



# *Inter-city Solidarity* Newsletter

World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity

March 10, 1998 No.9

## **Indian Cities Host Atomic Bomb Exhibition**

For 21 days, from January 30 to February 19, an exhibition entitled *Hiroshima-Nagasaki, Never Again* was held in the city of Mumbai(former Bombay), located in west India. The exhibition drew a total of 54,000 visitors and generated considerable public reaction.

This was the first atomic bomb exhibition planned by Hiroshima and Nagasaki to be held in Asia. It was sponsored by local foundations and NGOs engaged in peace activities and was held in the center of the city at the Nehru Centre.

At the entrance to the hall stood a monument evoking the A-bomb Dome. Inside, the displays included some 50 photo panels and other exhibits describing the damage caused by the atomic bombings and the current status of nuclear weapons. 25 atomic bomb artifacts were also displayed, including student uniforms worn by high school students at the time and bamboo exposed to the heat rays.

The opening ceremony held at 7 p.m. on January 29 was attended by Minoru Hataguchi, director of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, and Shigeru Kakimoto of the Nagasaki Peace Promotion Office. On behalf of the two cities, they stressed that "nuclear weapons and the human race cannot coexist indefinitely."

The extent of concern raised by this exhibition was indicated by the fact that 3,000 people visited the exhibition on the 30th when it was opened to the public. Day after day, the exhibition



Citizens of Mumbai thoughtfully examine the exhibits.

was crowded, and succeeded in arousing public interest.

In addition to presenting a lecture at Bombay University, Director Hataguchi attended a number of peace gatherings, marches and other events, where he energetically conveyed the facts about the bombings and the wishes of the citizens of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The first atomic bomb exhibition in Asia was especially significant because it was held in India, which continues to refuse to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and is said to hold the key to its effectuation.

However, even in light of the atomic bomb damage, deep-rooted Indian attitudes regarding nuclear deterrence were apparent in such questions as, "If the US can have nuclear weapons, why shouldn't India?"

The event was covered by 28 news companies, with local newspapers and television channels giving it more coverage than anticipated. Undoubtedly, the consciousness of local residents has been raised with respect to the abolition of nuclear weapons.

At the end of this month, this exhibition will move to the National Science Center in the capital, New Delhi, where it will be on display until mid-April.

If your city is interested in hosting an atomic bomb exhibition, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat.



The A-bomb Dome monument at the entrance to the hall

## **Making Inter-city Solidarity Even Stronger**

Since the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity was founded in 1982, the East-West Cold War has ended and the climate surrounding nuclear weapons has been transformed. The Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty was indefinitely extended, the International Court of Justice determined that the use of nuclear weapons is illegal according to international law, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), and other progressive steps have been taken in the field of disarmament.

On the other hand, there is no immediate prospect of the CTBT going into effect and the nuclear powers, while showing no sign of abolishing nuclear weapons are conducting sub-critical nuclear testing and are pursuing other new developments. This is no time to relax. We must strengthen our inter-city solidarity and continue appealing to the international community for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and in order to realize a world of genuine peace, we must put our resources together to solve such problems as hunger, poverty, and environmental destruction.

Below, we present a summary of the goals and activities of the Mayors Conference, and we look forward to your ever increasing participation in conference operations. At the same time, in order to strengthen and widen the circle of inter-city solidarity, we ask that you mention the organization to neighboring cities or cities anywhere with which your city may have a special relationship. Please feel free to invite them to join. Finally, if you have any comments, criticisms, or suggestions regarding the activities of the Mayors Conference, please don't hesitate to inform the Secretariat. We look forward to your feedback.

### **1 The World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity**

In August 1945, atomic bombs which were dropped on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki instantaneously reduced them to rubble, and took a vast numbers of precious lives. As a result of those atomic bombs, many people suffer today, more than fifty years later, from the physical and emotional aftereffects of radiation. To ensure that the atomic tragedy is never repeated anywhere on earth, Hiroshima and Nagasaki have consistently sought to persuade the world that nuclear weapons are inhumane and have continually called for their total abolition.

