



Mayors for Peace News Flash

April 2019 / No.112

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

7,744 cities

in 163 countries and regions

(as of April 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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■ Release of the Mayors for Peace Promotional Video

[March 29, 2019]

On March 29, the Mayors for Peace Secretariat released on YouTube a short promotional video to introduce the work of Mayors for Peace as part of our efforts to raise our profile, secure wider global support, and expand our membership.

- URL: <https://youtu.be/63FHoYLC4oY>
- Title: Join us at Mayors for Peace!
(Mayors for Peace Promotional Video)
- Language: English
- Duration: about 10 minutes



Click to see the promotional video on YouTube

In this video, the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and nine of the leading member cities of Mayors for Peace talk about their own and other cities’ initiatives to achieve “Realization of a world without nuclear weapons” and “Realization of safe and resilient cities”, and invite more cities around the world to join our cause.

We would be grateful if you could utilize this promotional video at various occasions, such as at local peace events. Sharing this video on your city’s website and social media platforms is highly encouraged. Please also use this video when you invite the mayors of your sister/friendship cities to join Mayors for Peace. It is our sincere hope that the video will be viewed widely, and will help to expand membership and support for Mayors for Peace.

■Application for the “International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future, 2019 Hiroshima” – Application Deadline April 25

The International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future is an annual youth conference established in 2005, which aims to bring together youth (high school students and college students) from Hiroshima’s sister and friendship cities and have them think about peace, deepen the friendship and mutual understanding between our cities, and raise awareness about world peace among the next generation.

This conference is hosted alternately by the City of Hiroshima and its sister and friendship cities and this year’s conference will be held in Hiroshima from August 4 to 12. Since 2017, Mayors for Peace has provided financial and other support to selected youth participants from member cities in years when the conference has been hosted by the City of Hiroshima and is currently accepting applications for participation from member cities.



A youth from a Mayors for Peace member city giving a presentation during the 2017 program

We request each member city to widely advertise this program in their city, select one applicant in the case of multiple applications, and submit all required documents by email. The Executive Committee for the Conference and the Mayors for Peace Secretariat will select the participants and notify their member cities of the results at the end of May 2019.

Application Deadline: Thursday, April 25th, 2019, by 3pm in Japan Standard Time (UTC+9)

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

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

▼ Please email completed application documents to:

mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

▼ Report of the support program in 2017 on the Mayors for Peace Website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/ecbn/projects/2017_IYCPF_result.html

■Call for candidates for the UCLG Peace Prize 2019 – Application Deadline April 30

In its Action Plan, Mayors for Peace has designated United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) as one of the associations of local authorities which we will establish collaboration with. The Mayor of Granollers, Spain, a Vice President of Mayors for Peace, is a member of UCLG World Council and is encouraging Mayors for Peace member cities to participate in the 2019 edition of the UCLG Peace Prize, which is awarded to local governments worldwide that implement strategies for conflict prevention, peace-building, and post-conflict reconstruction.

The Prize celebrates successful initiatives undertaken by cities who either work to prevent or overcome conflicts in their own communities, or who have helped local governments in conflict areas in their striving for peace or justice and stimulates others to follow suit. Moreover, it aims to generate international public attention for the role local governments play in ensuring sustainable and peaceful development.

The winner of the UCLG Peace Prize will receive a modest financial prize of €20,000 as well as a specially designed physical object. The first edition of the Peace Prize (2016) was won by the City of Kauswagan (Philippines), which was recognized for its project “From arms to farms”, an excellent example of courageous leadership, combining initiatives for peacebuilding and local economic development.

The application deadline is April 30, 2019. Eligibility for the Prize, application form and other details can be found on the UCLG Peace Prize website below.

▼ The UCLG Peace Prize website:

<https://peaceprize.uclg.org>

▼ Promotional Video about the Peace Prize (YouTube):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7sZEFSCkim8>



Click to see the promotional video on YouTube

■ Request for Payment of the 2019 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 March 19, 2019) 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 2019 membership fee was sent to each city by email on April 1. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

▼ Request for the 2019 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee (Mayors for Peace website):

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

■ Announcement of the 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in Hiroshima

Mayors for Peace will hold its 10th General Conference in Hiroshima from August 3 through 6, 2020.

The year 2020, which marks the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, will be a year of great importance for Mayors for Peace. It is the year set as the target for the abolition of nuclear weapons when “The 2020 Vision (Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons)” was developed in October 2003, with the hope of achieving a world without nuclear weapons while the hibakusha are still alive. The NPT Review Conference, which is held every five years, will also be convened next year.

