



Mayors for Peace Newsletter

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7th General Conference of Mayors for Peace held in Nagasaki

The 7th General Conference of Mayors for Peace was hosted by Nagasaki City from Friday, August 7 to Monday, August 10, 2009. “NUCLEAR WEAPONS ABOLITION IS IN OUR HANDS! - Let’s get the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol adopted in 2010 –” was the theme as representatives of cities, municipalities, embassies and NGOs from 33 countries discussed preparations for the NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) Review Conference and cooperation among local authorities around the world. Executive cities for the 2009–2013 term were approved, an Action Plan was adopted and a Nagasaki Appeal was issued.



Outline

Friday, August 7

At 2pm, 99 participants from 33 countries participated in a **ceremony offering flowers at the hypocenter** followed by an A-bomb storytelling using illustrated boards, and a tour of the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum.

At 4:15pm, the **General and Board meetings of the 2020 Vision Campaign Association** deliberated new executive officials, financial reports, a new system of “Associate Members”, and financial contributions expected from each country.

The **Welcome Reception** at 6:30pm featured a combination of Japanese, Chinese and Dutch cuisines derived from Nagasaki’s unique history.

Saturday, August 8

The agenda for the General Conference was determined at the **Executive Conference** in the morning. In the afternoon, about 1,000 participants attended the

Opening Ceremony led by the mayor of Nagasaki. The **Keynote Speech** “Creating an Integrated Vision for Nuclear Abolition” was delivered by Mr. Bruce Gagnon, coordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space (U.S.). His speech was followed by Nagasaki’s spectacular dragon dance.



The **General Conference** then approved president and vice president cities as well as the Action Plan (on the next page). Nine speakers made inspiring interventions at **Plenary Session I**, which began at 4:30pm under the theme, “CITIES AND CITIZENS CAN MOVE NATIONS -Toward a Worldwide Paradigm Shift-”.

Sunday, August 9

After the **Nagasaki Peace Ceremony** in the morning, conference participants divided themselves for the afternoon between Section Meetings I and II.

Section Meeting I was entitled “PASSING THE FLAME: From *Hibakusha* to Children, for the Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts.” Presentations included A-bomb survivor testimony by Mr. Tsukasa Uchida, remarks on peace education from Sapporo (Japan) and Waitakere (New Zealand), and a report on African *hibakusha* exposed by French nuclear tests in the Sahara desert from the ambassador of Eritrea.

Section Meeting II, entitled “FUTURE STEPS FOR THE 2020 VISION CAMPAIGN”, featured Professor Toshiki Mogami of the International Christian University lecturing on “From Solferino to Hiroshima / Nagasaki”. Secretariat staff explained the 2020 Vision Campaign, and speakers from

France, the UK, Burundi and several other countries expressed their views. At the end of this meeting, 13 city representatives from Bangladesh handed President Akiba their



registration forms and formally joined Mayors for Peace.

Monday, August 10

The **Talk with NGOs and Citizens** held at 9am, put the focus on “Efforts by NGOs to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons at Local, National and Regional Levels.” Representatives of the Organizing Committee of Nagasaki Global Citizens’ Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, Peace Depot, Peace Boat, as well as the ambassador of Denmark served as panelists. The mayor of Khanaqin, Iraq, reported on damage by chemical weapons in the Kurdistan region of his country.

Rengo (Japanese Trade Union Confederation), UNI Global Union, World Without Wars, and ANT-



Hiroshima made exciting intervention from the floor.

At the **Plenary Session II** that afternoon, the theme was “THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY 2020.” The chairs of the section meetings presented summaries, and representatives of several cities as well as the US Conference of Mayors offered comments.

The **Closing Ceremony** adopted the Nagasaki Appeal and ended with beautiful singing by children from Nagasaki.

(Full texts for the Action Plan, Program and Nagasaki Appeal are available at: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/meeting.html>)

Outline of the Action Plan for the 7th General Conference of Mayors for Peace

1. Current priority activities of Mayors for Peace

1) Working towards the adoption of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol at the 2010 NPT Review Conference

Continue grass-root petition drives, publication and distribution of a booklet on the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol, strengthening membership of Mayors for Peace.

2) Promote the International Decade for Disarmament, 2010 to 2020.

3) Promote role of cities and municipal associations in participatory diplomacy related to peace, disarmament and international affairs.

