

Peace Memorial Ceremony report

Municipality: Volgograd (Russia)

Mayor: Vitaly Likhachev

Date: August 6, 2019 (Tuesday)

Place: “State Historical and Memorial Museum-Reserve
“The Battle of Stalingrad” (at 47, Chuikova St.)

Number of Attendees: 73



In the early morning of August 6, 2019, the “Stalingrad Battle” panorama museum hosted a Peace Memorial Ceremony as a sign of solidarity with the city of Hiroshima and a tribute to its civilian residents who perished in the atomic bombing in 1945.



The ceremony brought together various representatives of public organizations, school and university students, members of the “Volgograd-Hiroshima” Friendship Society and such prominent figures as the Chair of Volgograd City Council **Andrey Kosolapov** and the Chair of Volgograd regional branch of the “Russian Peace Foundation” **Yury Starovatykh**, both Honorary Citizens of Hiroshima.

At 8:15 sharp – the moment the A-bomb exploded in the sky above Hiroshima 74 years ago, the “Stalingrad Battle” panorama museum was filled with the toll of the Peace Bell given to Volgograd as a present by the authorities of their Japanese twin-city. Participants of the Memorial Ceremony had a minute of silence to pay a tribute to the victims of the bombing. Following the local tradition, the flower-laying ceremony at the foot of the bell featured not only live carnations, but also paper cranes – a symbol of non-acceptance of war.

The commemorative event continued in the museum’s conference hall.

“Hiroshima has been Volgograd’s twin-city since 1972. During the Second World War, the residents of both cities had to go through terrible hardships. Therefore Volgograd will always walk hand in hand with Hiroshima in what concerns peace promotion. Atomic power must be a source of energy convenience but not fear and destruction,” pointed our **Andrey Kosolapov**.

An Honorary Citizen of both Volgograd and Hiroshima, the Chair of Volgograd regional branch of the “Russian Peace Foundation” **Yury Starovatykh** emphasized:

“Time has smoothed over the edges of the horror experienced by Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but there are other catastrophes that might also be brought about by atomic mayhem.”

After that, the “Volgograd-Hiroshima” Friendship Society delivered a PowerPoint presentation about the books, anime and music inspired by the gruesome realities of atomic bombings, and a member of Volgograd’s Council of Veterans (a retired technician of an atomic power station) dwelled on his memories about how nuclear power should only ever be used – for constructive work and life development.

In the end, all participants were offered to leave their signatures on the petitions of the “Mayor for Peace” international organization, which has Hiroshima as the President City and Volgograd as a Vice-President.



Media reports:

1. <https://stalingrad-battle.ru/about/m-news/2019/6687/> (Russian)
2. <http://xn--b1ats.xn--80asehdb/news/obshchestvo/v-volgograde-vspomnili-zhertv-atomnoy-bombardirovki-khirosimy-6296359492.html> (Russian + video)
3. <http://www.volgovet.ru/d1d0/Activity/PressRelease/i17712> (Russian)
4. <http://www.welcomevolgogradcity.com/NewsEn.aspx?idn=462> (English)

Contact person: Maria Deeva (Ms.)

Affiliation: International and regional relations directorate, Volgograd Mayor’s Office

Tel: +7 8442 30 13 31

E-mail: mg-deeva@volgadmin.ru