



Inter-city Solidarity *Newsletter*

World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity

March 10, 1997 No.7

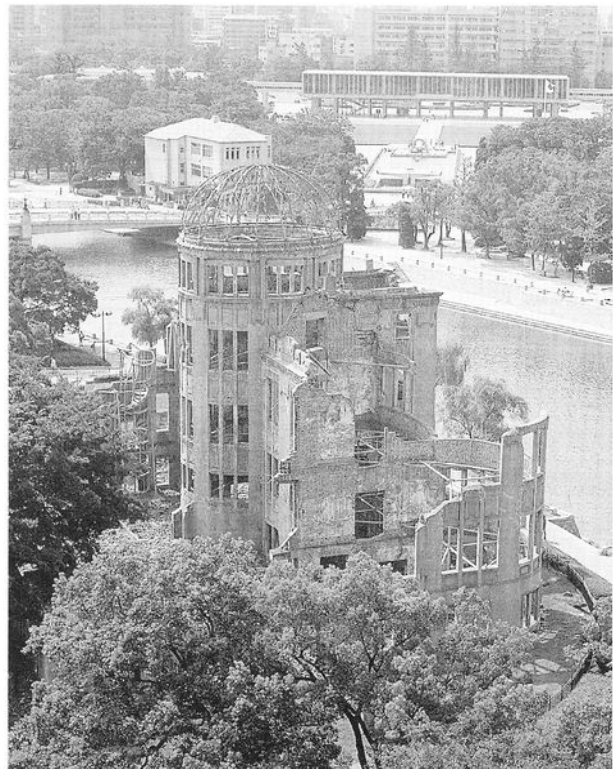
A-bomb Dome Becomes World Heritage Site

On December 5 last year, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee held in Merida, Mexico decided to register the A-bomb Dome on the World Heritage List. A symbol of Hiroshima's pledge to abolish nuclear weapons and seek lasting peace, the A-bomb Dome will enter the 21st century as a legacy common to the entire human race.

The A-bomb Dome, originally designed by Czechoslovakian architect Jan Letzel (1880-1925) was open as Hiroshima Prefectural Commercial Exhibition Hall on August 5, 1915. Local products were displayed and sold in the building, which was also used as a public exhibition hall and art gallery. Later, the name was changed to Hiroshima Prefectural Products Exhibition Hall, then Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall. The building was a familiar part of daily life for Hiroshima residents for 30 years.

On August 6, 1945, a single atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, and from that time the building has been preserved as a symbol of the devastation caused by the atomic bomb.

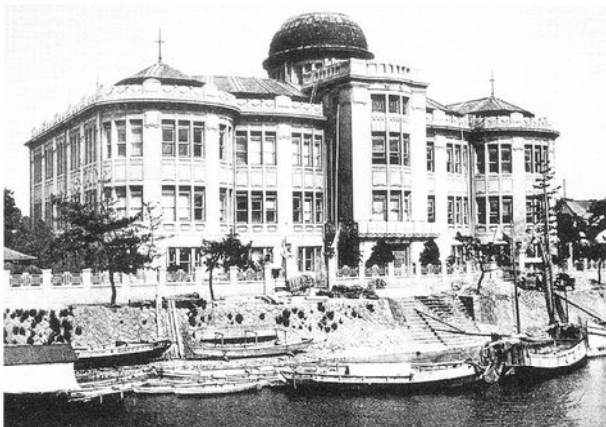
Preservation projects were carried out twice by fundraising campaigns since the bombing. A-bomb Dome Preservation Fund was established by using the surplus fund of the second Dome preservation fundraising campaign. To this day, people around the country continue to donate funds to preserve the A-bomb Dome.



A-bomb Dome was registered on the World Heritage List as "Hiroshima Peace Memorial, Genbaku Dome".

Through its registry on the World Heritage List, the A-bomb Dome has gained a worldwide recognition as a legacy common to the entire human race. This would indicate that the international community is developing a common awareness that nuclear weapons must never be used again.

The profound significance of the Dome's registry as a world heritage is etched in our hearts, and City of Hiroshima intends to continue indefinitely its efforts to publicize the A-bomb Dome here at home and abroad as a symbol of our pledge to pursue lasting peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons.



Outward appearance of the building around 1930.

Information Regarding the 4th World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity

The secretariat of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity formally decided the details regarding the 4th World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity to be held this year from August 4 to 9 in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and distributed this information to 905 cities toward the end of January. We are now receiving replies from the cities.

