



Mayors for Peace Newsletter

Mayors for Peace Secretariat

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To Build a 21st Century of Peace and Humanity

From August 4 (Sat.) to 9 (Thurs.), the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki hosted the 5th World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity. The theme was, “*In order for Humankind to Live through the 21st Century - Toward Reconciliation between Humankind and Science and Technology.*”

This conference drew 200 participants representing 105 cities in 28 countries and two organizations, who came together to discuss the vast number of nuclear weapons that still threaten us as well as regional conflict, terrorism, hunger and poverty, and global environmental destruction. This year the special focus was on the film and electronic media environment with which our children must contend. Given the recognition of myriad forms of violence, active debate ensued regarding the elimination of nuclear weapons, promotion of peace education, the peaceful resolution of conflict, and preserving the global environment. The Hiroshima and Nagasaki Appeal adopted at the end of the conference expressed the results of this discussion. (see page 5).

This conference included 29 cities and 2 organizations from nuclear-weapon states or suspected nuclear-weapon states, the highest number ever. This increase is the fruit of steady recruiting efforts by the Mayors for Peace, but also indicates intensified public demand in those nations for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The General Conference, which began on the fifth, discussed several important matters that will significantly affect the future of the Mayors for Peace. The first was election of executive cities. After discussion, the following cities were elected: Hiroshima (Japan) remains the president city with the seven vice president cities being: Nagasaki (Japan), Como (Italy), Hannover (Germany), Malakoff (France), Manchester (UK), Muntinlupa (Philippines), and Volgograd (Russia).

The second key issue was a name change. “World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity”



Mayor of Hiroshima, Tadatashi Akiba delivering greetings at the opening ceremony

was deemed too long. It was changed to “Mayors for Peace,” which is shorter and easier to remember.

The third issue was “an Overall Action Plan.” To make the 21st “a century of peace and humanity,” the decision was taken to strengthen the activities of the Mayors for Peace. Reflecting the will of the participants, “an Overall Action Plan” (see pg. 6 and 7) was adopted that specifies concrete goals and objectives. Under this plan, Mayors for Peace activities do not end with its every-four-year conference. There was a clear shift in policy to engage the organization in activities that will take place year round. This change was extremely well received, praised by some as the most important outcome of this conference. Following this action plan, the Mayors for Peace, an NGO associated with the level of government closest to the people, intends to implement concrete actions that will help to protect human rights in the face of all forms of violence, guarantee safety and security, and seek to build a century of peace and humanity through reconciliation and harmony based on reason and conscience. We ask for continued cooperation and support from all member cities.

Below is the summary of the conference focusing primarily on the Plenary and Subsessions.

Opening Ceremony and Special Lecture ■■■■■■

The Opening Ceremony began at 4:00 pm on August 4. First, Hiroshima Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba, president of the Conference, offered an opening declaration. In his greeting he remarked, “The 20th century was a century of war and violence. We want to make the new century one of peace and humanity. The role to be played by cities in that endeavor is enormous.”

The mayor was followed by Kenzo Oshima, UN under-secretary-general, who read a letter from Kofi Annan, the UN secretary-general, that stated in part, “Your theme – Toward Reconciliation between Humankind and Science and Technology – is timely and very important... For in the end, it is the human network that sustains our progress and defines our success.”

Sadayuki Yoshida, treasurer of Hiroshima Prefecture, read a greeting from Hiroshima Governor Yuzan Fujita that said, “Gathering city mayors from around the world under one roof to deepen solidarity and discuss how to make the 21st a century of peace is profoundly significant.”

Finally, Michio Morishima, emeritus professor at the University of London, gave a special lecture entitled “*Towards Globalism from Nationalism*” in which he declared, “If nation states pursue only their own interests, the Earth will continue to deteriorate. Rather than each state defending itself, we must all learn to act in defense of the planet. To save the environment, Japan must cooperate with China and South Korea to create a North Asian sphere of cooperation similar to that being developed by the EU.”

Plenary Session ■■■■■■

The Plenary Session I began at 10:00 a.m. on August 5, with the theme, “*What Citizens Can Do for a 21st Century Free from Nuclear Weapons.*”

First, coordinator Toshiki Mogami, professor at International Christian University, presented a keynote report in which he said, “I believe we need to examine the reconciliation with scientific technology that we can obtain through the abolition of nuclear weapons as well as the potential for reconciliation between individuals, peoples, and nations to be derived from the easing of tensions or resolution of conflict.”

