Mayors for Peace News Flash (October 2011) No.22

Dear member cities and supporters of Mayors for Peace,

■International Day of Peace Announcement: "We reached 5,000 cities!"

Participating in events marking the UN's International Day of Peace, Mayors, 2020 Vision Campaigners, and staff spread the good news that the Mayors for Peace network has surpassed the 5000-members mark. The mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as the Lord Mayor of Hannover offered their comments. International Campaign Director Aaron Tovish announced the news at a Peace Festival in Vienna. Secretariat Manager Matthias Breyne brought the good news to Utrecht, North American Coordinator Jackie Cabasso issued a press release, and Development Director Pol Heanna D'Huyvetter spread the news at Congreso de Seguridad Ciudadana Local in Buenos Aires.

▼ Related Story (2020 Vision Campaign website):

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/abae0b7483/peace-day-announcement-we-have-m.html.

■ Brazilian National Front of Mayors calls President Dilma to take leadership for Mayors for Peace campaign [Foz de Iguacu, Brazil]

The Brazilian National Front of Mayors (FNP) officially joined the leadership of Mayors for Peace during their General Meeting in Foz de Iguacu (Parana). João Coser, the Mayor of Victoria (ES) and President of FNP co-signed on Op-ed in Folha de Sao Paulo asking President Dilma to take leadership to organize the Special Disarmament Conference as proposed by Mayors for Peace. The Op-ed, the main article on page 3, announced publicly that "believing in the importance of their involvement in global issues, the FNP will officially become part of the leadership of Mayors for Peace during the meeting that begins October 17 in Foz de Iguacu.

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/78c4d55976/brazilian-national-front-of-mayors-j-1.html.

■ Mayors for Peace featured at meeting of Parliamentarians [Bern, Switzerland]

On October 15, Mayor Guy Morin of Basel, Switzerland, a Leading Mayor of the 2020 Vision Campaign gave a keynote speech at a conference organized by Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament (PNND). Campaign Director, Aaron Tovish, attended the PNND Annual Assembly to discuss future cooperation in the context of the 2020 Vision Campaign. The meetings took place in Bern, Switzerland, in conjunction with the International Parliamentary Union's annual conference. Like Mayors for Peace and the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), thanks to PNND the IPU has endorsed the UN Secretary-General's Five Point Plan, including negotiations of a nuclear weapons convention.

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/05b49d0524/mayors-for-peace-featured-at-meeting.html.

■Mayors for Peace strengthens ties with Kazakhstan

[Astana, Kazakhstan, October 10 to 14]

[Notaria, Nazakilotari, Cotobor To to 14]

Representatives from the cities of Nagasaki and Ypres went to the International Forum for a Nuclear Weapons-Free World in Astana, Kazakhstan. A warm welcome and four days of very interesting meetings, discussions and visits were on the agenda. The report of the Ypres participants is available from the link below. Nagasaki's report will be available for the next issue.

▼Full article of the report of Ypres participants (2020 Vision Campaign website)

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/43dc575afc/mayors-for-peace-strenghtens-ties-wi.html.

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■ Past Mayors for Peace President Tadatoshi Akiba Receives Peace Leadership Award

[Santa Barbara, US]

On October 9, past Mayors for Peace President and former Hiroshima Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba received the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's Distinguished Peace Leadership Award in Santa Barbara, California. Shigeko Sasamori, a survivor of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima received the World Citizenship Award on behalf of all Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bomb survivors (hibakusha). The awards were presented during the Foundation's 28th Annual Evening for Peace, "From Hiroshima to Hope."

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/bf5f650c93/past-mayors-for-peace-president-tada.html.

■ 2011 Progress Report for the 2020 Vision Campaign completed

[Ypres, Belgium]

We are very pleased to announce the completion of the 2011 Progress Report for the 2020 Vision Campaign. The report has been finalized in English, with Spanish and French versions near completion. We are incredibly grateful for all the hard work and commitment that everyone involved has given to getting this year's Report ready. Progress Reports continue to be an extremely useful tool for the 2020 Vision Campaign in meetings and campaigning activities.

▼Progress Report

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/progress-report.html.

■ The Financial Contributions from Member Cities to the 2020 Vision Campaign

- Update for September 2011 [Ypres, Belgium]

The 2020 Vision Campaign received donations from 8 cities in 4 countries this September, coming to a total of € 2.450,88. Significant donations were made by our member cities in Belgium, Canada, Italy and New Zealand. We would like to extend our gratitude to our member cities for this generosity in supporting our efforts to realize a nuclear-weapon-free world by 2020.

