



Mayors for Peace Newsletter

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Mayoral Delegation Participates in the 2010 NPT Review Conference



In May, Mayors for Peace formed a mayoral delegation of 89 people from 30 member cities in 10 countries and participated in the NPT Review Conference held in New York, USA.

During the conference, we had a chance to speak at the NGO Session and talk with representatives of nuclear-weapon-states, directly asking representatives of each government to make efforts to realize the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020. We also strengthened

collaboration with the many peace-related NGOs and citizens from around the world who gathered in New York, helping to build international momentum towards the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Related Activities

Prior to the opening of the NPT Review Conference, on April 29, Mayor Akiba attended the Civil Society Forum on Nuclear Weapon Free Zones (NWFZs), which was co-hosted by Mayors for Peace, PNND (Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament), IALANA (International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms), and the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations. During the session "From NWFZs to Nuclear-Weapon-Free World", Mayor Akiba gave a speech and appealed to the audience to work together to realize the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020.

On Friday, April 30, Mayor Akiba was invited to deliver a speech at a conference organized by Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty (NWFZT) signatory countries and delivered a speech.

In the morning of Saturday, May 1, Mayors for Peace held the workshop "The Role of Cities" of the "International Conference for a Nuclear-Free, Peaceful, Just, and Sustainable World", organized by various peace-related NGOs.

During the workshop, Mr. Fujita, Chairman of Hiroshima City Council, and Mr. Yoshihara, Chairman of Nagasaki City Council, spoke on how the tragedies caused by nuclear weapons should never be repeated. Representatives of Malakoff and Vitry-sur-Seine (France) introduced their efforts in establishing peace culture. The Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki also made some comments.



In the afternoon, Mayors and City Council Chairmen from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, representatives from France, the National Council of Japan Nuclear Free Local Authorities, and members of Batten-kai (an association of Japanese residents in New York from Nagasaki and neighboring prefectures), and others visited the World Trade Center Memorial, dedicated flowers and pledged to do what they could to realize a peaceful world.

In the evening, they attended the Final Plenary of the conference organized by peace-related NGOs. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was also in attendance and during his speech he stated that nuclear disarmament is a top priority, that political will towards disarmament is important, that nuclear-weapon-states must fulfill their duty to Article VI of the NPT. He ended by announcing his plan to visit Hiroshima in August.

The morning of May 2, Mayor Taue of Nagasaki attended a mass at the Saint Patrick's Cathedral along with Archbishop Takami, who brought a statue of Mary that survived the Nagasaki atomic bombing to NY. Mayor Taue met President Cabactulan of the Review Conference who also attended the mass.

In the afternoon, the mayoral delegation participated in a Peace Rally by peace NGOs and a Peace March of about 20,000 people held on the streets around Times Square. The March reached the front of the UN building taking after an hour and a half.



The morning of May 3, the mayoral delegation observed the opening session of the NPT Review Conference. In the afternoon, the 2020 Vision Campaign Association, consisting of the executive officials of Mayors for Peace, held its Board of Directors Meeting and discussed the future development of the campaign.

Mayoral Conference in the UN (May 4)

The morning of May 4, Mayors for Peace held its 2nd Mayoral Conference in the UN. The keynote speaker was Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. He said



that there must be complete disarmament, and after praising our efforts for nuclear disarmament, including the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol, he vowed to attend this year's Peace

Memorial Ceremony in Hiroshima. Mayor Akiba expressed his appreciation to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and promised that civil society will join him in his tireless efforts. At the end of his speech, Mayor Akiba presented Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with a thousand golden paper cranes.

Representatives from the International Red Cross Committee, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), International Association of Peace Messenger Cities and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), which are working together for nuclear disarmament, gave reports on their activities.

Other speakers included Mayor of Granollers (Spain), Mayor of Aubagne (France), Mayor of Mazzarino (Italy), Dundee City Councillor (UK), Mayor of Mortsel (Belgium), Mayor of Nagasaki, Chairman of the Nagasaki City Council, Chairman of the Hiroshima City Council, representative of Kusatsu City, Mayors of Hirakata and Fujisawa (Japan). They addressed their activities and pledged to continue making efforts to abolish nuclear weapons and achieve lasting world peace. Ms. Sakue Shimohira, a *hibakusha* from Nagasaki, talked about her A-bomb experience and expressed that humankind cannot coexist with nuclear weapons.