Judge Christopher Weeramanry, former vice-president of the International Court of Justice, offered a special lecture, stating, “How it is possible to argue that nuclear weaponry does not offend the basic principles of international law... The general public all over the world needs to be told about these things and there is no better body of people in the world to undertake this task than the Mayors for Peace.”

After his speech, the representatives of various cities offered comments, including: “Cities should give their citizens accurate information about the horror of nuclear weapons and about fighting and conflict.”, “It is important to accept the A-bomb experience as our own legacy.”, “The authority of the ICJ should be expanded.”, “This is the time to plant and nurture those seeds of peace in our hearts.”

Plenary Session ■■■■■■

At 2:20 pm on August 5, the Plenary Session II began, and the theme was, “*The Peace Culture among Children – Eradicating the Culture of Violence.*”

First, coordinator Margot Kaessmann, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hannover, gave a keynote report in which she said, “Non-violence itself is power. It is the Achilles heel of violence... If children are to build a culture of peace, adults must show them the way.”

Then, city representatives offered such comments as: “It is important to prevent excessive contact with electronic media and increase person-to-person contact.”, “Media and other things that influence the way our children think should be controlled by adults.”, “We are implementing exchanges with children whose locales are in conflict.”, “It is important to teach the culture of peace in early childhood.”

Subsession ■■■■■■

The Subsession I took place at 2:30 pm on August 6. The theme was, “*Making the A-bomb Experience a Legacy Shared by All.*”

First, coordinator Katsuya Kodama, assistant professor at Mie University, gave the keynote report saying, “We cannot allow the A-bomb experience to be shut away into the past. It



Former Vice-President of the International Court of Justice, Christopher G. Weeramanry offering the Guest Speech at Plenary Session

We, the representatives of 105 cities and two organizations from 28 countries, met at the 5th World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and discussed in great detail the keynote theme: In Order for Humankind to Live through the 21st Century - Toward Reconciliation between Humankind and Science and Technology. The secretariat made thorough preparations in order to make this conference more rewarding, and as a result, we found that our discussions were more lively than those at previous conferences.

The 20th century was a time of brilliant scientific and technological advances. Yet, during those same 100 years, humankind created such tangible threats to its own survival as nuclear weaponry and destruction of the environment. At this Conference, we reflected on these mistakes of the 20th century, and confirmed our resolve to make the 21st century the 'century of humanity.'

By 'century of humanity' we mean a century in which all life is valued and respected -a century in which peace is realized not through violence but through reconciliation, cooperation, reason and conscience. Above all, this new 'century' should mean that the children who will shoulder the responsibility for the future are ensured hope and vibrant, enjoyable lives.

We see, however, that many forms of violence persist on the earth. Great quantities of nuclear weapons remain on our planet, and the territories they target extend even into space. The earth is being destroyed by such processes as global warming and contamination from radioactive materials and waste. Throughout the world we see continual local conflict, growing numbers of refugees and violations of human rights, as well as widening economic gaps, and hunger, poverty, and infectious diseases inflicting hardship and suffering in developing countries.

Millions of children today are obliged to live in extremely harsh conditions. Children are sent into battle as soldiers. Far too many suffer physical, mental and spiritual abuse at home, in school, and in their communities, as well as abuse on the basis of their racial background. Drug use by children is also a serious problem. Children are threatened by exposure to violence through TV, movies, and electronic media, and are far more prone to commit violent acts, often posing a menace to society.

Though national leaders throughout the world are well aware of these challenges, their attention is focused on pursuing national and economic interests rather than implementing effective measures to deal with these challenges. It is ordinary people, and the cities in which they dwell, that suffer most from wars and violence. We, as representatives of cities, have confirmed once again that it is the responsibility of cities to protect the human rights of our citizens and ensure their security.

To create a 'century of humanity', in which priority is given to the security of each individual person as well as to human interests, we, the participants in this World Conference of Mayors, jointly appeal to all governments, the United Nations, and other international organizations, to take the following actions:

