



Mayors for Peace Newsletter

Edited and published by the Mayors for Peace Secretariat

March 2012 / No.32

The 8th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace

On November 9 and 10, 2011, the 8th Executive Conference was held in Granollers, Spain. During the conference, it was reported that the number of member cities exceeded 5,000 in September 2011. Past activities were reviewed and future plans were discussed among the participating mayors and representatives of executive cities. A Resolution towards the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons and a Final Communiqué were adopted.

The Executive Conference was preceded by General and Board of Directors meetings of the 2020 Vision Campaign Association. Future plans for the 2020 Vision Campaign were discussed.

◆Participated Cities and Organizations◆

Hiroshima (Japan), Nagasaki (Japan), Granollers (Spain), Biograd na Moru (Croatia), Halabja (Iraq), Hannover (Germany), Malakoff (France), Manchester (UK), Volgograd (Russia), Ypres (Belgium), and Fongo Tongo (Cameroon) from executives Frogn(Norway), Mortsel(Belgium), Bastogne(Belgium), Zemir(Israel), FAM/Florencia(Argentina), FNP/Victoria, Fortaleza(Brazil), and AALMAC(Mexico)



Participants at the 8th Executive Conference

◆Major Items Decided◆

- 1) Develop a global grassroots petition drive to be conducted by all member cities calling for negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention; submit those petitions to the UN and other appropriate authorities.
- 2) Instill a sense of urgency and stimulate momentum toward convening a high-level meeting of governments and experts in Hiroshima concurrent with the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in August 2013.
- 3) Commemorate the 5000-city milestone with a new poster exhibit to directly inform millions of citizens regarding the impact of a nuclear attack on a city; the potential of nuclear war to cause catastrophic climate change and global famine; and the roles city leaders can to play through the 2020 Vision Campaign.
- 4) Strengthen and broaden strategic alliances with international NGOs.
- 5) Issue letters of request and/or statements calling for a world free from nuclear weapons to be sent to appropriate recipients at appropriate times and in effective ways.
- 6) Work with member cities, NGOs and concerned citizens in specific regions to develop an effective means to influence their governments to work for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and to promote regional activities in support of concrete actions.
- 7) Create mayoral delegations and develop initiatives calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons at the Preparatory Committee Meetings in 2012, 2013 and 2014 and at the 2015 NPT Review Conference.
- 8) Identify celebrities and other opinion leaders who support the 2020 Vision and appoint them to serve as 2020 Vision Ambassadors.

The participants also discussed:



The 8th Executive Conference of
Mayors for Peace

1. Holding Executive Conferences in Hiroshima or Nagasaki
2. Managing the cost of Mayors for Peace
3. Establishing national and regional chapters: roles and responsibilities.

It was decided to hold a special committee meeting in Hannover to address the three issues above. An international committee of staff-level representatives from nine member cities met in Hannover and is continuing the discussion by email and phone.

(Details for the committee meeting in Hannover held on January 23-25, 2012 follow. More details on the Executive Conference are available at:
http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2011/111109_executive_conf/index.html.)

The International Forum for a Nuclear Weapons-Free World

[Astana, Kazakhstan,

October 12 and 13, 2011]

Representatives from the cities of Nagasaki and Ypres attended the "International Forum for A Nuclear Weapons-Free World" in Astana, Kazakhstan. Mayor Taue of Nagasaki delivered a speech at Panel Session 1. Mr. Jan Breynne, former City Manager of Ypres, also spoke during the forum.



Panel Session 1, The International Forum for a Nuclear Weapons-Free World

As part of the program, they visited Semey

City, formerly known as Semipalatinsk. They visited the nuclear testing site where the first A- and H-bomb tests of the Soviet Union were conducted and where tremendous damage was inflicted on the local residents by more than 450 nuclear tests before the site was closed down 20 years ago.

The delegation members renewed their determination to achieve a world without nuclear weapons and will work with the Kazakh people.

The XXXII Prize for Peace from the UN Association of Spain

[Barcelona, Spain]



Awards Ceremony

On October 24, 2011, Mayors for Peace was awarded the XXXII Prize for Peace from the United Nations Association of Spain (ANUE).