In this context, the forthcoming General Conference will provide a vital opportunity for us to discuss various topics that are of great significance to our activities, including the formulation of a post-2020 Vision and the next Mayors for Peace Action Plan. We sincerely hope that you will come to Hiroshima to attend this important conference.

In preparing for your attendance, please note that the fees for accommodation are each delegation’s responsibility, while Mayors for Peace Secretariat is planning to secure a certain number of hotel rooms in Hiroshima for the Conference participants. Please also note that transportation to and from Hiroshima needs to be arranged by each delegation. As the General Conference is scheduled during the Tokyo Olympic Games, it is expected that the air tickets may be more expensive than usual and also hard to book. We would like to ask you to secure budget for the travel expenses as needed and start booking well in advance.

More detailed information, such as the schedule of the conference and how to apply for visa, will be sent to all member cities next year.

■ The Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” – Report on Award Ceremonies

Last year, Mayors for Peace hosted its first children’s art competition on the theme of “Peaceful Towns”, which was aimed at children in all its member cities. Out of 469 works from 29 member cities in 14 countries, eight prize-winning works were selected. Award ceremonies were held to award each prize winner with a certificate to honor their achievement.



▲ Hiroshima, Japan



▲ Uryupinsk, Russia



▲Jurbarkas, Lithuania



▲Kazan, Russia

It is our hope that the prize winners will continue to keep up their motivation to do something to create peace and also that through this competition, all participants had a chance to think about what peace means to each of them. We look forward to receiving many entries for the second edition of the Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns”, which will be open for submissions later this year.

▼The Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” in 2018 (Mayors for Peace website):

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

■Mayors for Peace Representatives Visit Mexico City

[February, 2019]

In late February, Mayors for Peace Executive Advisor and North American Coordinator Jackie Cabasso and her colleague Marcia Campos met with high level representatives of Mexico City to update and renew contacts there. Ms. Campos was centrally involved in recruiting then-Mayor Marcelo Ebrard, who joined Mayors for Peace in 2010. Mexico City subsequently became a Vice President City and later, the Lead City for the Mexican chapter.

Under the new Constitution, Mexico City has a new status. Now called “CDMX” (Ciudad de México in Spanish), Mexico City is more than a city, but not quite a State, encompassing 16 separate municipalities with their own mayors and councils. The new Head of Government of CDMX (the “uber” mayor) is Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo. With a population of more than 21 million, Mexico City is the most populous metropolitan area in the Western Hemisphere.

On February 27, Ms. Cabasso and Ms. Campos were warmly welcomed, in two separate meetings, by Dr. Diana Alarcón Gonzalez, General Coordinator of Advisors and International Affairs for Mexico City, and Rosa Isela Rodríguez Velázquez, Chief of Staff for Claudia Sheinbaum. Both pledged their support for Mayors for Peace and its mission and confirmed that Claudia Sheinbaum will continue to serve as Vice-President of Mayors for Peace. Dr. Alarcón will be the main point of contact for Mayors for Peace, working in close cooperation with Ms. Rodríguez.



(From left to right) Jackie Cabasso, Rosa Isela Rodríguez and Marcia Campos

Ms. Cabasso and Ms. Campos briefed Dr. Alarcón and Ms. Rodríguez on recent Mayors for Peace developments and the desire for both quantitative growth and qualitative engagement of member cities. To help Mayors for Peace reach its goal of 10,000 member cities by August 2020, Ms. Rodríguez promised to reach out to the 16 Mexico City Mayors.

Dr. Alarcón reported that Mexico City and the Mexican Foreign Ministry had earlier in the month jointly organized a three-day event commemorating the 52nd anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the world’s first Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in a populated region. The event took place at the Plaza de las Tres Culturas, the location where the Treaty was signed. As part of the commemoration, a memorial plaque was installed there. The Treaty commemoration included a meeting of OPANAL (the Organization for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean) including representatives from all 33 member states, which at its conclusion issued a [Communiqué on the occasion of the 52nd Anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco](#).

While in Mexico City, Ms. Cabasso and Ms. Campos also met with officials at the Mexican Foreign Ministry and with Jannete Guerrero Maya, a member of the Mexico City Congress, who was the principal organizer of the Treaty of Tlatelolco commemoration. Ms. Guerrero expressed her strong commitment to bringing the topic of

peace to the cities and indicated her desire to organize a public art and education event at Tlatelolco on September 26, the United Nations International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

<Report by Jackie Cabasso, Mayors for Peace Executive Advisor and North American Coordinator>

■“Peace News from Hiroshima”

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

It was nearly 10 years ago that Barack Obama, then the president of the United States, appealed for “a world without nuclear weapons” in a speech he delivered in Prague. This speech made in the capital of the Czech Republic on April 5, 2009 thrilled the people of Hiroshima. Mr. Obama was even awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for that year. But over the past 10 years the United States does not seem to have made much effort to advance nuclear disarmament.

