



Mayors for Peace Newsletter

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Let us all offer our heartfelt condolences for the victims of the powerful earthquake, huge tsunami and nuclear accident in Japan and pray for strength to recover from this ordeal. (Related article on page 4)

Hiroshima Conference for the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons by 2020



Mayors for Peace and the City of Hiroshima held the Hiroshima Conference for the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons by 2020 from Tuesday, July 27 to Thursday, July 29, 2011. In light of the outcome of the NPT Review Conference in May 2010, lively discussions were held on how to pursue lasting peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020. Around 300 participants including representatives of Mayors for Peace member cities, intellectuals, peace NGOs, and national government officials explored ways of abolishing nuclear weapons at the earliest possible date. The forming of coalitions among countries, cities, NGOs and citizens' groups emerged as a high priority. The Appeal from the Hiroshima Conference for the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons by 2020 (Hiroshima Appeal) announced at the end of the conference expressed collective determination and presented concrete proposals for the realization of a world without nuclear weapons.

(Excerpts from the Hiroshima Appeal are on page 2; full text available on Mayors for Peace website)

■ Tuesday, July 27

Beginning at 3pm, participants visited facilities and monuments, including the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, the paper crane exhibition at the former Hiroshima Municipal Baseball Stadium, the A-bomb Dome, and the Children's Peace Monument. They offered flowers to the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims, and at 6pm were warmly welcomed at a Welcome Reception.

■ Wednesday, July 28

At 9am, the Opening Ceremony started with a song by the Hiroshima City Hall Choir, followed by the opening address of the mayor of Hiroshima, congratulatory speeches, and a message from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Hiroshima A-bomb survivor Keijiro Matsushima shared his experience of the A-bombing at 16 years of age.

At 10am, H.E. Douglas Roche, Chairman Emeritus of the Middle Powers Initiative, and Former Canadian Senator and Disarmament Ambassador, delivered the Keynote Speech: "A Nuclear Weapons Convention: The Time is Now." The City of Hiroshima made him an Honorary Citizen to recognize his tremendous contributions towards nuclear disarmament.

At Plenary Session I, which started at 11am, under the theme "Strategic Implications of the NPT Review –The next step in the abolition of nuclear weapons–," 14 speakers, including representatives from UNODA, Japan's Foreign Ministry, various NGOs, and the Mayor of Nagasaki shared their organizations' plans.



At Plenary Session II beginning at 2pm, under the theme "Building a Global Movement – How Mayors for Peace Can Work with National Governments, Cities and NGOs–," 25 speakers, including mayors and city representatives from Telde, Spain; Maharagama, Sri Lanka; Chosei village and Yaizu, Japan; as well as representatives from embassies of Costa Rica and Haiti; and peace NGOs presented their achievements and plans for joint initiatives among citizens, local authorities and nations.

At the Grassroots Activity Session beginning at 5:20pm, under the theme "What Citizens Can Do to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons by 2020?," representatives of the Yes! Campaign, the Hiroshima High School Students Petition Campaign, and the Consumer Co-op Hiroshima reported their activities, leading to a lively exchange of opinions among the participants. Letters of Appreciation were presented to the three groups.



■ Thursday, July 29

At Plenary Session III starting at 10am, under the theme "Abolishing Nuclear Weapons by 2020", the previous two plenary sessions were summarized, and two speakers, including the Mayor of Nakagawa, Japan, offered their ideas for participant action.

At the Closing Ceremony beginning 1:20pm, 12 Appeal Drafting Committee members were introduced, a summary of the committee meeting was reported, and the Hiroshima Appeal was announced by a citizen representative. The ceremony closed with songs by Pueri Cantantes and the Hiroshima Junior Choir.

Excerpt: Appeal from the Hiroshima Conference for the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons by 2020 (Hiroshima Appeal) [announced on July 29, 2010]

Mayors for Peace and the participants in the Hiroshima Conference for the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons by 2020:

