing the total membership to 7,735.

This month, we welcomed 12 cities from Lebanon. In August 2018, the Ambassador of Lebanon to Japan attended the Peace Memorial Ceremony in Hiroshima and after his return asked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants in Lebanon to invite mayors in his country to join Mayors for Peace, which led to the 12 new members from Lebanon.

From Togo, we welcomed the City of Notse, thanks to the efforts of Notse’s sister city Tsévié, which had joined Mayors for Peace in September 2018.

We also welcomed the City of Zagazig from Egypt. In October 2018, the country's Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research met Mayor Matsui, who requested the Minister for his help in expanding the membership of Mayors for Peace in Egypt. The Minister responded to this call and invited mayors in his country to join Mayors for Peace, which led to Zagazig's decision to join our network.

From Germany, 7 cities joined thanks to the continued efforts of Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City of the German Chapter of Mayors for Peace. We also welcomed a total of 5 cities from Mauritania, Norway, and Brazil.

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/2019/newmembers1903_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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