- i. Participate in the 62nd Annual Conference of NGOs associated with the UN Dept. of Public Information (DPI), titled “For Peace and Development: Disarm Now!”, to be held in Mexico City, 9 to 11 Sept. 2009.
- ii. At the 4th meeting of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND), press for adoption of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, October 2009.
- iii. Promote the grassroots petition drive in support of CANT, the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol, and related nuclear disarmament demands.
- iv. Recruit new member cities as evidence of support for the Protocol.
- v. Participation of a mayoral delegation to the 2010 NPT Review Conference.
- vi. Work with cities and municipal associations, to lobby national governments at home and at the UN.
- vii. Work with nations to submit the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol or a comparable, related document at the 2010 NPT Review Conference.
- viii. Strongly support holding a fourth Special Session devoted to Disarmament.
- ix. Convene a major international conference in Hiroshima of like-minded nations and NGOs to celebrate the start of negotiations and address the next steps in the campaign to eliminate nuclear weapons by 2020.

4) Strengthen collaboration with campaign partners and promote grassroots petition drive

Continue to promote our grassroots petition drive in support of the CANT (Cities Are Not Targets) project and the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol. We will also cooperate with member cities, NGOs, labor unions and other like-minded groups to gather at least 10 million signatures on related, though not identical petitions.

- i. Create an advisory group consisting of representatives from

- member cities that have experienced the scourge of war.
- ii. Strengthen collaboration with Abolition 2000, IPPNW, ICBL and other peace groups.

5) Greatly increase Mayors for Peace membership

Increase member cities to 5,000 by May 2010.

6) Expansion of the Executive Committee

- i. Seek geographical balance among continents and countries.
- ii. Give priority to countries with high numbers of members. However, even in countries with low numbers, cities that demonstrate high effectiveness or are of special strategic importance will also be considered.
- iii. The Executive Committee shall not be expanded beyond 1% of total membership.

7) Establish contact centers within as many cities/countries as possible to improve communication, fundraising, recruitment efforts and management of national or regional activities.

The international secretariat in Belgium will take the lead in creating and managing a network of centers through which to obtain effective campaign assistance.

8) Development of the “Obamajority” Campaign

Based on the speech made by President Obama in which he announced America’s commitment to seek peace and security in a world without nuclear weapons, Mayors for Peace will promote the term “Obamajority” to refer to the global majority of nations and people seeking the abolition of nuclear weapons. This campaign will begin in Japan. It will be expanded wherever it is deemed likely to broaden the base of grassroots public support.

2. Midterm plans prior to the 8th General Conference

- i. Strong promotion of the UN Decade for Disarmament
- ii. Press for a Special Session on Disarmament
- iii. Expand recruiting activities; build membership and capacity

3. 2020 Olympics in Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Mayors for Peace believes that it is more than appropriate for Hiroshima and Nagasaki to celebrate the total elimination of nuclear weapons by hosting the Olympic Games in 2020.

4. Building organizational capacity

- i. Improve communication through local lead cities to activate executive and other member cities.
- ii. With the 7th General Conference participants at the core, utilize the network to hold regional and national meetings

5. Building firm fiscal foundation

Look into ways to increase member city contributions.

3rd Preparatory Committee Meeting (PrepCom) for the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference (May 2009)

Mayors for Peace formed a mayoral delegation consisting of 13 cities and one group, and attended the third preparatory committee meeting to the NPT Review Conference (NPT PrepCom) in New York.

The mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki spoke at the NGO session. Mayor Taue called for world leaders to visit Nagasaki, and Mayor Akiba referred to the majority of people around the world seeking a world without nuclear weapons as the "Obamajority." He also displayed a paper crane folded by Sadako Sasaki, making



(Photo:AFP/Jiji)

the appeal that a world without nuclear weapons by 2020 is possible. The speeches of both mayors were greeted with enthusiastic voices of support.

Mayors for Peace also hosted a conference entitled "Toward a decisive decade for nuclear disarmament, 2010-2020", while

meeting with national government representatives introducing our activities.



The Board Meeting of the 2020 Vision Campaign Association was held to discuss our future actions.

They also attended meetings organized by other NGOs to strengthen our partnerships. The delegation took this opportunity to visit Washington DC and met officials and law makers in the US Government and the Congress to request their cooperation in our efforts to abolish nuclear weapons.

3rd meeting of ICNND in Moscow (June, 2009)

President Akiba participated in the 3rd meeting of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND) in Moscow, Russia, led by the Japanese and Australian governments. He delivered a speech at an NGO session to 29 experts on nuclear issues including Co-Chairs Mr. Gareth Evans and Ms. Yoriko Kawaguchi, former foreign ministers of Australia and Japan.

