

Bundles of paper cranes originally dedicated to the Children's Monument in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park were presented to the mayors of Muntinlupa, Manila, Kuala Lumpur and Kochi, as well as to the former Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dr. Mahathir, and the Chairman of the No Gun Ri International Peace Foundation.

■ **Mayors for Peace Fremantle Inaugural Conference**

[September 21-22, 2014, Fremantle, Australia]

Mayors for Peace in Western Australia held its inaugural conference in Fremantle on Monday, September 22. This is the first ever Mayors for Peace regional conference in Western Australia.

On Sunday, the day before the conference, a peace walk was undertaken in freezing rain, followed by large plantings by councilors and walkers at a rededicated Peace Grove. That evening several of the delegates for the conference had dinner with the Japanese Consul-General which provided a good opportunity to make connections with the Australian peace movement.

During the Monday morning session, representatives from six city councils discussed issues related to the impact of nuclear weapons, the role of cities, Mayors for Peace and other organizations (MAPW, IPPNW, Red Cross, ICAN, Nuclear Futures, AVP), including measures to protect our cities and citizens and to build a culture of peace. A 'Fremantle Declaration' calling for the end of nuclear weapons was proposed (link below) and this will be sent to all 134 WA councils and thence to state and federal governments.

In the afternoon session, more than 200 people, mostly Year 10 and 11 students, listened to Ms. Junko Morimoto, an artist living in eastern Australia, about her exposure to the A-bombing of Hiroshima at the age of 13. Representatives from ICAN and the Red Cross also gave speeches along with a local indigenous activist.

That evening Ms. Morimoto created a large artwork, arising from her Hiroshima A-bomb experiences, in front of another mixed age audience.

Mayors for Peace in Western Australia have agreed to meet again in a year, aiming for practical outcomes.

Funding for the Mayors for Peace conference was supplied by the City of Fremantle, Quakers' Peace and Legislative Committee, Consul General of Japan in Perth, and organizations covering their own costs (Red Cross, ICAN, Nuclear Futures). Adrian Glamorgan and Elizabeth PO' volunteered their time to develop and organize the conference, and many other volunteers willingly assisted.

▼ You can hear highlights from the conference speeches at the following links:

("Understorey", a weekly environmental program on RTR FM 92.1):

- Excerpts from Gem Romuld (ICAN) and Della Rae Morrison's (WANFA) speeches:

<http://rtrfm.com.au/story/understorey-abolishing-the-unthinkable-hazard/>

- Excerpts from Junko Morimoto (Hibakusha) and Yvette Zegenhagen's (Australian Red Cross) speeches:

<http://rtrfm.com.au/story/understorey-outliving-nuclear-weapons/>

▼ Complete report with pictures (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/memberscity/2014/Fremantle/inaugural_conference.html

▼ 'Fremantle Declaration' (Mayors for Peace website):

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/memberscity/2014/Fremantle/declaration.pdf>

■ **Follow-up Conference of Municipalities for Peace in the Mediterranean**

[October 2-3, Granollers, Spain]

The Follow-up Conference of Municipalities for Peace in the Mediterranean was held in Granollers, Spain, on October 2nd and 3rd, 2014. About 60 participants representing local authorities from countries such as Croatia, France, Italy, Morocco, Spain, and networks and organizations working for peace, exchanged ideas on how local authorities could promote peace culture in the Mediterranean.

The Conference was opened by Federico Mayor Zaragoza, former UNESCO Director and President of the Foundation for a Culture of Peace, who highlighted the importance of local communities as the first level of democracy.

Fruitful discussions yielded a final declaration that participants adopted, in which they renewed the commitments agreed to during the 1st Mediterranean Conference of Municipalities for Peace in 2013 in Aubagne, France. Such commitments include developing Mayors for Peace activities and membership in the Mediterranean, strengthening cooperation between municipalities and local governments in the Mediterranean and encouraging cooperation with citizens and civil society with projects aimed at mutual understanding, promotion of coexistence and peace education.

UCLG, VNG International (Network of Cities from the Netherlands), Arco Latino and the Anna Lindh Foundation were among the organizations represented at the Conference. Participants also included representatives of the Executive Cities of Biograd na Moru, Malakoff and Ypres.

