



# Mayors for Peace Newsletter

Mayors for Peace Secretariat

October 1, 2003 / No.19

## Establishing the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course - Concrete Efforts Underway -

About two years after beginning this effort in 2001, several universities are now offering credit courses or are working on concrete plans to do so. This project is steadily achieving results, and we report here our progress as of August 2003.

### Exploratory Meeting

In October 2001, Mayor Akiba visited the Paris Institute of Political Studies and requested that it offer a Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course. It was agreed that an international conference to explore the content of such a course and publicize the idea of this course would be held in 2003.

Subsequently, we communicated regularly with the Institute in preparation for the conference and the launching of the course. In May 2002, representatives of Tufts University (US), International Christian University (ICU) (Japan), and the Hiroshima Peace Institute met in Hiroshima to prepare for the international conference in Paris in 2003.

The conference took place on April 23 and 24, 2003. From Japan, Tadatoshi Akiba, mayor of Hiroshima and president of the Mayors for Peace, Professor Toshiki Mogami of ICU, and A-bomb survivor Seiko Ikeda, vice chair of the Hiroshima Prefectural Confederation of A-Bomb Sufferers Organizations, took part in planning the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course.

An important theme at this conference was the trend toward nuclear proliferation and the various problems causing that proliferation. Lectures from French and British experts as well as Professor Mogami contributed to a deeper discussion. Ms. Ikeda's description of her A-bomb experience touched the hearts of all participants and added emotional intensity.

Professor Bertrand Badie and Professor Guillaume Devin of the Institute, Mayor Akiba, and Professor Mogami discussed ways of establishing the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course and decided to begin with a month-long short-term intensive course at the doctorate level next spring.



Discussion at the Paris Institute of Political Studies

### Russian Conference and International Symposium

In May 2003, Chairman Tadaomi Saito of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, which oversees the secretariat of the Mayors for Peace, spent approximately one week in Russia attending an international symposium and a conference regarding the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Course.

On May 6, he spoke at a symposium in Moscow sponsored by the Russian Academy of Sciences Nuclear Safety Institute. After describing the contributions of survivors thus far, he made a powerful case for the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Course. Akihiro Takahashi, a survivor and former director of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, was originally scheduled to accompany Mr. Saito

to tell his A-bomb experience but was unable to attend due to poor health. In his place, slides were shown as survivor testimony was read in Russian. The message from Hiroshima clearly struck a chord with the participants; it inspired a loud round of appreciative applause.

Later, after discussing the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Course, Vice-Rector Alexander Sidorovich of Lomonosov Moscow State University commented, "Given the increasing danger that nuclear weapons will be used, the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Course is vital for promoting abolition. I would like to see it offered in several departments." He promised to continue this discussion with an eye toward eventual implementation.

On May 8, Chairman Saito visited Volgograd, a vice president city of the Mayors for Peace, where he attended an international conference at Volgograd State University. Again, he spoke about the need for the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Course and used slides to present the A-bomb experience.

During the conference in Volgograd, an exhibition of Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb posters allowed conference participants, students and the general public to encounter the reality of the atomic bombings. Dr. Ivan I. Kurilla, vice rector for International Programs, Volgograd State University, commented, "After this exhibition, I would like to use these posters in a course."



Chairman Saito lecturing in Moscow

### **Waseda University**

Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan, began its first Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course on April 19, 2003. The course will run until January next year. In June, Mayor Akiba and Noboru Tasaki, former Director of the Peace

Promotion Office of the City of Nagasaki, lectured to this class, and A-bomb testimony was given by survivor Shizuko Abe.

### **Support for a Model Course**

#### **Hiroshima-Nagasaki Seminar**

Six students studying at ICU on Rotary Club scholarships visited Hiroshima from April 5 to 7, 2003. Along with 15 students from Hiroshima they heard A-bomb testimony, listened to lectures about the physical and medical effects of the A-bomb, watched an A-bomb documentary film, then toured Peace Memorial Park and the museum. These experiences helped them confront the reality of the atomic bombings. Later, they took part in a lively exchange of opinion regarding peace and current international relations with researchers at the Hiroshima Peace Institute.



Participants listening intently to the lecture

#### **Japan Studies Association Workshop**

A workshop sponsored by the Japan Studies Association, American scholars who study and teach about Japan, took place from June 24 to 27, 2003. About 30 instructors who teach Japanese history and Japan-related subjects in American colleges and universities participated in lectures and panel discussions. Their breakout sessions focused on developing an appropriate curriculum and teaching materials for education regarding Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

By actually visiting the A-bombed cities, the participants encountered aspects of the bombing beyond what can be learned from books. They will undoubtedly use this deeper understanding as they seek materials and conduct their classes.

## **Emergency Campaign to Eliminate All Nuclear Weapons - Hiroshima Mayor Speaks at Non-Proliferation Treaty Prepcom -**



Tadatoshi Akiba, mayor of Hiroshima and president of Mayors for Peace, spoke before the NPT preparatory

committee on April 30 to demand the abolition of nuclear weapons. The mayor demanded that the NPT Review Conference in 2005 1) take all nuclear weapons off alert status, 2) stipulate a concrete timetable for the elimination of nuclear weapons, and 3) begin negotiations toward a nuclear weapons convention that will eliminate all nuclear weapons and include effective verification procedures. He also declared that nuclear weapons are an absolute evil and emphasized the extent to which the people of Hiroshima and most people around the world want to see such weapons eliminated.