We actively promoted understanding and cooperation with our mission, and bonds were forged between committee members that assisted in the implementation of the 4th ICNND meeting held in Hiroshima this October.



US Conference of Mayors (USCM) 77th Annual Meeting (June 2009)

President Akiba participated in the 77th Annual Meeting of the US Conference of Mayors, held in Providence, Rhode Island. He requested that they submit and adopt a resolution to rid the world of nuclear weapons by 2020, featuring the following:

- 1) Support for the activities of Mayors for Peace.
- 2) Urging the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament to set 2020 as their target year for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and to recognize the important role of cities and citizens for the elimination of nuclear weapons.
- 3) A request directed at President Obama to announce the beginning of multilateral negotiations at the 2010 NPT Review Conference for the abolishment of nuclear arms by 2020.

The above was passed and adopted unanimously by the US Conference of Mayors on June 15. He spoke at the International Affairs Standing Committee and Plenary on the annual meeting. In his speeches, he introduced the "Obamajority" and asked cooperation of the American mayors in inviting President Obama to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as in conveying to the President that

the US Mayors are calling for an immediate start of negotiations for abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020.



62nd Annual DPI/NGO Conference (September 2009)



President Akiba participated in the 62nd Annual UN DPI (Department of Public Information) / NGO Conference held in Mexico City on the theme "For

Peace and Development: Disarm Now". We conducted such activities as holding a workshop with other NGOs, meeting with the UN Secretary-General, sending a message of nuclear disarmament with the Secretary-General via "twitter", a short text communication service, and giving a speech at the closing ceremony.



He also delivered a speech at a meeting of the OPANAL Council, Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, consisting of all 33 Member States of the Treaty of Tlatelolco. His call for working together to abolish nuclear weapons was positively accepted.



● **Recent Major Topics** ●

- June 2008: US Conference of Mayors (USCM) adopted a resolution supporting the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol.
- September 2008: Mayors for Peace issued a statement on the N.S.G. decision to grant India a waiver.
- October 2008: Submission of signatures collected for the CANT petition to the President of the UN General Assembly.
- November 2008: 2020 Vision Campaign Association Board Meeting and other activities in Belgium, Germany and Luxembourg.
- November 2008: Ms. Jacqueline Cabasso, North American coordinator of Mayors for Peace, received the 2008 MacBride Peace Prize.
- January 2009: Mayors for Peace issued a statement concerning the Gaza conflict.
- February 2009: Mr. Steve Leeper, chairman of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, received the 2008 Academia Prize in International Exchange from the Academic Society of Japan.
- May 2009: Participation in the Third Preparatory Committee meeting to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference (2009 NPT PrepCom).
- May 2009: Protest against nuclear test conducted by DPRK.
- June 2009: President Akiba attended the USCM 77th Annual Meeting, which passed a resolution calling on President Obama to start negotiations for the elimination of nuclear weapons by 2020.
- June 2009: President Akiba attended the third meeting of International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND) in Moscow.
- August 2009: Membership exceeded 3,000 cities.
- August 2009: The 7th General Conference in Nagasaki adopted the Nagasaki Appeal.
- September 2009: President Akiba attended the 62nd Annual DPI/NGO Conference in Mexico City.

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 name of your mayor, your 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

◆ **New Executive Cities**

The following new President and Vice President Cities were approved at the 7th General Conference. The term will be until August 2013.

President: Hiroshima (Japan) / **Vice President [14 Cities]:** Nagasaki (Japan), Hannover (Germany), Malakoff (France), Manchester (UK), Muntinlupa (Philippines), Akron (U.S.A), Volgograd (Russia), Florence (Italy), Ypres (Belgium), Biograd na Moru (Croatia), Granollers (Spain), Halabja (Iraq), Waitakere (New Zealand), Brussels (Belgium)

Mayors for Peace Member Cities (As of November 2, 2009)

■ **3,241 member cities in 134 countries and regions**

The number of Mayors for Peace member cities exceeded 3,000 in August 2009 and now stands at 3,241 cities in 134 countries and regions. We are determined to have 5,000 members by the NPT Review Conference in May 2010. Please take some time today to invite at least one fellow mayor to join Mayors for Peace. If each of us recruits one more, we will reach our goal.

Area	Cities / Municipalities	Countries / Regions
Asia	788	29
Oceania	95	9
Africa	134	30
Europe	1,806	42
North America	224	3
Latin America and the Caribbean	194	21
Total	3,241	134

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