



Mayors for Peace Newsletter

Mayors for Peace Secretariat

June 1, 2005 / No.22

Mayoral Delegation of Mayors for Peace Participate in the NPT Review Conference



Mayoral Delegation assembled in front of the UN Headquarters

that are not willing to fulfill their promise of an “unequivocal undertakings to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals.” Underlining the significance of enlarging nuclear weapon free zones and expansion of peace activities among younger generations, he demanded the abolition of all nuclear weapons and establishment of a lasting world peace to ensure that Nagasaki would forever be the world’s last A-bombed city.

Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima, speaking for the A-bomb survivors, showed a replica of a deformed black fingernail of an A-bomb survivor, “This nail is an eloquent symbol of the cruel, endless and mysterious suffering the *hibakusha*, the survivors of the atomic bombings, have struggled with for 60 years. It embodies their message that no one else should ever suffer as they did”. He affirmed that Mayors for Peace would continue its campaign through active non-violent means designed to apply legal, political and economical pressure on any and all governments and political parties that continue to cling to nuclear weapons. Pointing to the broad support for our Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign received from around the world, including the US Conference of Mayors, the US National Conference of Black Mayors, and the European Parliament, Mayor Akiba demanded that the Review Conference call immediately for all nuclear weapons to be taken off of launch-on-warning status and to eliminate all nuclear weapons by 2020.

On May 1, our Mayoral Delegation participated in the Peace

A mayoral delegation organized by Mayors for Peace, which consisted of 167 representatives (51 of them mayors) from 80 cities and municipalities in 16 countries, participated in the Review Conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) which was held from May 2 to 27, 2005, at the UN headquarters in New York.

At a special luncheon session arranged for NGO representatives on May 4th at the UN General Assembly Hall, Mayor Itoh of Nagasaki city pointed out the indiscriminate and inhumane nature of nuclear weapons, showing a photo of a charred body of a boy. He said, “I invite you to look at this photograph illustrating the reality of the atomic bombing. What sin was committed by this boy, whose charred corpse we see here?” He rebuked the attitude of the nuclear weapon states



Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima delivering his speech in the U.N. General Assembly Hall

March and Rally calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons and opposition to war. The Peace March started from a point in front of the UN building and continued about three kilometers to Central Park. About 40,000 people gathered from around the world to file through the streets of New York. The Rally was held in Central Park, where the Peace March ended. On behalf of Mayors for Peace, the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki delivered speeches at the Rally.

On May 2nd, at the opening of the NPT Review Conference, UN Secretary General H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan, in his opening address, stressed that “the only guarantee that nuclear weapons will never be used is for our world to be free of such weapons.” He made clear the mandate of the Review Conference.

On May 3rd, a Mayors Conference was held at the Japan Society near UN Headquarters. In the morning session, distinguished guests including H.E. Mr. Nobuyasu Abe, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, and H.E. Ambassador Chowdhury of Bangladesh delivered speeches. A luncheon session followed in Conference Room 4 of UN Headquarters. There, H.E. Secretary General Annan spoke as our distinguished guest, expressing his high hopes for Mayors for Peace and his belief in the possibility of realizing the abolition of nuclear weapons through the initiatives of civil society and especially the Mayors for Peace. On this occasion, Mayor Akiba personally handed the Secretary General a Request for Leadership and Positive Action toward the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. In addition to the Secretary General, speakers included the mayors of Nagasaki, Volgograd and Milan. In the afternoon, the Mayoral Delegation gathered again at the Japan Society and discussed the future agenda of Mayors for Peace.



**Mayor Itoh of Nagasaki speaking
in the U.N. General Assembly Hall**

Information on the 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace

We are pleased to welcome your participation!
Date: August 4th to 6th, 2005
Venue: Hiroshima International Conference Center
(in Hiroshima City)
Keynote Theme: What Cities Can Do to Abolish
Nuclear Weapons – toward a nuclear weapon-free
world by 2020.

Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Participate in the Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones



On April 26, on behalf of Mayors for Peace, the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki participated in the opening session of the Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones in which representatives from the signatories of the four Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones around the world gathered. Mayor Akiba spoke in an opening ceremony that included such international dignitaries as Dr. ElBaradei, Director General of the IAEA, and Brazilian Ambassador Duarte, president of the NPT Review Conference. Mayor Akiba spoke highly of the efforts made by the Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zones and requested further initiatives in this field.

Over 1,000 cities have joined Mayors for Peace

To strengthen its international influence, Mayors for Peace sought to increase its membership to over 1,000 by May this year, in time for the NPT Review Conference. New members were recruited through the network of existing member cities, through anti-nuclear NGOs and peace groups, as well as personal requests from the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to city/national representatives visiting Hiroshima and Nagasaki. As a result, the number of member cities of Mayors for Peace increased in one year by about 400 to 1,036 cities in 112 countries and territories (as of June 1st, 2005). Your continued assistance will be deeply appreciated.

Mayors for Peace Secretariat

1-5 Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima, 730-0811
Tel:082-242-7821 Fax:082-242-7452
E-mail:mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp
URL:<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>
This Newsletter is printed on-100% recycled paper.