His speech struck a chord with the participating delegates and NGO representatives, who rewarded the mayor with thunderous applause and a standing ovation.

## **Using the Internet to Strengthen Activities - Mayors for Peace Homepage and Mailing List - <http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/mayors>**

To encourage communication among member cities and help our conference undertake ongoing activities, the Secretariat is improving the conference homepage and mobilizing a member mailing list. The following new functions are now available.

### **1. Activity Page ([http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/mayors/cgi/eng/act\\_list.cgi](http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/mayors/cgi/eng/act_list.cgi))**

This page allows member cities to post invitations to or reports of their peace activities as well as general messages promoting the abolition of nuclear weapons.

### **2. Member City Directory**

(<http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/mayors/cgi/eng/search.cgi>)

In addition to the previous city-search function, the directory now presents summary information about each city.

### **3. Mailing list**

This function makes it possible to send information to other cities. The secretariat uses this list to distribute the conference newsletter, the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Peace Declarations, and other information.

JAPAN/Hiroshima	
City name	Hiroshima
Country name	JAPAN
Representative	Dr. Tadatoshi Akiba
Position	Mayor
Term	February 23, 1999 - February 22, 2003
Official words	Japanese
Population	1,134,799 (As of September 2002)
Area	741.75 km <sup>2</sup>
Main industries	Automobiles, parts and components manufacturing
Special products	Oyster
Tourist attraction	Peace Memorial Park
Frindly cities	Honolulu (US), Volgograd (Russia), Hannover (Germany), Chongqing (China), Daejeon (South Korea), Montreal (Canada), Nagasaki (Japan)

Member City Directory

We are also planning to provide a forum where non-member groups and individuals can exchange opinions.

### **To All Members of the Mayors for Peace**

In March 2003 we contacted you by email or physical mail asking for information to post on our activity page and in our city directory. However, many of you have not yet responded. Please be aware that we are still gathering this information. You can send us that information quite easily using the above URL, and we will post your information on the website.

We are about to begin using our mailing list much more actively, so we need correct email addresses for each city. If you have a new address, please let us know. Please also send us any information you would like distributed to our members.

**Please contact us at: [mayors@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp](mailto:mayors@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)**

## Peace Activities by Member Cities Mayors for Peace Forum (Leeds)

A Mayors for Peace Forum was held on January 16, 2003, in the city of Leeds sponsored by the Leeds City Council with support from the Nuclear-Free Local Authorities, Peace Messenger Cities, and Mayors for Peace.

The purpose of this forum was to focus on the role of municipal authorities in promoting activities that build peace and good community relations at the local, national, and international levels. Other goals included clarifying the need to develop citizen networks at the municipal level and promoting the UNESCO International Decade for a Culture of Peace (2001-2010).

The theme was Building a Culture of Peace and Global Citizenship as experts lectured on peace and disarmament, cities presented their peace activities, and the three peace city NGOs supporting this forum sought ways of working

together more closely.

On behalf of Malakoff City Council, a vice president city of Mayors for Peace, Michel Cibot, Chief Executive for Malakoff, France, addressed the forum and described the growth of French Association of Communes, Departments and Regions for Peace, the French chapter of Mayors for Peace. In doing so, he explained the importance of local efforts to promote a worldwide peace movement, citing as example the promulgation of "peace culture" targeting city residents and civil servants.

A report on this forum may be downloaded from the Activities Page of the Mayors for Peace website.  
[http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/mayors/cgi/eng/act\\_details.cgi?\\_id=6](http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/mayors/cgi/eng/act_details.cgi?_id=6)



### **Nineteen New Members of the Mayors for Peace**

Since December 25, 2002, the following 19 cities have joined the Mayors for Peace (in the order they joined).

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. La Paz (Bolivia)                       | 11. Brisbane (Australia)           |
| 2. Madison, WI (US)                       | 12. Morphou (Cyprus)               |
| 3. Rotherham (UK)                         | 13. Casatenovo (Italy)             |
| 4. Okara (Pakistan)                       | 14. Hamtramck (US)                 |
| 5. Providence, RI (US)                    | 15. Saint-Zacharie (France)        |
| 6. Meerut (India)                         | 16. Decines-Charpieu (France)      |
| 7. Ahmedabad (India)                      | 17. Gardanne (France)              |
| 8. Norwich (UK)                           | 18. Saint- Ouen (France)           |
| 9. Tinian & Aguiguan (N. Mariana Islands) | 19. La Penne sur Huveaune (France) |
| 10. Whakatane (New Zealand)               |                                    |

### **From the Secretariat**

#### **Sixth Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace**

Executive Conference is held between our General Conference, which take place every four years. The upcoming Executive Conference will report on activities since the fifth General Conference held in August 2001. Also on the agenda will be 1) future directions, 2) high priority activities for 2005, the year of the NPT Review Conference, the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombings, and the sixth General Conference, and 3) items related to the operation and agenda for the next General Conference.

\* When: October 17-18, 2003

\* Where: Manchester, UK

Decisions taken at this Executive Conference will be reported in the next newsletter.

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