On June 24, 1982, at the 2nd Special Session on Disarmament held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, then-mayor of Hiroshima Takeshi Araki announced the Program to Promote the Solidarity of Cities toward the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons(see page 4), a plan to build transnational solidarity among cities to facilitate collective efforts toward the elimination of nuclear weapons. The mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki issued a joint call to cities everywhere to support this program.

The World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity is a body made up of cities that have expressed their support for the program described above. In March 1990, the Conference was registered as an NGO with the United Nations Department of Public Information; it was registered as a Category

II NGO in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council in May 1991.

### **2 Purpose**

The World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, through close cooperation among the cities that support the Program to Promote the Solidarity of Cities toward the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons, strives to raise international public awareness regarding the need to abolish nuclear weapons and contributes to the realization of genuine and lasting world peace by working to eliminate starvation and poverty, assist refugees fleeing local conflict, support human rights, protect the environment, and solve the other problems that threaten peaceful coexistence within the human family.

### **3 Structure**

At present, the membership consists of 439 cities in 100 countries and regions. The mayors of the following nine cities are officers of the conference.

President: Hiroshima(Japan); Vice presidents: Nagasaki (Japan), Berlin(Germany), Como(Italy), Hannover(Germany), Malakoff(France), Muntinlupa(Philippines), Volgograd (Russia), Wollongong (Australia)

### **4 Activities**

1) The World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity conducts the following activities.

- Calls worldwide for solidarity among cities

Name of organization: World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity  
Representative: President Takashi Hiraoka  
(Mayor of Hiroshima)  
Date founded: June 24, 1982  
Headquarters: 1-2 Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima  
730-0811 JAPAN  
Contact numbers: ☎+81-82-241-2352 / FAX +81-82-242-7452  
e-mail: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

Web address: <http://www.city.hiroshima.jp/>  
Membership: Made up of cities around the world that have expressed formal support for the Program to Promote the Solidarity of Cities toward the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (as of February 20, 1998, 439 cities in 100 countries and regions)  
Main activities: The promotion of peace with a focus on nuclear disarmament and the abolition of nuclear weapons

- Holds a general conference once every four years to facilitate efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons and solve the various problems that obstruct peace
- Holds executive meetings as the need arises
- Sends the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Peace Declarations to supporting cities
- Presents appeals to the United Nations and other organizations regarding the elimination of nuclear weapons, promotion of disarmament, solutions to human rights and refugee problems, alleviation of starvation and poverty, and protection of the environment
- Implements projects that contribute to peace, disarmament, human rights, refugees, starvation and poverty, and environmental destruction; publicizes the results of such projects and promotes exchanges of information
- Donates Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Photo Posters
- Publishes a newsletter

## 2) History of Activities

**June 1982:** Calls for "Inter-city Solidarity" program at the 2nd United Nations Special Session on Disarmament

**January 1983:** Implements first call to 72 cities in 23 countries

**August 1985:** Holds 1st World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity (attended by 100 cities in 23 countries)

**May 1987:** Holds 1st Executive Conference in Hannover, Germany

**April 1988:** Holds 2nd Executive Conference in Como, Italy

**June 1988:** Attends 3rd Special Session on Disarmament at United Nations Headquarters

**August 1989:** Holds 2nd World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity (attended by 119 cities in 27 countries)

**January 1991:** Attends Partial Test Ban Treaty Amendment Conference; issues demand for an end to the Persian Gulf War; attends United Nations Economic and Social Council NGO Committee Meeting

**May 1991:** Receives consultative status of United Nations

Economic and Social Council NGO, Category II

**October 1991:** Holds 3rd Executive Conference in Sacramento, USA

**August 1993:** Holds 3rd World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity (attended by 122 cities in 38 countries)

**April 1995:** Attends the Review and Extension Conference of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT)

**June 1995:** Holds Asia and Pacific Regional Conference of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity (attended by 57 cities in 13 countries); protests series of nuclear tests conducted by France and China