▼ Final declaration of the Follow-up Conference of Municipalities for Peace in the Mediterranean:

- In English: http://afcdrp.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/EN_Finalappeal-3oct14.pdf

- In French: <http://afcdrp.com/confmed2014-declaration-finale/>

- In Catalan: http://afcdrp.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/CAT_Declaracio-final-3oct14.pdf

- In Spanish: http://afcdrp.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/ES_Declaracion-final-3oct14.pdf

■ UK and Republic of Ireland Mayors for Peace member cities' agreement to establish cross-national chapter

[October 3, 2014, Manchester, UK]

At a meeting of the UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Working Group it was agreed to establish a cross-national UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter. The meeting was chaired by the Lord Mayor of Manchester and held in Manchester Town Hall. Representatives from English, Scottish, Irish and Welsh Mayors for Peace members were present at the meeting.

The meeting participants decided to transform the more informal Working Group into a formalized cross-national chapter. They also agreed that Manchester should provide the Secretariat to the Chapter and issue voluntary membership fees in two bands - for larger City, County, Borough and District councils and for the lower tier of Town and Parish Councils. The Manchester City Council also agreed to develop a terms of reference for the new chapter through a small sub-group of the chapter. Due to the ceremonial nature of many Mayors and Provosts in the UK and Republic of Ireland, it was agreed to call the new group the 'UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter' as a cross-national chapter of the International Mayors for Peace movement. The meeting participants agreed a key factor in deepening membership would be to encourage peace education projects amongst members, such as town and city centre peace trails, and civic anniversaries of peace events like Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day, and International Peace Day.

Amongst the representatives at the meeting were the Deputy Lord Mayor of Cork, the Assistant Mayor of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, the Mayor of Rochdale and senior councillor representatives from Councils including Glasgow, Edinburgh, Fife, Manchester, Leeds, Otley and Caerphilly. It is planned to hold a follow-up meeting to formalise the terms of reference, Chair and Vice Chairs and other matters in Manchester in 30th January, 2015.

▼ UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter agreement (2020 Vision Campaign website):

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user_upload/2020VC/Home/News/UK_and_Ireland_M4P_Chapter_agreed.pdf

■ Peace Boat and 2020 Vision Campaign's joint project announcement at press events in Tokyo and Geneva [September 26, Geneva, Switzerland]

Mayors for Peace was invited to the UN-Accredited Correspondents Association in Geneva for a one-hour briefing on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. Our UN representative, Esteban Ramirez, opened the meeting and Aaron Tovish, the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Director, spoke about the "I was her age." Project.

The participation of Gdansk (Poland), Gonvreville l'Orcher (France), Kochi (India), St. Petersburg (Russia), and Ypres (Belgium) as host cities of the Project was announced. Catania (Italy) has recently also agreed to be a host city.

Akira Kawasaki of the Peace Boat organization joined via Skype from Japan. He had just taken part in a Peace Boat seminar for students and the press about nuclear disarmament in Tokyo.

A pre-recorded video message from the Mayor of Gdansk, Pawel Adamowicz, was also played in addition to reading his following words:

"I believe that the visit of the people who survived the horrors of the nuclear attack on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and their encounter with the parents of those children who are now almost the same age as Hibakusha (A-bomb survivors) at the time of the attack will be a living testimony in defense of peace and against the use of nuclear weapons."

▼ Full report on Geneva press event:

www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/2e0ab5913433360e8b0c588890fc81d1/mayors-for-peace-and-the-international.html

▼ Full report on Tokyo press event:

<http://www.peaceboat.org/english/?page=view&nr=140&type=21&menu=62>

▼ Video from Mayor Adamowicz of Gdansk:

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=772250916168764&set=vb.745756765484846&type>

▼ For details of "I was her age." Project, please refer to:

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/i-was-her-age.html> (2020 Vision Campaign website)

<https://www.facebook.com/ITWasHerAge> (Facebook)

■ Reports of commemorative events for the International Day of Peace on September 21

A lot of member cities commemorated the International Day of Peace 2014 on September 21. Here are some examples of events:

[Argentina]

- Buenos Aires: Within the framework of the International Peace Day, after several origami peace crane workshops and seminars about Hiroshima took place at the Kindergartens Jardín de Infantes Común N° 9 D.E. 9 under Deputy Principal Mónica Peyron, the folding of paper cranes —a symbol of peace— was taught by the President of the Fundación Sadako and Hiroshima Ambassador of Peace Ms. Tomoko Aikawa. On September 25, it was the parents' turn to learn how to fold the paper cranes, the aim being to nourish the interactions among the families, teachers and children by promoting bonds of peace. They have been important steps for these kindergartens in the education of peace for the families and for the development of the relations between the institutions and the families.