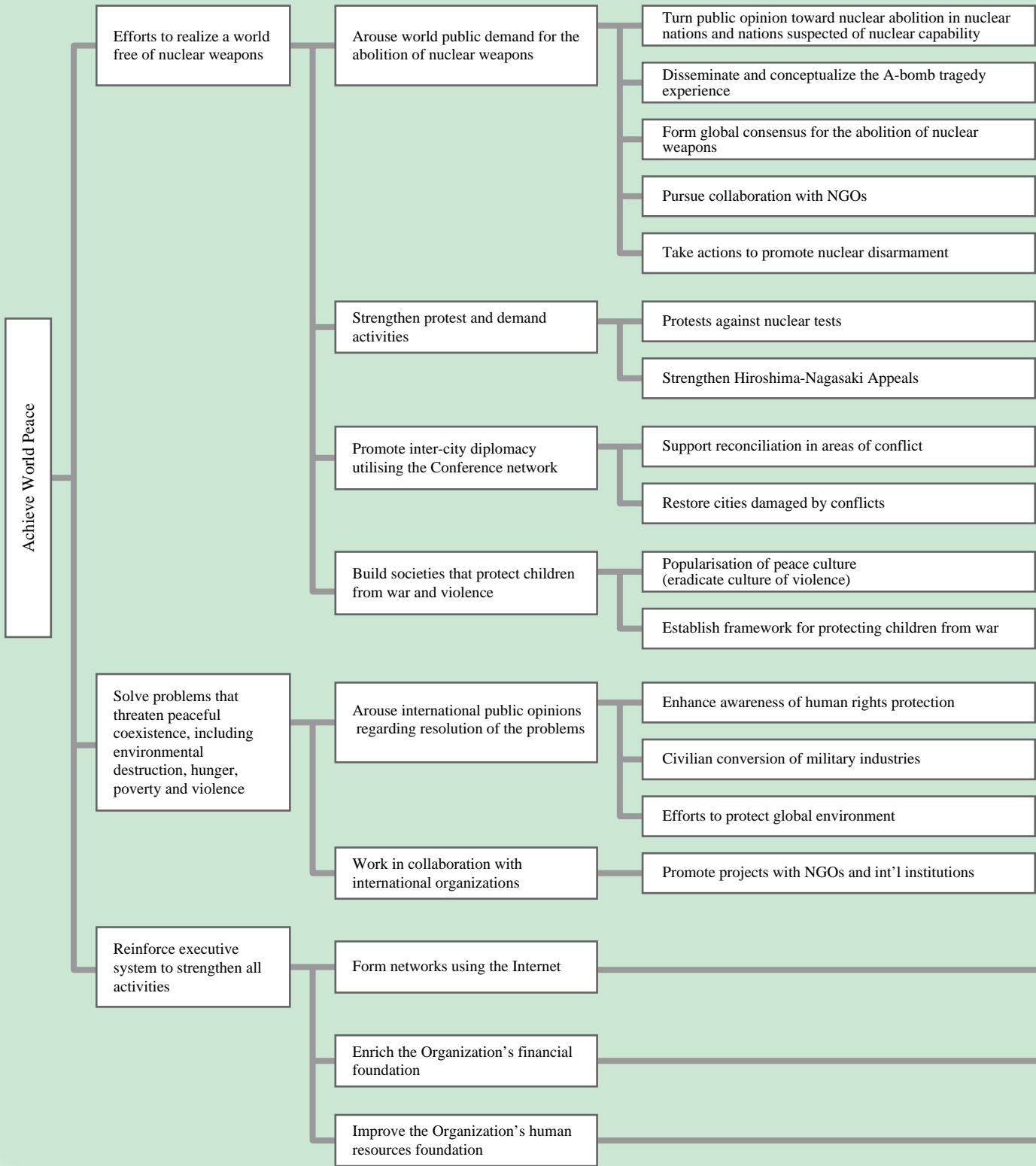
1. Respect the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice regarding the illegality of the use of nuclear weapons and strive to conclude as quickly as possible an international treaty banning nuclear weapons; halt immediately any program that might trigger a new arms race in space; and promote total abolition of all inhumane weapons with the potential to inflict lasting damage to people and to the environment.
2. Further international commitment to regulating small and light arms which spur local and ethnic conflicts and take many lives.
3. Work toward implementing the actions of the entire international community to address environmental problems, including the immediate ratification of the Kyoto Protocol.
4. Drastically reduce military budgets and use the enormous funds that will become available to actively promote the conversion of industrial structures from military to civilian uses.
5. Establish, before the end of the decade, an international framework to protect children from wars and other forms of violence in accordance with the U.N. Declaration of 2001-2010 as the 'International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World.'
6. Work to resolve social injustice and close the widening gap between wealth and poverty by promoting a culture of peace.

We, in accordance with the Comprehensive Action Plan ratified at this 5th General Conference, will work even harder to realize the 'century of humanity' by actively taking appropriate measures to promote the Plan, giving particular emphasis to the following:

1. Work hand-in-hand with international NGOs, NPOs, and other entities to abolish nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, to radically reduce levels of conventional weapons, and to seek reconciliation and encourage confidence-building among peoples in conflict.
2. Strengthen multifaceted cooperation for the resolution of global problems by linking cities through the Internet and other means of communication.
3. Promote peace education at all levels to give the children who will lead the 21st century a love of the earth and respect for all its myriad forms of life; systematize the meaning of the first-hand experiences of the atomic bombing in a scholarly way.