Related Activities

May 4 to 6, the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki participated in many events including meetings held by trade unions, school/university, religious and other peace groups. As a *hibakusha*, the Chair of Nagasaki City Council shared his A-bomb experience with high school students. French mayors and Mayor Akiba met with French Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament. Representatives of Japan Nuclear Free Local Authorities including the mayors of Nagasaki,

Fujisawa and Hirakata attended a meeting co-organized by Korean and Japanese NGOs.

NGO Session (May 7)

In the afternoon of May 7, the Mayoral delegation attended the "NGO Session," a part of the NPT Review Conference. About 400 government representatives attended this session and 16 speakers, including Ms. Jody Williams (Nobel Peace Laureate and the founding coordinator of the ICBL), Mr. Sumiteru Taniguchi (a *hibakusha* from Nagasaki City) and Pugwash President Jayantha Dhanapala (former UN Under-Secretary-General). The final speakers were Mayor Akiba and Mayor Taue.

Mayor Akiba reminded the audience that we must abolish nuclear weapons by 2020 while the *hibakusha* were still alive and added, "Political will is required to abolish nuclear weapons by 2020. With about 4,000 member cities, Mayors for Peace and the *hibakusha* in the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and with all of you, we can do it."

Following that, Mayor Taue of Nagasaki stated that, "If we face the reality that by relying on nuclear deterrence, the world is exposed to the danger of



nuclear weapons, then we can see that only by creating a nuclear-weapon-free world can we free cities from the threat of nuclear weapons and offer lasting security to the international community."

He requested that the representatives of all countries do their best to make the NPT Review Conference a success and start making efforts towards the conclusion of a "Nuclear Weapons Convention."

CANT (Cities Are Not Targets!) project and the Cities Appeal in support of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol signatures submitted

With your invaluable assistance, a portion of the 1,577 signatures of mayors and city leaders in support of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol and the 1,024,820 signatures collected for our grass-roots petition drive, "Cities Are Not Targets! (CANT)" project were submitted to President Cabactulan of the NPT Review Conference and UN High Representative Duarte for Disarmament Affairs on May 2 and 4 by eight representatives of

Mayors for Peace. The rest of the collected signatures have now been sent to the UN.



President Akiba visits Nicaragua
(January 16 to 18, 2010)
All Nicaraguan Cities Join Mayors for Peace

President Akiba visited Nicaragua, where the number of member cities has rapidly increased, and asked Nicaraguan cities for continued future support for Mayors for Peace. As Nicaragua has experienced civil wars, they were keenly seeking peace and expressed their deep understanding for our activities. He visited such cities as Managua, León, Estelí, and Matagalpa; and was presented with a key to each city.

At a ceremony in León, President Ortega of Nicaragua awarded Mayor Akiba the Cultural Order Rubén Darío, named after a famed national poet. It is the most honored award in Nicaragua presented to persons who have made cultural contributions, and the award was,

"Recognizing contributions of Mayor Akiba for peace, justice and a nuclear-weapon-free world by 2020 and expressing support from the Government of Nicaragua".



In Matagalpa, Mayor Akiba participated in a conference of the Association of Municipalities of Nicaragua supporting Mayors for Peace and the elimination of nuclear weapons.

About 200 participants attended the meeting, including Minister Martinez of the Transportation and Infrastructure, who has extended tremendous support to expand our membership in Nicaragua.

During the conference, an announcement was made that all of the municipalities in Nicaragua would soon be joining Mayors for Peace and it was officially achieved on April 1, 2010. This is the first time in the history of Mayors for Peace that all of the municipalities / cities in a country have become members.



After returning to Managua, Mayor Akiba met with President Ortega and expressed his gratitude for the tremendous cooperation to make all Nicaraguan municipalities join Mayors for Peace.

The President responded saying he had heard of stories related to the A-bombs since he was a child; expressed his willingness to visit Japan; stressed Nicaragua's will to dedicate to peace and assured his cooperation toward a world without nuclear weapons. President Ortega was very hospitable and the meeting lasted more than an hour.

US Conference of Mayors (USCM)
78th Winter Meeting
(January 20 to 22, 2010)

President Akiba participated in the 78th Winter Meeting of the US



Conference of Mayors, held in Washington D.C., and was greeted as a guest, along with the Mayor of Florence, Italy.