One researcher has pointed out that half of Mr. Obama’s speech raised the ideal of a world without nuclear weapons while the other half was about the reality that the United States would maintain its nuclear deterrence as long as nuclear weapons exist in the world. The people of Hiroshima responded favorably to the former, while the Japanese government and conservatives in the United States placed more value on the latter.

Many things have happened over the past decade. One major event was Mr. Obama’s visit to Hiroshima, the first visit made to Hiroshima by a sitting president of the nation that dropped the atomic bomb on this city. Another key development that deserves special mention is the fact that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted at the United Nations.

The chair of an A-bomb survivors’ organization reaffirmed his determination to continue working for the cause of nuclear abolition by saying, “We ourselves have obtained a tool (the nuclear weapons ban treaty) that could lead to the elimination of nuclear weapons. Whoever the leader of the nuclear superpower is, we will just keep moving forward with unwavering conviction.” The leader of another survivors’ group said, “Mr. Obama can act more freely now than when he was president, so I hope he will work with us.”

All of us must continue to stay positive and keep making persistent efforts to urge the superpowers to act. Let us persevere and realize a world without nuclear weapons. There is no time to lose.

Please visit the Hiroshima Peace Media Center website and see the following peace-related articles.

- Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum website presents film footage of daily life in Hiroshima before A-bombing
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=90278>

- Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum to reopen on April 25 with new exhibition space to convey A-bomb devastation
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=90251>

■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>

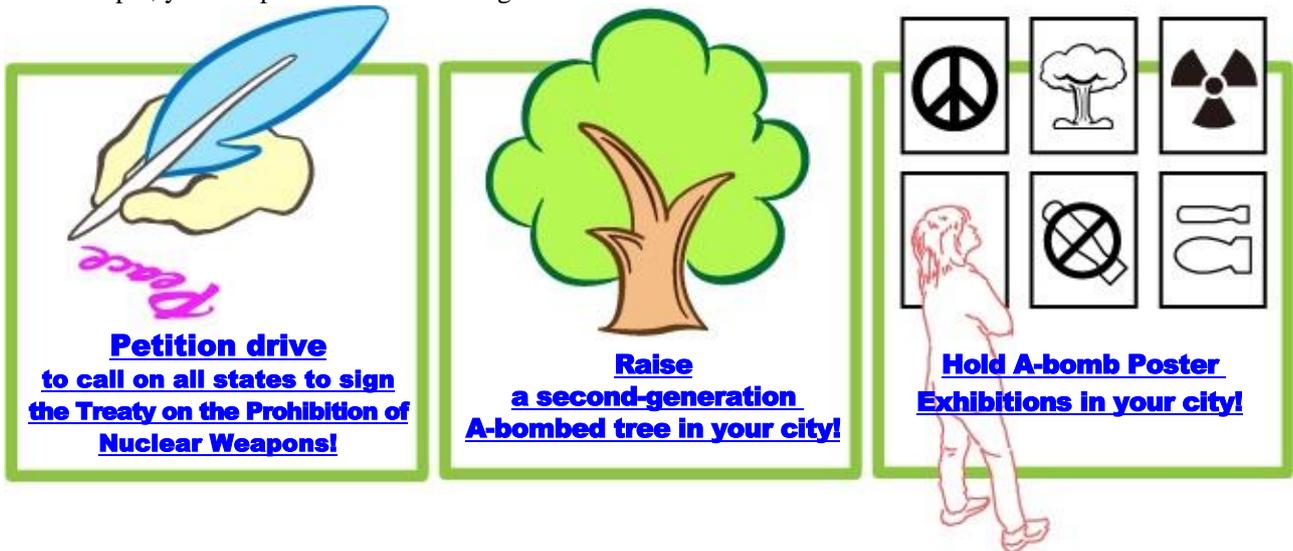
■Request to Promote Various Measures Based on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2017-2020)

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.

*March 1 - The parliamentary delegation of the Republic of Iraq

*March 29 - H.E. Sayyid Badr bin Saud bin Hareb Al Busaidi, Minister Responsible for Defence Affairs of Sultanate of Oman

■Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,744 Cities in 163 Countries/Regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on April 1, we gained 14 new member cities, bringing the total membership to 7,744.

From Nepal we welcomed the City of Melamchi, thanks to the invitation from Melamchi’s Italian sister city Rovereto. From Germany, 12 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 the City of Monteleone Sabino from Italy.

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/newmembers1904_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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