**October 1995:** Holds 4th Executive Conference in Volgograd, Russia

**May 1996:** Holds Geneva Conference of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity (attended by 8 cities in 6 countries)

**August 1997:** Holds 4th World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity (attended by 117 cities in 33 countries)

## 5 Publications

1) The newsletter: Inter-city Solidarity (semiannual)

2) Proceedings of the 1st through 3rd World Conferences of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity (English and Japanese)

3) Proceedings of the Asia and Pacific Regional Conference (English and Japanese)

## 6 Miscellaneous

### 1) To join

Membership in the Mayors Conference requires only a letter from the mayor or the chairperson of the City Council to the effect that the city supports the Program to Promote the Solidarity of Cities toward the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons and wishes to become a member of the organization.

### 2) Membership dues

Membership involves no annual dues or financial commitment of any kind.

## **Program to Promote Solidarity of Cities Towards the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons**

### **I Purpose**

In the light of the fact that the total abolition of nuclear weapons for which Hiroshima and Nagasaki have long been calling, has now won public support in many cities around the world, and that the advocacy of it is spreading world-wide, we should awaken the concern among the cities for the eradication of nuclear arms through establishing closer solidarity between the cities of the world, and thus contributing efforts towards a lasting world peace.

### **II Means to Promote Inter-city Solidarity**

A. We will carry forward this enterprise step by step according to the actual circumstances of each city.

B. A city which has joined in our "Inter-city Solidarity"

program should exert its efforts in introducing the idea to as many other cities as possible, thereby expanding the solidarity between the cities beyond the boundaries of nations.

C. The program will be promoted in cooperation with the United Nations.

D. The solidarity of cities will take effect on the day we receive a letter from the particular city expressing its wish to join in this program.

E. Correspondence and coordination with the member cities will be conducted by the City of Hiroshima.

### **III Details of the Program**

Please see page two and three for the details.

### **14 New Members Including the First Cities from South Africa**

On January 9 of this year, the Secretariat issued another solicitation letter, this time to 161 cities in six countries, mostly in Australia, requesting that they join our organization. These cities were selected from among those that have declared themselves to be nuclear-free zones or have expressed support for the Abolition 2000 campaign.

Since August 9, 1997, the following fourteen cities have joined the conference:

**Lithgow(Australia); Lakefield (Canada); Agii Anargiri (Greece); Chennai (India); Mombasa (Kenya); Hutt City, Rotorua, Waitakere (New Zealand); Durban North Central, East London(South Africa); Ashland, Hoboken, Sebastopol(USA); Hue(Viet Nam)** [City names are listed in alphabetical order of the countries to which they belong.]

Our membership as of February 20, including these fourteen cities, stands at 439 cities in 100 countries and regions.

### **International Forum in Como, Italy, Scheduled for July**

Theme: New Threats to Peace in the Third Millennium: Second Generation of Nuclear Weapons and Radioactive Waste; Time: July 2-4, 1998; Sponsors: Landau Network-Centro Volta; Co-sponsor: Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNESCO Venice office, Lombardia Region, City of Como.

### **The City of Barcelona Invites the Program Exchange of Member Cities**


The City of Barcelona, capital of Catalonia, Spain, would like to invite member cities of the organization to exchange peace and human rights promotion programs. If your city is interested, please contact the Department of Civil Rights, City of Barcelona, att: Mr. Agusti Soler, Councillor of Civil Rights. Contact address: Ciutat, 4, planta baixa 08002 Barcelona, Spain, phone: (34-3) 402-7083, fax: (34-3) 402-7096.

To promote solidarity within the Mayors Conference and to take steps toward the realization of world peace, we would like to facilitate more exchange and interaction among our member cities.

If your city is interested in organizing or taking part in peace-related exchanges with other member cities, please inform us of the field of exchange being planned (peace, international relations, human rights, education, the environment, etc.), the proposed location, and the contact person's name, address, telephone and fax numbers. We will put you in contact with other cities interested in similar exchanges.

### **World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity Secretariat**

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