In his speech, Mayor Akiba pointed out that American mayors have led the world in efforts to solve global problems, including climate change, and expressed his expectations of the U.S. Conference of Mayors as a driving force to leave a peaceful world without nuclear weapons to the children of future generations. He concluded his speech with, "Together, we can do it. Yes, we can!" and received thunderous applause.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors has adopted resolutions supporting the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign for five consecutive years.

During break-out sessions, Mayor Akiba asked dozens of American mayors face-to-face to join Mayors for Peace and promoted understanding and



support for Mayors for Peace, resulting in several mayors signing the registration form on the spot.

The following day, Mayor Akiba went to the White House with other American mayors to meet with President Obama. After a speech, and a question and answer session with the President talking to the mayors from the podium, Mayor Akiba shook hands with President Obama and invited him to, "Please visit Hiroshima one of these days." The President replied saying, "I would like to come."

After the meeting with President Obama, Mayor Akiba visited U.S. Congressman Mr. John Conyers (Michigan, Democrat) and explained the initiatives of Mayors for Peace. Rep. Conyers assured Mayor Akiba that he would call for cities in his constituency to join Mayors for Peace.

On January 22, Mayor Akiba visited the Chief Information Officer of the National Nuclear Security Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, who is in charge of the U.S. "Nuclear Posture Review". He also visited the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and exchanged opinions with staff there on measures toward a world without nuclear weapons.

Hiroshima Conference for the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons by 2020 held

The City of Hiroshima and Mayors for Peace held the Hiroshima Conference for the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons by 2020 from July 27 to July 29. We discussed the next steps toward the total abolition of nuclear weapons after the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

The keynote theme is: **NEGOTIATING NOW THE ABOLITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.** Contents include an A-bomb survivor's testimony; keynote speech by H.E. Douglas Roche, Chairman Emeritus of the Middle Powers Initiative / Former Canadian Ambassador for Disarmament; Plenary Session I, II and III to discuss the next steps to abolish nuclear weapons; Grassroots Activity Session; announcement of the Hiroshima Appeal.

● Recent Major Topics ●

- Dec. 2009: NGO representatives, including the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, announce a joint statement on the report compiled by the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND).
- Jan. 2010: President Akiba of Mayors for Peace visits Nicaragua, and attends the 78th Winter Meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) at Washington DC.
- Feb. 2010: The number of member cities reaches 3,500.
- April 2010: All cities / municipalities of Nicaragua join Mayors for Peace.
- May 2010: Mayoral delegation participates in the 2010 NPT Review Conference and submits the signatures of CANT project and Cities Appeal in support of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol.
- June 2010: U.S. Conference of Mayors adopts a Supporting U.S. Participation in the Global Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and Redirection of Nuclear Weapons Spending to Meet the Needs of Cities.
- July 2010: The number of member cities exceeds 4,000.
- July 2010: Hiroshima Conference for the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons by 2020.

The Number of Mayors for Peace Member Cities Exceeds 4000

(As of July 1, 2010)

■ 4,037 member cities in 144 countries and regions

The number of Mayors for Peace member cities exceeded 3,000 in August 2009 and now stands at 4,037 cities in 144 countries and regions. This marks a record increase by 1,000 in less than a year. In April 2010, all cities/municipalities of Nicaragua joined Mayors for Peace (please refer to page 3 for a related article). Please continue inviting your fellow mayors to join Mayors for Peace.

Number of Member Cities by Area

(as of July 1, 2010)

Area	Cities / Municipalities	Countries / Regions
Asia	1,171	29
Oceania	111	9
Africa	210	39
Europe	1,984	43
North America	248	3
Latin America and the Caribbean	313	21
Total	4,037	144

From the Secretariat

● These days, nearly all our communication and information exchange takes place via e-mail. Therefore, we are doing our best to update the e-mail addresses and other information for each city in our database. Please send us your latest contact information, and be sure to inform us if the names of your mayor, your contact person or your preferred e-mail address changes. Please help us stay in touch.

● Please donate to the 2020 Vision Campaign

Mayors for Peace is calling on member cities, foundations, like-minded corporations, and individuals to contribute funds for the global growth of the 2020 Vision Campaign. Please send your donation to:

Bank Account: Vredesfonds Stad Ieper
 Bank name: DEXIA
 Account Number: 088-2371003-27
 IBAN nr.: BE48-0882-3710-0327
 BIC(SWIFT code): GKCCBEBB

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