Mayors for Peace News Flash (September 2012) No.33

Dear member cities and supporters of Mayors for Peace,

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■Mayors for Peace 8th General Conference in Hiroshima, August 3 - 6, 2013

- Request to fill out the questionnaire

Mayors for Peace will hold its 8th General Conference in Hiroshima from August 3 through 6, 2013. On August 6, we will mark the 68th commemoration of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. All members of Mayors for Peace are invited to the General Conference which is held, as a rule, once every four years to decide and approve important issues. Please consider joining next year's General Conference in Hiroshima and block these important dates in your agenda. More information will be available soon on our website.

To ensure that this General Conference is guided by our member cities, we are seeking your opinion through the questionnaire we sent every member city on September 6. Please fill it in and return it by e-mail, fax or physical mail to the Secretariat in Hiroshima by Wednesday, September 26.

You can also download the form and return it through the Mayors for Peace website at: http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/index.html

■Join the "Minute of Silence – Moment of Peace" initiative proposed by the City of Montreal

The City of Montreal, Canada has celebrated the International Day of Peace every September 21 with a "Minute of Silence—Moment of Peace" at 12 noon since 2005. This year, they are encouraging all of our member cities to do the same and/or hold commemorative events. Please join this initiative conducted to share the pray for the world peace! The City of Hiroshima is going to have a minute of silence before the Cenotaph with atomic bomb survivors, people from the consumers' cooperative society and local high school students on September 21. The City of Manchester is also planning to hold peace-related events including observing a minute's silence on the International Day of Peace as shared in the previous issue.

For further information regarding this proposal, please refer to the letter from the City of Montreal sent to each member in June, or visit the webpage below:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2012/120704montreal_international_day_of_peace.pdf--

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■Nagasaki Mayor promotes Mayors for Peace in Brazil

Mr. Tomihisa Taue, the Mayor of Nagasaki and Vice President of Mayors for Peace, visited the cities of Santos, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro from August 28 till September 4, 2012. The visit marked the 40th anniversary of the sister-city relationship between Nagasaki and Santos and the 50th anniversary of the Brazilian Nagasaki Prefecture association. Mayor Taue also took the time to meet with the Mayors of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, the two largest cities of Brazil to discuss the development of Mayors for Peace in Brazil and Latin America. Today, Brazil counts 79 member cities of Mayors for Peace, especially following the support of the Brazilian National Front of Mayors.

▼Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/6b00027bd6/nagasaki-mayor-promotes-mayors-for-p.html

■2020 Action Alert – UN General Assembly to vote on Resolution calling for NWC-negotiations

■Mayors for Peace welcomes the Op-ed of UN Secretary General

Mayors for Peace welcomes the Op-ed of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon published on August 30 in leading newspapers in Argentina, Bangladesh, Burundi, China, Germany, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Malaysia, The Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine and European weekly publications and has been translated into ten languages.

▼Full Op-ed (2020 Vision Campaign website):

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/9a9e1c1b2330e2260d388bae8bcae447/the-world-is-over-armed-and-peace-is.html

■The 20th IPPNW World Congress and ICAN Campaign meeting held in Hiroshima in late August

The 20th World Congress of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, IPPNW was held in Hiroshima from August 24 through 26. Approximately 500 doctors and researchers from 45 countries including Japan gathered there and had a wide range of discussions about their initiatives for the abolition of nuclear weapons. They released the 'Hiroshima Peace Appeal' in which they stated no more *hibakusha* should be generated by any means such as an accident at a nuclear power plant to conclude the Congress. The next IPPNW World Congress will take place in Astana, capital of the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2014.

On August 21, more than 100 nuclear disarmament campaigners from 25 countries took part in a meeting in Hiroshima organized by ICAN, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear weapons. It was the first ICAN meeting to be held in Japan. The objectives of the meeting included: developing a unified global strategy for the coming year; building the campaign's presence in Asia; introducing campaigners to new action ideas; and developing the concept of a humanitarian-based approach to nuclear disarmament.

▼ Full IPPNW article: http://peaceandhealthblog.com/2012/08/23/20th-world-congress/

▼Full ICAN article: http://www.icanw.org/node/6138

■The heads of more than 400 local authorities in Japan express support for a Northeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone

NPO Peace Depot reports that as of August 13, 2012, the heads of 404 local authorities in Japan and two municipal governmental organizations had expressed support for a statement to create a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Northeast Asia. The two organizations are Mayors for Peace (presided over by Kazumi Matsui, Mayor of Hiroshima) and the National Council of Japan Nuclear Free Local Authorities (President Tomihisa Taue, Mayor of Nagasaki). It is

emphasized in the statement that efforts to establish such a zone will not only promote regional denuclearization, but also give momentum to international calls for a world free of nuclear weapons. Of the 1,789 heads of local authorities across Japan (a number that includes prefectural governors), 1,558 are leading the municipalities that issued non-nuclear declarations as of July 1, 2012.

▼Full article (RECNA website):

http://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/dispatches/no1.html

■ Financial contributions from member cities to the 2020 Vision Campaign

- Update for August 2012 [Ypres, Belgium]

The 2020 Vision Campaign received donations from 16 cities in 5 countries during the month of August coming to a total of 4,100 Euros.

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/aa74208582/contributions-update-august-2012.html

▼ List of cities that made contributions in August:

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

▼How to make contributions:

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/members/contribute-to-mayors-for-peace.html.