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

 $\underline{http://www.2020vision campaign.org/en/members/contributors/artikel/3adf3b791f/contributions-update-september-2011}.html.$

▼ List of cities that made contributions in September:

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user_upload/2020VC/Members/Contributors/Contributions_September_2011.pdf.

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■ Mayors for Peace Latin America promotes a survey with member cities in the region

To better understand the member-cities needs and perceptions, Mayors for Peace Latin America organized a survey on peace and security issues as seen by the municipalities in the region. The survey was spread to all Latin-American and Caribbean members and partners by the region's volunteers and 2020 Vision Campaigners, as well as Associations of Municipalities with which Mayors for Peace holds agreements of cooperation, such as FLACMA, AMUNIC, FAM and FNP.

The initiative for the survey came as the nuclear threat is perceived as a distant reality, as Latin-American cities struggle with other pressing security issues. On October 18th the survey was closed, and the results of this initiative will be presented at the Executive Conference in Granollers (Spain), November 9-10, 2011.

■AMUNIC adopted a declaration in support of the 2020 Vision Campaign

[Managua, Nicaragua, September 16]

At an extraordinary general assembly of AMUNIC, the Nicaragua Association of Local Governments, adopted a declaration in support of the 2020 Vision Campaign of Mayors for Peace. Nicaragua is the only country in the world where 100% of all 153 Nicaraguan Mayors have joined Mayors for Peace.

The general meeting of the Nicaraguan mayors has decided to actively promote Mayors for Peace through the partner Associations of Local Governments in Central America and through FLACMA, the Federation of local governments for Latin America and the Caribbean.

▼Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

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■ Newly arrived information on "Member Cities' Activities" Webpage

New information from six member cities is available at "Member Cities' Activities" page on our website. We have received information from the following five cities in Japan (in Japanese language only) and from Cairns, Australia. Kusatsu City held the City of Kusatsu Peace Memorial Forum on October 15. From Abashiri City, information on the Commemoration Projects for the 20th Anniversary Peace City Declaration including an exhibition on the A-bombings and the Battle of Okinawa, as well as paper cranes were collected, exhibited in the City Hall and dedicated to the Children's Peace Monument in Hiroshima in September. Fujisawa City created the Hiroshima Flame of Peace Monument in Fujisawa City and held the lighting and awards ceremony for the unveiling of the monument on October 1. Toyonaka City launched a Mayors for Peace page on their website. Kyoto City will hold the Peaceful City Memorial Project on November 3.

Cairns holds the exhibition "War in Profile" from October 14 to November 16 including the first time ever in Australia and in Cairns - Hiroshima Nagasaki A-Bomb Exhibition. It's official launch followed by "War What is it good for?" Public Form on October 21.

If you wish to introduce the peace related activities of your city, we can create a link to your city's website or the website of the peace event. Please send the name/title of the activity along with the link to the address below.

▼Email: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

▼ To see the "Member Cities' Activities" webpage, click the link below:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/membercity/activities/index.html.

■ Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 5,020 cities

Thanks to your invaluable support, as of October 1, 2011, the number of member cities reached 5,020 in 151 countries and regions. 17 new members joined Mayors for Peace after the number reached 5,003 on September 16. For the monthly total, 36 cities became the new members. Thanks to the continued efforts of the supporters in Italy, Austria and Belgium, 7 cities from Italy, 6 cities from Austria, 6 from Belgium joined during the month. New members from Latin America continue: 4 from Argentina, 3 from Ecuador and 2 from Colombia. As our recruitment drive will continue, we would be most grateful if you could invite your fellow mayors who are not yet members to join us.

▼ Related information (PDF):

(New members as of October 1)

 $\underline{http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2011/newmembers1110\ en.pdf}.$

(New members as of September 16)

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/topic/2011/110916_5000cities/index.html

■ Petition Asking for a Nuclear Weapons Convention

Thanks to your invaluable support, the total number of signatures collected for our grass-roots petition drive, "Cities Are Not Targets! (CANT)", between February 2007 and December 2010 reached 1.06 million. Mayors for Peace launched a new version of the petition drive in December 2010, focusing on a nuclear weapons convention and clearly setting a timeframe for the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020. We would appreciate your continued support.

▼ Petition form (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/petitionform_en.pdf.

▼Online petition:

https://www.ssl-hiroins.city.hiroshima.jp/pcf/en/form.htm.

If you have any comments, questions, or would like to unsubscribe or change your contact information, please contact us at:

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