## Mayors for Peace News Flash (February 2012) No.26

Dear member cities and supporters of Mayors for Peace,

Thank you for your ongoing support for the activities of Mayors for Peace.

Please find below news related to the most recent activities of Mayors for Peace.

If your city has any news it wishes to share with others, please feel free to contact us!

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## ■Please support the petition drive for a nuclear weapons convention

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The next step in abolishing all nuclear weapons by 2020 is to negotiate a nuclear weapons convention. A nuclear weapons convention will prohibit the acquisition, development, possession, deployment and use of nuclear weapons and all related activities.

At our Executive Conference in Granollers, Spain in November 2011, we agreed to promote a global grassroots petition drive through which all member cities can call for an immediate start to negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention. As of February 1, 2012, we had collected a total of 331,361 signatures.

We are planning to submit signatures collected by April 2012 to the UN at the first Preparatory Committee Meeting for the 2015 NPT Review Conference in May 2012 in Vienna, Austria.

Please actively promote in this petition drive in your city. Let's gather millions of signatures and make our voices heard. (The petition is available for printing or online at the links below.)

**▼** 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.

# ■Three in four countries want a treaty to eliminate nuclear weapons, study shows

Three-quarters of all nations support UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's proposal for a treaty to outlaw and eliminate nuclear weapons, according to a study released on January 16 by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). Of the 146 nations to have declared their willingness to negotiate a new global disarmament pact, four maintain nuclear stockpiles: China, India, Pakistan and North Korea.

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/bc70802f2d/three-in-four-countries-want-a-treat.html.

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# ■The first Mayors for Peace special committee meeting for strengthening management foundations [Hannover, Germany]

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The first Mayors for Peace special committee meeting was held in Hannover, Germany for three days from January 23 to 25 with working-level participants from 9 cities in 9 countries. Deeply recognizing the necessity for strengthening management foundations of Mayors for Peace, participants vigorously discussed such topics as establishment of regional chapters and their roles, and sharing/managing the cost of running Mayors for Peace. Based on the ideas raised during this meeting, concrete plans will be further considered through future discussions with the participants in this special committee meeting. Then, these issues will be reported and discussed during the Mayors for Peace member

cities conference in conjunction with the first Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference in May 2012 in Vienna, Austria. Plans will be developed to be able to gain consensus of member cities during the next General Conference in Hiroshima in 2013.

#### **▼**Full article:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activites/others/120123\_hannover\_meeting/index.html.

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# ■Announcement on new poster exhibits commemorating the 5,000-city milestone

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To commemorate exceeding the 5,000 city-milestone, please hold a new poster exhibit in your city/municipality! At the 8th Executive Conference held in Granollers, Spain last November, we adopted an agenda that Mayors for Peace would create a new poster exhibit available to all our member cities and encourage the use of the poster exhibit. Through holding the exhibit as many cities/municipalities as possible, we hope to directly inform millions of citizens on the impact of nuclear attack on a city; the impact of nuclear war that will cause catastrophic climate change resulting in global famine; the diversion of economic and human resources from urban area, human needs to nuclear weapons and related military spending; and the role city leaders strive to play through the 2020 Vision Campaign of Mayors for Peace.

We will announce details including when the new posters will be completed later on. We would deeply appreciate your kind consideration on holding a new poster exhibit in your city/municipality.

[When to hold the exhibit]: around August 2012 [Number of posters]: A2size around 20 sheets

[How to obtain the posters]: download from the Mayors for Peace website

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# ■The first Japanese member cities meeting held in Hiroshima

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On January 13 and 14, the first Japanese member cities meeting was held in Hiroshima. 131 participants from 88 cities including 41 mayors discussed on how to promote activities of Mayors for Peace in Japan based on the decisions made during the Executive Conference last November. The final document was adopted including a request for the Japanese government to work towards the early realization of a nuclear weapons convention. Later, the request was submitted to the Japanese national government by Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima and the director of Tokyo office of the city of Nagasaki on January 26.

**▼**Full article (Japanese only):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/jp/activites/jpmeeting/1st/index.html.

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# ■Mayors for Peace at the U.S. Conference of Mayors winter meeting

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Mayors for Peace North American Coordinator Jackie Cabasso represented Mayors for Peace at the January 18-20 annual winter meeting of the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) in Washington, DC, where she made a presentation to the International Affairs Committee, had informal conversations with Mayors for Peace members, and invited new mayors to join. The USCM is the non-partisan national association of cities with populations over 30,000. At the top of its agenda is the urgent financial crisis facing U.S. cities as a result of deep cuts in federal funding. Nearly one-third of the 248 mayors who pre-registered for the USCM winter meeting -78 mayors from 31 states and Puerto Rico - are members of Mayors for Peace!

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/d0f4631a4f/mayors-for-peace-at-the-us-confere.html.

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#### ■ Financial contributions from member cities to the 2020 Vision Campaign

- Update for January 2012 [Ypres, Belgium]

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The 2020 Vision Campaign received donations from 16 cities in 9 countries during the month of January, coming to a total of 10997,96 Euro. Significant donations were made by our member cities in Belgium, Croatia, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, The Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland.

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):

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/8052bcd9be/contributions-update-january-2012-1.html.

▼ List of cities that made contributions in January:

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user\_upload/2020VC/Members/Contributors/january\_01.pdf.

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## ■ Newly arrived information on "Member Cities' Activities" webpage

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New information from three cities in France is now available.

The City of Fontaine hosted 2 concerts of the Hiroshima Junior Marimba Ensemble in September 2011 with the local schools involved (more details in English, 2 videos in French).

From the City of Aubagne, Communique of Mr. Daniel Fontaine, Mayor of Aubagne, President of AFCDRP, about the 5,000 membership (French only).

From the City of Malakoff, Communique of Ms. Catherine Margate, Mayor of Malakoff, vice-president of Mayors for Peace, about the 5,000 membership (French only).

Please visit the "Member Cities' Activities" page on our website and get an idea for your city's peace activities.

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

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

#### << Please Send Information on Your City's Peace Activities >>

Let us also 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.

We need comprehensive information including the date, venue, organizers and details of the event.

Thank you for your cooperation.

▼ Please send the name/title of the activity along with the link to the address to: <a href="mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp">mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp</a>

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## ■ Mayors for Peace member cities - 5,126 cities in 153 countries/regions

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Thanks to your invaluable support, as of February 1, the number of member cities reached 5,126 with 16 new members.

As a result of sending a recruitment letter to 78 non-member cities in South Korea at the end of December, Gyeryong joined.

Five municipalities joined in Japan and the total number of Japanese member cities reached 1,101.

Thanks to the continued efforts of the supporter in Austria, 3 cities from Austria joined during the month. It is 7 months in a row that cities from Austria have joined. New members also joined from Italy, Portugal, Belgium, Brazil and Germany.

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):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2012/newmembers1202\_en.pdf.

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

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