Here we provide some concrete details related to the conference.

【 Purpose 】

This is the General Conference held once every four years by the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, an organization comprised of the cities (420 cities from 99 countries and regions as of February 21, 1997) that support the "Program to Promote the Solidarity of Cities Toward the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons" advocated by the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during the 2nd U.N. Special Session on Disarmament held in June of 1982.

1997 is the year that the 4th World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity will be held with the following two purposes.

- 1 Enabling participants to come into contact with the reality of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as to discuss various measures to be taken for the abolition of nuclear weapons, the many issues that threaten the existence of humankind and how to achieve global harmony.
- 2 Contributing to the realization of everlasting world peace through deepening solidarity and mutual understanding among cities.

【 Conference Date and Venue 】

Date : From Monday, August 4 to Saturday, August 9, 1997

Venue : International Conference Center, Hiroshima
Hotel New Nagasaki

【 Participating Cities(estimate) 】

Overseas : 40 countries & regions, 85 cities, 170 persons

Domestic : 45 cities, 90 persons

Total : 41 countries & regions, 130 cities, 260 persons

【 Conference Themes 】

Keynote Theme : Peace, Justice and Freedom

– Efforts Toward Global Harmony –

Plenary Session I : Lessons of the 20th century and issues for the 21st century

– From a century of war to a century of peace –

Plenary Session II : A world free of nuclear weapons through the efforts of citizens

– Nuclear weapons abolition and international solidarity –

Session I : What should be done to abolish nuclear weapons after the CTBT?

Session II : The advancement of scientific technology and the construction of a new societal system

Session III : Toward a peaceful society through international solidarity

Session IV : Peace education and creation of peace culture for our future generation

Plenary Session III : Harmony in a diverse society (Session reports, conclusion of the conference)

【 Conference Languages 】

Simultaneous Interpretation : English, French, German, Italian, Russian, Japanese

Printed Materials and others : English, Japanese

【 Coverage of Expenses 】

- 1 Expenses to be paid by conference sponsors

The conference sponsors will cover the expenses for staying in Hiroshima and Nagasaki for two participants from each city. (Lodging and meal. However, this will not include personal expenses such as telephone and laundry expenses.) Conference sponsors will also cover the transportation costs from Hiroshima to Nagasaki on August 7.

- 2 Expenses to be paid by conference participants

(a) The participants will be responsible for all expenses apart from the above.

(b) A conference participation fee of 200 U.S. dollars per city.

In addition, if there are more than two participants per city, all expenses in 1 and 2 (a) will be covered by the additional individual(s).

【 Others 】

The accompany person's program will be provided in the afternoon of August 5, on August 6, 8 and 9 free of charge.

Email address of the secretariat
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Atomic Bomb Exhibition Being Held in Umbria, Italy

From March 1 to 31, a Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibition is being held in Perugia and Assisi Cities in the state of Umbria, Italy. This exhibition is being sponsored by the state of Umbria, the Perugia Administrative District, Perugia City, Assisi City and the Association for Peace with support from cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



Assisi City Hall, the exhibition venue

In addition, a similar exhibition is being held in Wurzburg, Germany from February 15 through March 31.

Cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are now preparing for exhibitions in New York (U.S.), Barcelona (Spain), Heidelberg (Germany) and several other cities.

Four More Cities Join Mayor's Conference

On December 24, 1996, the secretariat sent out another call to join the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity to 216 cities in 49 countries. In response, the following four cities have joined the conference.

Nadi (Fiji); Kamloops (Canada); La Trinidad (Philippines); Ghent (Belgium).

Nadi is the first city in Fiji to become a member. With the addition of these four cities, our total membership has grown to 420 cities in 99 countries.

From the Secretariat

We have begun full-scale preparations for the 4th World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity in August. We intend to do everything in our power to make it an effective and meaningful conference, and we look forward to seeing all of you.

Activities Overseas

Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Poster Exhibit in Madras, India

The Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Poster Exhibit in Madras was held on November 19, 1996, sponsored by the Madras branch of the Universal Love and Brotherhood Association. The secretary general of that association, Karikar Vaitha, read a message from the Mayor of Hiroshima. Visitors crowded into the downtown hotel venue and examined the posters intently.

Mr. Vaitha sent our secretariat photographs of the exhibit and a video tape of the opening ceremony. Thank you very much, Mr. Vaitha!



Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Poster Exhibit in Madras

Peace Activity Reports Received

The secretariat has received the following peace activity reports and summaries. We are grateful for the reports and the efforts for peace they describe.

- **Landau Network Coordination Center, Conference Report Science and Technology for Building Peace (from Como, Italy)**
- **Environment Protection Club, Activity Summary (Riga, Latvia)**

Please send us information (photos, newspaper articles, reports) about what you are doing in your city for peace.

For details about the reports mentioned above, feel free to contact the secretariat office.

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Program(Tentative)

【 Monday, August 4 】

- All day Arrival of participants and registration
16:00-17:00 Executive Conference (Executive cities only)
18:30-20:00 Welcome Reception hosted by Hiroshima City

【 Tuesday, August 5 】

- 8:40 - 8:50 Pay respects at Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims
9:00 - 9:50 Tour Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum
10:00-11:15 Opening Ceremony
11:30-12:00 General Conference
13:30-17:00 Plenary Session I

【 Wednesday, August 6 】

- 7:00 - 9:30 Attend Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony
10:00-12:00 Plenary Session II
13:30-15:30 Sessions I & II
16:00-18:00 Tour Miyajima Island
The Itsukushima Shinto Shrine built in the 13th century on Miyajima Island, one of the three most famous views in Japan, was also named as a world heritage cultural site.
19:00- Lantern offering on the water, etc.

【 Thursday, August 7 】

- Morning and afternoon Move to Nagasaki
18:30-20:00 Welcome Reception hosted by Nagasaki City

【 Friday, August 8 】

- 9:00 - 9:30 Nagasaki Conference Opening Ceremony
9:30-11:30 Symposium
11:45-12:30 Meeting with A-bomb survivors
14:30-16:45 Sessions III & IV
19:30-21:00 Sightseeing of Glover Garden
20:30- Drafting Committee Meeting of Hiroshima-Nagasaki Appeal
(Drafting Committee Members only)

【 Saturday, August 9 】

- 9:00-10:00 Tour Nagasaki A-bomb Museum
10:30-12:00 Attend Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremony for the A-bomb Victims
14:30-15:30 Plenary Session III (Conclusion)
15:30-16:00 Closing Ceremony (Announcement of Hiroshima-Nagasaki Appeal)

【 Sunday, August 10 】

- All Day Leave Nagasaki

Access Information

[Arrival in Hiroshima]

1-1 International air service to Hiroshima Airport(HIJ) is available from the following five cities. (As of February, 1997) **Hong Kong:** Ar. at HIJ - every day except Sat./Dep. from HIJ - every day except Wed.; **Seoul:** every day; **Shanghai** and **Xi'an:** Tues. and Fri.; **Singapore:** Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat.; **Guam** (scheduled to start service on June 5): Ar.at HIJ - Mon., Tues., Fri., Sat./Dep. from HIJ - Mon., Thur., Fri., Sun..

1-2 It takes about one hour to travel by limousine bus from Hiroshima Airport to downtown Hiroshima.

1-3 We would like our guests from overseas to fly into Hiroshima Airport if at all possible.

2 Travel times to Hiroshima from Narita (New Tokyo International, NRT), Kansai International(KIX), and Fukuoka(FUK) Airports are as follows:

NTR to HIJ (via Haneda Airport, HND): 4 to 5 hours

KIX to Hiroshima Station (by train): 4 to 5 hours

FUK to Hiroshima Station (by train): about 2.5 hours

[Departure from Nagasaki]

1-1 The closest international airport to Nagasaki is Fukuoka Airport. Flights leave from Fukuoka on Saturday and Sunday for the following major cities. (As of February, 1997)

(1) Saturday: Oakland, Beijing, Hong Kong, Honolulu, Seoul, Singapore

(2) Sunday: Bangkok, Beijing, Cairns, Hong Kong, Honolulu, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore

1-2 Travel time from Nagasaki Station to Fukuoka Airport is about two hours by train.

2 For those departing from Narita (NRT) and Kansai (KIX) International Airports, the travel times required are:

Nagasaki Airport(NGS) to KIX: about 1.5 hours

NGS to NRT (via HND): 5 to 6 hours

Travel time from the conference venue in downtown Nagasaki to Nagasaki Airport by limousine bus is about one hour.

* To cities from which we receive formal replies of participation, the designated travel agent will send travel information in due time.