



Mayors for Peace Newsletter

Mayors for Peace Secretariat

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New Year's Greeting -Nuclear Weapons Abolition by 2020-

Happy New Year from Hiroshima.

Last year, the 60th since the atomic bombings, a delegation of Mayors for Peace attended the NPT Review Conference in New York in May and presented their demand for nuclear weapons abolition directly to the national delegates of many key countries. In August, the annual Peace Declaration declared the time period from August 6, 2005 to August 9, 2006, to be a Year of Inheritance, Awakening and Commitment and that "During this Year, Mayors for Peace, working with nations, NGOs and the vast majority of the world's people, will launch a great diversity of campaigns for nuclear weapons abolition in numerous cities throughout the world." The Declaration went on to call for the First Committee of the UN General Assembly to "...establish a special committee to deliberate and plan for the achievement and maintenance of a nuclear-weapon-free world."

Also in August, the 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace was attended by 92 cities and 4 international organizations from 20 countries plus the representatives of 14 nations and 7 NGOs for a total of 243 participants. Under the

theme, *toward a nuclear weapon-free world by 2020 -What Cities Can Do to Abolish Nuclear Weapons*, the discussion was lively, raised peace consciousness, and contributed to solidarity and mutual understanding among the participants. We hereby offer our gratitude once again to all participating cities.

On the other hand, the nuclear weapons crisis continues, with the apparent collapse of the NPT regime, Iran's resumption of nuclear program, and other developments running counter to our abolition struggle. Nevertheless, Mayors for Peace has established a clear goal of eliminating nuclear weapons by 2020 and intends to make visible progress at the international level in 2006. To succeed, we must have the cooperation of our member mayors. The main projects of our campaign in 2006 are described on page 3. I urge you to find some way to contribute to the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Tadatoshi Akiba
President, Mayors for Peace



The 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings was held from August 4 (Thurs) to 6(Sat) in Hiroshima.
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– toward a nuclear-weapon-free world by 2020 –
The 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace
Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings

The 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings was held August 4 (Thurs) to 6(Sat),2005, in Hiroshima with the keynote theme being - *toward a nuclear weapon-free world by 2020-What Cities Can Do to Abolish Nuclear Weapons*.

The conference drew 92 cities and 4 international organizations from 20 countries plus the representatives of 14 nations and 7 NGOs for a total of 243 people. A lively discussion was held to identify effective strategies for mayors and citizens seeking to abolish nuclear weapons by 2020, with a special focus on collaboration with NGOs and national governments. On the last day, a Hiroshima Appeal was adopted that called for an early start to negotiations leading to conclusion of a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

The General Conference deliberated two primary topics: "Election of Executive Cities," and "Next Steps in the Mayors for Peace Campaign." The following decisions were taken. (For a detailed description of the conference, please see our website at:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/library/report04.htm>

1 Election of Executive Cities

President: Mayor of Hiroshima (Japan)

Vice President: Mayor of Nagasaki (Japan)

Lord Mayor of Hannover (Germany)

Mayor of Malakoff (France)

Lord Mayor of Manchester (U.K.)

Mayor of Muntinlupa (Philippines)

Mayor of Volgograd (Russia)

Mayor of Akron (U.S.)

Mayor of Christchurch (New Zealand)

Mayor of Florence (Italy)

Mayor of Laakdal (Belgium)

2 Next Steps in the Mayors for Peace Campaign

(1) Future Activities

Because the NPT Review Conference produced no concrete results leading toward the abolition of nuclear weapons, Mayors for Peace is developing its "2020 Vision Campaign" as Step 4 of its Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons.

During the following year from August 6, 2005 until August 9 2006, which we have declared to be a Year of Inheritance, Awakening, and Commitment, we will promote the following activities to generate a global groundswell of demand for a nuclear weapons convention by 2010 and the total elimination of nuclear



A conference plenary session

weapons by 2020.

{ Events }

- Local actions to mark UN Day, Disarmament Week
- World Urban Forum/ World Peace Forum in Vancouver
- ICJ Opinion 10th Anniversary/Month of Action

{ Projects }

- The Jump-Start Disarmament project
- Ask the People Project
- Mega-port, Mega-impact Project
- Participation in Int'l, Regional and Local Conferences
- Advisory Committee, Developing Ties and Outreach
- Educational projects
- Fundraising projects
- Strengthening secretariat and overseas office functions

Major Activities between now and the next General Conference of Mayors for Peace in 2009

- General activities of the 2020 Vision Campaign
- Mayors for Peace Executive Committee
- Management of Secretariat and International Offices
- 7th General Conference of Mayors for Peace

(2) Organizational Development

Mayors for Peace will identify leading cities or NGOs that can act as national secretariats and encourage them to develop national chapters or networks, hold national meetings of member cities, and implement other activities relevant to the situation in their respective countries.

(3) Strengthening our financial base

- Solicit contributions from member cities, NGOs, companies and individuals
- Increasing participant share of General Conference

Information

The 7th General Conference of Mayors for Peace
The next General Conference will take place in August 2009 in Nagasaki. Please plan now to attend.

Main Projects in 2006 of the 2020 Vision Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

1. Work toward establishment of a special committee in the UN General Assembly First Committee to plan and maintain a nuclear-weapon-free world

Mayors for Peace will continue to lobby internationally at the UN and the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva for a special committee on disarmament. The key to success will be the extent to which national governments will take positive action for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Therefore, we hope that our member mayors will, in addition to helping to arouse public demand locally, form mayoral delegations and actively participate in lobbying national governments.