- 1) In support of the UN Secretary-General's 5-point plan, call upon all governments to immediately start negotiations toward the conclusion of an international treaty banning nuclear weapons in time to eliminate those weapons by 2020. To this end, governments that have expressed their desire for a comprehensive legal process, in partnership with like-minded NGOs, should convene a special disarmament conference in 2011 to facilitate the start of negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention.
- 2) Demand that all countries promptly cease all activities related to the development, testing, production, modernization, deployment, and use of nuclear weapons and related infrastructure. In this regard, we demand that countries redouble their efforts to bring the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty into force urgently and without conditions. Special responsibility lies with the nine remaining countries which must sign and ratify the Treaty for it to come into force. Effort must also go toward bringing the Protocols to the Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zones treaties into force, responsibility for which lies with the nuclear-weapon states.
- 3) Call on governments to drastically reduce nuclear weapon and related military spending and to redirect those funds to meet human needs and restore the environment. We commend the US Conference of Mayors for calling on the US Congress to "terminate funding for modernization of the nuclear weapons complex and nuclear weapon systems, to reduce spending on nuclear weapons programs well below Cold War levels, and to redirect funds to meet the urgent needs of cities." To this end, local and national governments and private citizens could consider divesting funds from entities that support or benefit from nuclear weapons.
- 4) Demand that governments that are party to nuclear sharing agreements or that hide under nuclear umbrellas reject nuclear weapons as part of their military and security doctrines, concepts and policies. As the Secretary-General said in his message to this conference: "Nuclear disarmament is often dismissed as a dream, when the real fantasies are the claims that nuclear weapons guarantee security or increase a country's status and prestige."
- 5) Demand that governments uphold their nonproliferation commitments under the NPT by ensuring that their nuclear related exports do not directly or indirectly assist the development of nuclear weapons.
- 6) Call on the Japanese government, which has declared that as the only A-bombed country, it will lead the way to a nuclear-weapon-free world, to take proactive measures to this end. For example, it could invite heads of state, especially of the nuclear-armed states, to a conference in Hiroshima or Nagasaki, where governments and NGOs will confront the future nuclear weapons hold in store for humankind, recognize the urgent need to eliminate these weapons, and work together toward a nuclear weapons convention.
- 7) Call on national governments and the UN to implement broad programs of nuclear disarmament education as stipulated in the NPT Review Conference final document. In doing so, we urge them to communicate fully the facts about the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the message of the *hibakusha*, with the goal of promoting critical thinking, developing leadership and fostering in young people the determination to abolish nuclear weapons. This education also needs to take place at the local level, in our homes, schools, workplaces and communities. We must develop innovative methods of communicating information about nuclear weapons to new generations.
- 8) Call on cities and other municipalities to join Mayors for Peace in order to: engage with, empower and educate their citizens about the urgent need to eliminate nuclear weapons; and to encourage their national governments to take proactive measures leading to a nuclear weapons convention.
- 9) In Japan, help Mayors for Peace to double its membership and initiate meetings and seminars for citizens, NGOs, and local authorities in order to demand more effective action toward nuclear abolition by the Japanese government and the United Nations.
- 10) Strengthen collaboration among Mayors for Peace, Abolition 2000, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), the Middle Powers Initiative, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament and other global networks, NGOs and citizens groups. Working toward unity and broad-based participation, our goal is to intensify and strengthen global civil society's demand for a nuclear weapons convention and concrete nuclear disarmament measures.



Announcing the Hiroshima Appeal

The 1st Gautam Buddha International Peace Award from the Government of Nepal to the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki [Kathmandu, January 13, 2011]

The Government of Nepal has decided to give the first Gautam Buddha International Peace Award jointly to the mayors of Hiroshima, Dr. Tadatoshi Akiba, and Nagasaki, Mr. Tomihisa Taue. The unanimous recommendation of the Management and Selection Committee of the Award pointed to their achievements as the leaders of Mayors for Peace.

The Award ceremony will be held in Lumbini, Nepal on the occasion of Buddha Jayanti on May 17, 2011.

Nobel Peace Laureate Ms. Mairead Maguire Nominates Mayors for Peace for the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize [January 2011]

On January 28, 2011, Nobel Peace Laureate Ms. Mairead Maguire, who lives in Northern Ireland, announced her joint nomination of Nihon Hidankyo (Japan Confederation of A and H Bomb Sufferers Organization) and Mayors for Peace for the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize.



Mayors for Peace is greatly honored by her recognition of our efforts.

President of Mayors for Peace visits Russia and Argentina [September – October, 2010]

From September 4 to 9, 2010, President Akiba visited Volgograd, a Vice President City of Mayors for Peace, to attend Volgograd City Day, celebrating the anniversary of the city's foundation. The goal was to enhance exchange and ask neighboring cities to join Mayors for Peace to realize a world without nuclear weapons. He also visited Moscow, Russia's capital, and met with the Mayor of Moscow, former-President Gorbachev and Federal Assembly members to ask for their cooperation in abolishing nuclear weapons by 2020.

From October 11 to 18, President Akiba visited Buenos Aires and Mar del Plata, Argentina and helped to galvanize international public opinion to eliminate nuclear weapons by calling for cooperation with Mayors for Peace and 2020 Vision Campaign during events related to "Latin American Municipalism Week" and the "AFS World Peace Forum". He also met with government leaders, including the chief cabinet minister and the foreign minister of Argentina.



His visit resulted in a large increase in membership in November – 54 cities in nine countries and regions in Latin America, including 22 cities in Argentina. Later, 19 cities in Russia joined as well.