Objectives

System of Measures



Action plans (: plans already implemented; : priority plans; ____ : plans to be implemented immediately)

Increase members in NWS and suspect states
Select leader cities and Executive Official cities
Establish mayors' conferences in respective regions

Develop and implement member city program to establish Hiroshima-Nagasaki peace study courses in universities around the world
Sponsor Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb exhibitions in member cities

Develop and implement measures to reflect ICJ advisory opinions at city level
Promote Open City Campaign

Examine and implement collaborative programs with NGOs
Research into the Psychological Effects of the Existence of Nuclear Weapons

Conduct research with a view to research on nuclear disarmament (including research concerning nuclear waste treatment)

Take new actions to complete final statements of the NPT review conference
Ask members in testing nations to issue protests

Prepare Hiroshima-Nagasaki Appeals that reflect member city consensus reached at general conference

Develop projects for training personnel who will help prevent and resolve conflicts

Develop Mayors Conference projects to support war-damage restoration

Study to improve relations between children and electronic media
Prepare peace ed. materials and distribute them to member cities

Study to establish framework for protecting children from war

Prepare teaching materials regarding human rights protection

Study approaches to be taken by Mayors Conference toward creating peace industries

Study global environmental protection measures in model cities

Develop and implement projects in collaboration with NGOs and international institutions

Create and regularly update the Organization's Web site
Create and regularly expand the Organization's mailing list
Introduce instances of cities carrying out advanced or exemplary programs

Collect information regarding sponsors
Secure new sponsors

Strengthen and improve Secretariat system



Protests against an American Subcritical Nuclear Test

On September 26, 2001, the United States conducted its 14th subcritical nuclear test. This test, coming as it did so quickly after the terrorist attacks in the US, was reportedly designed to threaten terrorist organizations and terror-supporting nations with the power of nuclear weapons, but this further display of America's intention to cling to nuclear weapons tramples on the desires of the majority of the world's people to abolish nuclear weapons. The Mayors for Peace sent the following letter of protest to the US government signed by all eight executive cities.

Letter of Protest

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States of America

September 27, 2001

On September 26, the United States conducted its 14th subcritical nuclear test. On entering the 21st century, millions of people around the world are working harder than ever to free this new century from nuclear weapons. Your repeated subcritical nuclear testing and obvious intention to maintain nuclear weapons tramples on the hopes of the vast majority of the world's people. We are outraged by this test and, on behalf of the 510 cities in 103 countries that are members of the Conference of Mayors for Peace, we vehemently protest.

According to news reports, the present test is designed to brandish the power of nuclear weapons before the guilty terrorist organization and any governments that support it. Worse yet, you are reportedly considering the possibility of actually using tactical nuclear weapons to exact your military revenge. We are gravely concerned that to accept such behavior is to justify the use of nuclear weapons as a means of revenge.

A cursory glance at 20th century history should be enough to see that the concept of nuclear deterrence invites the escalation and proliferation of nuclear weapons, creating a crisis that threatens the very existence of the human race. Now is no time to develop or proudly display nuclear weapons. Rather, we must concentrate on stopping their proliferation and establish a process by which they can be eliminated as soon as possible.

The Conference of Mayors for Peace demands that the United States immediately halt all subcritical nuclear testing. We further demand that you immediately ratify the CTBT, then work quickly toward conclusion of an effective cut-off treaty in a good-faith effort to build a new, nuclear-free world order in the 21st century.

Further, we urge you to consider extremely carefully any military action the United States might take in the response to the terrorist attack. We demand that you refrain absolutely from using nuclear weapons and avoid any other inhumane form of retaliation that could bring harm to innocent people.

Ten New Member Cities Join Mayors for Peace

Since January 31, 2001, the following ten cities have become members of the organization.

Allier, Arradon, Bagnolet, St. Pierré des Corps, Villejuif, (France); Visakhapatnam (India); Sirtori (Italy); Karachi, Peshawar (Pakistan); Taipei (Taiwan)

[City names are listed in alphabetical order of the countries to which they belong.]

Our membership as of November 30, 2001 including these ten cities, stands at 510 cities in 103 countries and regions.

Mayors for Peace Homepage Now Up

The Mayors for Peace homepage went up on the Internet in August this year. A summary of the 5th World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity and other recent information is posted there. Please be sure to make use of this powerful new tool.

(address) <http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/mayors/>

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