ANUE recognized the work of Mayors for Peace, now with more than 5,000 member cities around the world, for peace, disarmament and, especially, the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The Awards Ceremony was held on November 9 at Diputacio de Barcelona (Barcelona Prefectural Hall) with about 100 attendees including Executive Conference participants and mayors of neighboring cities.

The first Japanese member cities meeting

[Hiroshima, January 13 and 14, 2012]

On January 13 and 14, Hiroshima hosted the first Japanese member cities meeting. A total of 131 participants from 88 cities, including 41 mayors, discussed ways to promote the activities of Mayors for Peace in Japan based on the decisions made during the Executive Conference last November. The final document adopted by this meeting included a request for the Japanese government to work towards the early realization of a nuclear weapons convention.



The 1st Japanese member cities meeting

On January 26, Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima and the director of the Tokyo office of the city of Nagasaki presented that request to the Japanese national government.

The first Mayors for Peace special committee meeting for strengthening basic management

[Hannover, Germany, January 23 to 25, 2012]

The first Mayors for Peace special committee meeting was held in Hannover, Germany for three days from January 23 to 25 with staff-level participants from 9 cities in 9 countries. Recognizing the necessity of strengthening the basic management functions of Mayors for Peace, participants vigorously discussed such topics as the establishment and roles of regional chapters and sharing the cost of running Mayors for Peace.

Based on the ideas raised during this meeting, the participants are still discussing concrete plans via documents.

The recommendations will be reported and deliberated during the Mayors for Peace member cities meeting in May 2012 in Vienna, Austria, where executive mayors will gather for the first Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference. The goal is to develop plans that will be approved by consensus during the next General Conference in Hiroshima in 2013.



Member City Activities

Member cities around the world are making efforts for peace. Here are some examples reported to the Secretariat since October 2011.

■ Fontaine, France: Concerts of the Hiroshima Junior Marimba Ensemble

In September 2011, Fontaine hosted two concerts by the Hiroshima Junior Marimba Ensemble with local schools involved. Concerts also helped raise funds for the Tohoku victims of Japan. Two videos were produced to illustrate the importance of promoting peace at the local level and teaching children about Hiroshima.

■ Fujisawa, Japan: The Hiroshima Flame of Peace Monument Lighting and Awards Ceremony (October 1)

To convey the desire for peace to future generations, Fujisawa created the Hiroshima Flame of Peace Monument in their city. On October 1, they held a lighting and awards ceremony to mark the unveiling of the monument. More than 40 participants led by the mayor attended the ceremony. The design of the monument was selected from citizen proposals, and the flame was taken from the Flame of Peace in Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park. The flame will burn until all nuclear weapons are abolished.

■ Kusatsu, Japan: The City of Kusatsu Peace Memorial Forum (October 15) and Peace Bell (December 8)

During the forum, peace messages were presented by elementary and junior high school students, silent prayer along with the sound of a peace bell was offered for war and earthquake victims, followed by a peace concert. The chairman of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation spoke on the theme: "Towards a peaceful world free from nuclear weapons". Kusatsu installed the Peace Bell at Rokuha Park. It was unveiled on December 8 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Pacific War.

■ Cairns, Australia: "War in Profile" Exhibition and Public Forum (October 21, Exhibition from October 14 to November 16)

Cairns held the exhibition entitled "War in Profile" including, for the first time ever in Australia, the full Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-Bomb Exhibition. The official opening was followed by a "War, What is it good for?" Public Forum on October 21.



Brochure of the exhibition

■ Kyoto, Japan: Peaceful City Memorial Project (November 3)

In this project, a dramatic monologue about a girl called "Asa-chan", who was injured by the A-bomb and found the day after the A-bombing in Hiroshima, was presented to convey the inhumane nature of war and the A-bomb.

(Photo courtesy of the City of Cairns)

■ Musashino, Japan: An Ordinance Establishing Musashino City Peace Day and Commemorative Events (November 24)

In September, Musashino City Council passed an ordinance establishing Musashino City Peace Day and held a commemorative "Peace Musashino" meeting, a panel exhibition regarding the air raid in Musashino, and tree plantings on November 24, the day Musashino was bombed in 1944.