[Australia]

- Fremantle: Mayors for Peace Fremantle inaugural conference was held on September 22 (please refer to the article above for a more detailed report).

[Belgium]

- 63 Flemish cities and municipalities raised the peace flag at their city halls on September 21. Details at the link below: http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2014/Ghent_Belgium/Peace_flag.pdf

[Japan]

- Takayama: The city called on 210 like-minded bell owners in and out of the city, such as temples and churches, to sound the bells in unison at noon on the International Day of Peace, and requested our member cities to do the same, as mentioned in the last issue of this News Flash. They also organized a series of commemorative events including the Takayama Citizens Peace Assembly, Takayama City Peace Summit, and Installation and Unveiling Ceremony of the city's Symbol for Peace. (For more details, please refer to the Member City Activities section below.)
- Nagasaki: The city called on bell owners in the city, such as temples and churches, to sound their bells in unison at noon on September 21. They also rang the Bell of Nagasaki in a wish for peace at Nagasaki Peace Park.
- Mishima: The city called on their citizens to offer a silent prayer and sounded a siren at noon on September 21. More than 500 city employees also signed our petition calling for an immediate start to negotiations for a nuclear weapons convention.
- Takarazuka: The city organized a ceremony to offer a moment of silence and rang their peace bell.

- Ibaraki: The town organized two events to offer a minute of silent prayer for nuclear abolition and lasting world peace at noon on September 19.

[Switzerland]

- Lucerne : The city organized Lucerne Peace Day 2014. Representatives from non-profit, business and educational organizations delivered presentations, and video messages from the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, filmmaker Jeremy Gilley and Ambassador of Peace, Prem Rawat, as well as the movie 'Peacemakers' were shown. <http://www.lucernepeaceday.org/>

Many more cities held events on the International Day of Peace. If you would like to inform our secretariat of the details of the events held in your city, we would be pleased to include them in the Member City Activities section of the News Flash and our website. Thank you.

▼ Please email event summaries to: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

■AFCDRP-Mayors for Peace France website renewed

AFCDRP-Mayors for Peace France website underwent a complete makeover and is now online. The new website provides information about Mayors for Peace France member cities activities, as well as the latest news about Mayors for Peace international activities, and documents and tools for local authorities that are willing to promote peace on a daily basis. All information and resources are in French.

▼ New AFCDRP-Mayors for Peace France website:

www.afcdrp.com

▼ Member cities activities' page:

<http://afcdrp.com/category/activites-membres/>

■Hibakusha art at Manchester City Art Gallery

A major art exhibition called 'The Sensory War 1914 - 2014' includes art from Hiroshima 'hibakusha' atomic bomb survivors. It takes place in Manchester City Art Gallery from the 11th October 2014 - 22nd February 2015. This major international art exhibition marks the Centenary of the First World War and it explores how artists have communicated the impact of military conflict on the body, mind, environment and human senses between 1914 and 2014. It brings together work from a range of leading artists including Henry Lamb, CRW Nevinson, Paul Nash, Otto Dix, Nancy Spero, Richard Mosse and Omer Fast. It also features works by the hibakusha: survivors of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. These works were created in the 1970s and they are being shown in the UK for the first time. Manchester City Council is delighted to exhibit this important art exhibition.

▼ A weblink on the exhibition (the Manchester City Art Gallery website):

<http://www.manchestergalleries.org/whats-on/exhibitions/index.php?itemID=121.html>

▼ Related story (Manchester City Council website):

http://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/200109/council_news/6615/manchester_people_-_september_2014/5

■Member City Activities

*Villa Mercedes, Argentina

A meeting for peace was held on October 4 in the city of Villa Mercedes and the mayor and city officials together with Ms. Tomoko Aikawa—the Hiroshima Ambassador for Peace—and representatives of Villa Mercedes Japanese language school took a group photo while holding the Mayors for Peace flag. The principal of the Japanese school expressed her cooperation in promoting Mayors for Peace membership in municipalities in Argentina.