■Member City Activities

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The City of Kawaguchi, Japan held the "Peace Exhibition" from July 21 through 25. They exhibited real wartime artifacts, information and their certificate of Mayors for Peace, as well as the 5,000-Member Milestone Exhibition. This year marks the 25 anniversary of the Peace Exhibition held by the City of Kawaguchi.

In the City of Fuchu, Japan, the 'Peace Promotion Projects 2012" took place at two facilities from July 31 through August 6 and from August 17 through 30. Materials concerning the Tokyo air raid in March 1945 were shown among the exhibition.

The City of Volgograd held the peace memorial ceremony in the museum-panorama "Battle of Stalingrad" at 8:15 local time on August 6. The mayor of Volgograd, the deputies of the city council, the honored citizens of Volgograd and Hiroshima, students of Volgograd University and secondary schools took part in it. The mayor of Volgograd delivered a speech stating that the tragedy that happened in 1945 will never be forgotton and we will never stop our efforts to establish peace in the world. The posters of the 5,000-Member Milestone Exhibition was demonstrated during the ceremony.

In the City of Manchester, the UK, the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Atomic Bombings 67th Anniversary Commemoration took place at Manchester City Center on August 9. The ceremony was led by the Lord Mayor of Manchester and included reading out the 2012 Hiroshima and Nagasaki Peace Declarations. After a white flowered wreath was offered by the Lord Mayor for the victims of the bombings and all innocent civilians killed in acts of violence over the past 67 years, a two-minute silence was conducted at 11:02 am. Poetry from survivors of the attacks was also read out.

Please visit the "Member City Activities" page on our website to get ideas to implement in your city. The URL of this page has been changed.

▼ To see the "Member City Activities" webpage, click the link below: http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/index.html.

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

Please help us tell others about what you are doing!

We can create a link to your city's website or the website of your peace event.

We need comprehensive information including the date, venue, organizers and description of the event. We will be glad to help you advertise.

▼ Please send the name/title of the activity along with the link to: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

■Poster exhibit commemorates 5,000-city milestone

To commemorate the 5,000-city milestone, please hold a poster exhibit in your municipality sometime around September 21, the UN International Day of Peace, or Peace Memorial Day of your municipality in 2012. By holding these exhibits in as many cities as possible, we hope to directly inform millions of citizens regarding the impact of nuclear war, including the fact that even a limited war would cause catastrophic climate change resulting in global famine, and the role city leaders strive to play. Please do hold an exhibition and bring this problem to the attention of people in your city.

And while you're at it, please set up petition booths during the exhibition to collect signatures calling for an immediate start to negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention.

The posters are available in English, French, German, Russian and Japanese. You can download from the Mayors for Peace website. We are also preparing Arabic, Spanish and Catalan versions. For detailed information, please refer to the instructions for downloading the posters in "The Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki -The 5,000-Member Milestone Exhibition,-" a document forwarded to our member cities.

- >>Posters: A2 size (approximately 24 by 36 inches); 19 posters.
- >>This poster exhibit was created based on a mandate from the 8th Executive Conference held in Granollers, Spain last November and Japanese member cities' Conference in January.

The first poster exhibitions were held in Vienna International Center and Vienna City Hall during the first Preparatory Committee Meeting for the NPT Review Conference to lead those taking place in all the member cities. More than 200 cities have already held or expressed their plan to hold this exhibition. Please be sure your city joins this movement.

▼Related Information:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/poster/index.html

■Please support the petition drive for a nuclear weapons convention

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.

On behalf of Mayors for Peace, President Kazumi Matsui handed a certificate representing 478,303 signatures collected by April 30 to Mr. Peter Woolcott, chairman of the first Preparatory Committee Meeting for the 2015 NPT Review Conference in May 2012 in Vienna, Austria.

We will continue collecting signatures until 2015 and present them to the UN at appropriate times.

Please promote this petition drive in your city. For example, the City of Hiroshima has set up petition booths in the lobbies of City Hall and other municipal offices since April 2, and we have been collecting signatures at the venues of events organized by the city. Please let us know how your city is working on this petition drive so we can tell others. 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.

■ Visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace last month

President Kazumi Matsui of Mayors for Peace welcomed the visitors as follows in August and asked them to support for the activities of Mayors for Peace and cooperate with the membership expansion.

- August 5 * Professors and students from American University and Ritsumeikan University
 - * Ambassador Tibor Tóth, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)

August 7 * Delegation of the United States Conference of Mayors

- * Ms. Miho Cibot, Executive Advisor for Japanese Affairs of the French Association of Cities, Departments and Regions for Peace
- August 20 * Group of the bike riders touring from Nagasaki to Hiroshima to participate in the 20th World Congress of IPPNW
- August 21 *Mr. Laurent Beauvais, President of Lower-Normandy Region

■ Mayors for Peace member cities - 5,400 cities in 154 countries/regions

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Thanks to your invaluable support, as of September 1, the number of member cities increased by 88 to 5,400. As a result of sending a recruitment letter to all non-member cities/municipalities in Japan in July, 73 cities from Japan joined. As a result of the recruitment drive by AFCDRP/Mayors for Peace France, 3 cities from France joined. And the City of Antsirabe is the first member city from Madagascar.

We welcome further initiatives to promote membership and can provide support from Hiroshima as needed. Please invite your fellow mayors to join.

▼Related information (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2012/newmembers1208_en.pdf.

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/15b470a8c8/mayors-for-peace-membership-nears-5.html

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

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