2. Participation in the World Peace Forum

To discuss the roles of cities in the pursuit of world peace, please participate in this international conference, which will take place in Vancouver, Canada, from June 23 to 28. Mayors for Peace will be co-sponsoring a plenary session in the morning of June 24.

(For details, see <http://www.worldpeaceforum.ca/index>)

Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons Support Spreading within Japan

Within Japan, the network of local governments formally expressing support for the Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons is growing. At the end of January 2006, it included 130 cities. We are working now to obtain more expressions of support.

3. 10th Anniversary Commemoration of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) Advisory Opinion

The 10th anniversary of the ICJ advisory opinion declaring nuclear weapons illegal will be commemorated with events in The Hague, Netherlands (July 4,5) and in Brussels, Belgium (July 6,7). Please keep mark your calendar and attend if at all possible.

4. Sign the Joint Statement of Mayors and Parliamentarians for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World

Please sign or declare your support for this statement. We have already received declarations of support from about 300 people, but we hope to greatly increase this number prior to the UN First Committee meeting this coming October.

(See the statement at: http://www.gsinsitute.org/pnnd/jointstatement_001.htm)

PLEASE DONATE TO THE CAMPAIGN

Mayors for Peace, working with member mayors, NGOs and private citizens, is working hard to promote the 2020 Vision Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. However, the campaign is being held back by a lack of funds. If we are to actually abolish nuclear weapons by 2020, we need your help. Please donate as much as possible to the Mayors for Peace Campaign. Send your donations to:

Account name: Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons Steering Committee
Account: Hiroshima Bank, Hiroshima City Hall Branch, Regular Acct. 3004641, Swift code- HIROJPJT

Mayors for Peace Meeting in Italy

In September last year, Mayors for Peace in Italy gathered for a meeting at City Hall in Florence, Italy. This meeting was attended by 68 mayors and 12 city representatives for a total participation by 80 cities. In addition, approximately 150 citizens and NGO representatives came as observers, completely filling

the meeting venue. The mayor of Florence is now a vice president of Mayors for Peace and has expressed determination to strengthen Mayors for Peace activities in Italy. After his call, approximately 30 cities became members at that meeting alone.



Mayors for Peace Meeting in Italy

**- Communicating the A-bomb
Experience to Future Generations -
Please assist the Hiroshima-Nagasaki
Peace Study Course**

At the Mayors for Peace General Conference last August, it was decided to work to implement an education project that will communicate the A-bomb experience to future generations. As a part of that project, we are promoting the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course.

The Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course academically analyzes the basic message of the *hibakusha* that "no one should ever suffer what we suffered," and seeks to communicate it in universal, scholarly form to future generations as a course in the world's main colleges and universities. Teaching through humanities, social science, natural science, and a variety of other academic disciplines, the goal is to convey an awareness of the destructive power and inhumanity of nuclear weapons, and a proper understanding of why the *hibakusha* chose the path of reconciliation.

Please recommend this course to institutions in your area, and introduce us to schools or professors who may have an interest in this subject. To assist with the establishment of a course at a university, we can offer study materials to suit the content of the course. At present, Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Courses are being established at some universities including TFH Berlin, University of Applied Sciences and at DePaul University in the US.
(For details see: http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/hnpc/hnpc_top.html)

**US University Establishing Hiroshima-Nagasaki
Peace Study Course Field Study**

Sixteen students and two faculty members from the Foreign Study Program at DePaul University in Chicago, USA visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki to participate in Moral Issues across Cultures: The Atomic Bomb Discourse. This program, which was field study for the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course, took place from June 27 (Mon) to July 8 (Fri), 2005. DePaul is the first foreign university to send students to do field study in the A-bombed cities.

In Hiroshima, the students toured the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, the A-bomb Dome, and the hypocenter, then listened to *hibakusha* testimony and attended lectures at the Radiation Effects

Research Foundation and Hiroshima Institute for Peace Education. In Nagasaki, they toured the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum and attended lectures at Nagasaki Junshin University. These experiences gave them a far deeper understanding of the damage inflicted by the atomic bombs.



Students touring the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims

**Mayors for Peace Membership Doubles
in One Year**

Six hundred and one cities joined Mayors for Peace in 2005, bringing membership as of December 14, 2005 to 1,253 cities in 114 countries and regions. Thus, by the end of 2005, the number of city members was double what it was a year ago. This great increase in membership came primarily from Europe, with 229 cities joining in Belgium, 99 in Italy, and 47 in Spain.

[Membership by Region as of December 14, 2005]

Asia – 125 cities in 26 countries and regions

Oceania – 70 cities in 8 countries and regions

Africa – 38 cities in 23 countries

Europe – 892 cities in 38 countries

North/Central America – 109 cities in 11 countries

South America – 19 cities in 8 countries

Total 1,253 cities in 114 countries and regions

Our goal is 2006 member cities by August 2006. Please help us recruit new members and spread the circle of solidarity.

**Information and Requests
from the Mayors for Peace Secretariat**

- The URL for the Mayors for Peace website was changed last April. The new site is:
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/index.html>

- The Mayors for Peace website presents the peace activities of member cities. Please send us any information you may have regarding any peace activities by any cities.

- The secretariat is working to obtain e-mail addresses from all member cities to take better advantage of the mailing list we use to communicate and exchange information with member cities. Please make sure we have the appropriate e-mail address for your city, and please inform us whenever the address or the name of your mayor changes.

- The following telephone number for the Mayors for Peace Secretariat has been disconnected: +81-82-241-2362. To call us please dial: +81-82-242-7821, thank you.

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