■ Grindavík, Iceland: The annual Peacemarch (December 16)

Grindavík held its annual Peacemarch to demonstrate how a community can raise awareness for peace and solidarity. The event drew over 1,000 participants, which is more than one third of the population of 2,800. Students from the local kindergartens, the elementary school and the music institute walked with teachers and parents together in total darkness using flashlights. The aim of the march is to promote peace, solidarity, positive thinking, joy and love in the community. Reverend Gísladóttir gave an inspirational talk on peace and the group sang Christmas carols (Photo).



(Photo courtesy of the mayor of Grindavík)

- [Information from Other Cities] - Toyonaka, Japan: Mayors for Peace Page on the Toyonaka City Website;
- Obihiro, Japan: Creation and Distribution of the 2012 Peace Calendar;
- Yaizu, Japan: The 3rd Yaizu Peace Award Nominee Recommendation;
- Aubagne, France: Communiqué of Mr. Daniel Fontaine, Mayor of Aubagne, President of AFCDRP, about the 5000 membership;
- Malakoff, France: Communiqué of Ms. Catherine Margate, Mayor of Malakoff, vice-president of Mayors for Peace, about the 5000 membership;
- Nishitokyo, Japan: Symposium commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Nuclear-Free Peace City Declaration (February 26, 2012).

- Recent Developments (October 2011 — February 2012) ●**
- Oct. 1-25, 2011: Mayors for Peace Latin America and the Caribbean Survey conducted.
 - Oct. 12-13: The mayor of Nagasaki and representatives from Ypres and the 2020 Vision Campaign International Secretariat attended the International Forum for a Nuclear Weapons-Free World. [Astana, Kazakhstan]
 - Oct. 15: The mayor of Bazel , Switzerland, a leading mayor of the 2020 Vision Campaign gave a keynote speech on Mayors for Peace at a conference organized by Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament (PNND). [Bern, Switzerland]
 - Oct. 24: Montevideo (Uruguay) agreed to become an executive city.
 - Oct. 24: Awarded the XXXII Prize for Peace from the UN Association of Spain (awards ceremony was on November 9).
 - Nov. 8: General and Board of Directors Meetings of the 2020 Vision Campaign Association held. [Granollers, Spain]
 - Nov. 9-10: The 8th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace held. [Granollers, Spain]
 - Dec. 1: First member city (Juba, capital city) from South Sudan joined; membership expanded to 152 countries/regions.
 - Jan. 1, 2012: First member city (Djibouti, capital city) from Djibouti joined; membership expanded to 153 countries/regions.
 - Jan. 6 and 10: Executive officials sent a letter of protest against the new type of nuclear tests conducted in September and in November 2011 to the United States and the U.S. embassy in Japan.
 - Jan. 13-14: First Japanese member cities meeting held in Hiroshima.
 - Jan. 18-20: Mayors for Peace North American Coordinator participated in the annual winter meeting of the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM). [Washington DC, U.S.]
 - Jan. 23-25: First Mayors for Peace special committee meeting for strengthening management foundation. [Hannover, Germany]
 - Jan. 26: Submit a request for the Japanese government to work towards the early realization of a nuclear weapons convention. [Tokyo, Japan]
 - Feb. 14-15: Mayors for Peace International Development Director participated in the OPANAL seminar on the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones. [Mexico City, Mexico]

**Mayors for Peace Member Cities
5,136 member cities in 153 countries and regions**

Thanks to your tremendous support, the number of Mayors for Peace member cities reached 5,136 cities in 153 countries and regions as of March 1, 2012.

Juba (capital of South Sudan) in December and Djibouti (capital of Djibouti) in January became the first Mayors for Peace members for these countries. This expands our membership to 153 countries and regions. We saw significant membership increases in Austria, Italy and Brazil.

We would appreciate your continued assistance with inviting mayors who are not yet members to join our network.

◆ Member Cities by Area (as of March 1, 2012)

Area	Cities / Municipalities	Countries / Regions
Asia	1,549	30
Oceania	127	9
Africa	329	42
Europe	2,336	45
North America	288	3
Latin America and the Caribbean	507	24
Total	5,136	153

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 your mayor, 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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