Mayors for Peace Member Cities Exceeds 4,500 (As of March 1, 2011)

4,540 member cities in 150 countries and regions

The number of Mayors for Peace member cities now stands at 4,540 cities in 150 countries and regions. In October and November 2010, the first member cities from Armenia, Iceland, El Salvador, Guatemala, Puerto Rico and Mozambique joined Mayors for Peace. Significant membership increase has been seen in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially in Mexico and Argentina. Please continue inviting your fellow mayors to join Mayors for Peace.

Number of Member Cities by Area
(as of March 1, 2011)

Area	Cities / Municipalities	Countries / Regions
Asia	1,328	29
Oceania	112	9
Africa	252	40
Europe	2,152	45
North America	261	3
Latin America and the Caribbean	435	24
Total	4,540	150

Nuclear Free Local Authorities 30th Anniversary & Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Association General & Board Meetings
[Manchester, November, 2010]

The official commemorations for the 30th anniversary of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) began in the People's History Museum in Manchester. The Museum is hosting the exhibition 'Hiroshima and Nagasaki Atomic Bombings - 65 Years On', which has been donated by the Mayor of Nagasaki. It was held from November 4 to 28, 2010, and was officially opened by Mayor Taue of Nagasaki along with Manchester city officials.

In conjunction with this opportunity, a Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Association General & Board Meeting was held on November 5, chaired by the Mayor of Ypres (Belgium). Aside from Ypres, representatives from Manchester (UK), Hannover (Germany), Malakoff (France), Granollers (Spain), Halabja (Iraq), Glasgow (UK), Frogn (Norway) and Nagasaki (Japan), along with Mayors for Peace international staff attended the meeting.



2020 Vision Campaign Association General & Board Meetings (left) and the exhibition venue in Manchester (right)

Recent Developments (July 2010 — February 2011)

- July 27-29: Hiroshima Conference for the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons by 2020.
Aug. 2: Mayor Akiba, president of Mayors for Peace, receives the Ramon Magsaysay Award [award ceremony on Aug. 31 in Manila, Philippines].
Aug. 25-30: 2020 Vision Campaign associate members, mayors of Basel and Frogn, speak at the World Congress of IPPNW [Basel, Switzerland].
Sept. 4-9: Mayor of Hiroshima visits Volgograd and Moscow, Russia.
Sept. 14-15: Mayors for Peace's representatives took part in a conference sponsored by the Swiss Government and Middle Powers Initiative [Geneva, Switzerland].
Oct. 13: Executive officials of Mayors for Peace send letter to protest U.S. subcritical nuclear test conducted on September 15.
Oct. 11-18: Mayor of Hiroshima visits Buenos Aires and Mar del Plata, Argentina.
Oct. 13: FLACMA (Federacion Latinamericana de Ciudades, Municipios y Asociaciones de gobiernos locales) sign agreement with Mayors for Peace in support of campaign to eliminate all nuclear weapons by 2020 [Buenos Aires, Argentina].
Nov. 1: First member cities from 5 countries/regions join; membership expands to 149 countries/regions.
Nov. 4-5: 30th anniversary of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) and Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Association Board Meeting; Mayor of Nagasaki attends [Manchester, UK].
Nov. 11: Brazilian Association of Municipalities (ABM) Signs Agreement with Mayors for Peace [Campinas, Brazil].
Nov. 20: Final declaration of Third World Congress of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) unanimously supports for call of Mayors for Peace Campaign for world free of nuclear weapons by 2020 through new international Convention. Mayors for Peace and Association of Local Authorities of Mexico (AALMAC) signs Agreement of Cooperation [Mexico City, Mexico].
Dec. 3: The Annual Assembly of Mercociudades signs Agreement of Cooperation with Mayors for Peace [Belo Horizonte, Brazil].
Jan. 5: Dr. Jean Mayer Global Citizenship Award Presented to mayor of Hiroshima.
Jan. 13: Government of Nepal announces first Gautam Buddha International Peace Award to go jointly to mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki [award ceremony to be held in May, Lumbini, Nepal].
Jan. 28: Nobel Peace Laureate Ms. Mairead Maguire nominates Mayors for Peace for the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize.
Feb. 1: Mayors for Peace member cities exceed 4,500 [4,515 cities in 150 countries and regions].
Feb. 8: FAL Network (Forum of Local Authorities for Social Inclusion and Participatory Democracy) adopts final declaration supporting the 2020 Vision Campaign [Dakar, Senegal].

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 change. 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

Powerful earthquake, huge tsunami and nuclear accident in Japan

On March 11, a powerful earthquake, huge tsunami, and nuclear accident hit the north-central part of Japan. The devastation there is beyond description and all Japanese are struggling with grief over the horrible damage. Let us all offer our heartfelt condolences to those who are suffering and pray that they will have the strength to recover from this ordeal.

On behalf of all Japanese, we extend our gratitude to those who have sent us encouraging messages and other evidence of support. If you would like to do something for the victims, we humbly ask that you send your donation through a trustworthy organization in your country.

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