▼ The city of Villa Mercedes website (in Spanish):

<http://www.villamercedes.gov.ar/index.php/ct-menu-item-9/item/2807-el-intendente-fue-distinguido-como-embajador-de-la-paz>

*Ghent, Belgium

Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration

Aside from raising a peace flag on the International Day of Peace as mentioned above, the annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemoration was organized by a peace group, Vredesoverleg Ghent, on August 9. The commemoration included such programs as a peace concert, floating 69 paper lanterns symbolizing each year after the A-bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, greetings from Acting Mayor Elke Decruynaere appealing to let this gathering be more than a commemoration but also an appeal to ban nuclear weapons.

▼ Full story (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2014/Ghent_Belgium/Hiroshima-Nagasaki_Commemoration.pdf

*Takayama, Japan

Activities for Peace

With approval from its city council, Takayama declared September 21, the International Day of Peace, to also be the City of Takayama Peace Day. The city organized the following commemorative events from September 20 to 21: (1) The Takayama Citizens Peace Assembly – to pass on peace to the future – that was held for two days as a forum for peace groups in Takayama and included an introduction of their peace activities and an exhibition of artifacts related to World War II; (2) The Takayama City Peace Summit that was held from 7pm on September 20 included recitation of a short poem for peace, a violin performance, and a panel discussion with such panelists as the Mayor of Takayama and representatives from the cities of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Matsumoto; (3) An Installation and Unveiling Ceremony of “Bond for Peace”, the city’s Symbol for Peace, at 11:45am on September 21. During the ceremony, the Mayor of Takayama greeted visitors, the symbol was unveiled, and students of primary and junior high schools read peace messages, and rang a bell for peace.

▼ The city of Takayama website (in Japanese)

<http://www.city.takayama.lg.jp/shisui/takayamasiheiwanohi.html>

*Takarazuka, Japan

Events for No Nukes and Peace in 2014

The city of Takarazuka has been implementing various events to promote their efforts toward a peaceful society as a nuclear-weapon-free Peace City. During this year, aside from the International Day of Peace event mentioned above (a moment of silence and ringing of their Peace Bell), the following events have also occurred: a Peace Film Showing on July 16, a meeting of citizens wishing for peace on July 30, a Peace Animation Film Screening on August 4, a Peace Panel Exhibition from August 1 to 15, and an unveiling of the city’s Peace Bell and a stone monument engraved with their declaration of being a nuclear-weapon free Peace City. They are planning more projects in November and December, including a “field trip for peace” in which participants will visit war and peace memorials in the city on November 1, a Special Lecture for Peace on December 14 and the publication of a collection of citizens’ war experience memoirs at the end of December.

▼ The city of Takarazuka website (in Japanese)

http://www.city.takarazuka.hyogo.jp/sub_file/01030201000000-26heiwajigyou.html

In addition, you can read about events in Fremantle, Australia and Lucerne, Switzerland in the “Member City Activities” section of our website.

Please visit the “Member City Activities” page on our website for event ideas to implement in your city.

▼ To see the “Member City Activities” webpage, click on the link below:

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

<<PLEASE SEND US INFORMATION ABOUT 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 to help you advertise.

Please include comprehensive information including the date, venue, organizers and description of the event.

We are looking forward to receiving information from your city.

▼ Please email us at the following address with the name/title of your event and the URL for it:

mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

■Mayors for Peace A-bomb poster exhibition

To commemorate the 5,000-city milestone of the Mayors for Peace membership numbers, we called for all member

cities to hold a poster exhibition.

By holding these exhibitions in as many cities as possible, we hope to directly inform millions of citizens of the impact of nuclear war. We would like exhibition attendees to understand that even a limited nuclear war would cause catastrophic climate change resulting in global famine, and to consider the role that city leaders should strive to play.

We have heard from more than 250 cities around the world, such as London in the UK, Volgograd in Russia and Kabul in Afghanistan, that they held poster exhibitions in response to our request.

In September, Ijmuiden, the Netherlands, held a poster exhibition from September 6 to 29, while Takayama, Japan, held an exhibition from September 8 to 21, in conjunction with the International Day of Peace.

We also recently received reports of poster exhibitions taking place earlier in the Japanese cities of Ueda (July 10 to August 25), Itabashi (August 13 to 19) and Kasai (August 5 to 15).

We ask that your city also hold an exhibition to help bring the issue of nuclear weapons to everyone's attention.

The posters are available in English, Spanish, Catalan, French, Dutch, German, Japanese and Russian. Updated posters can be downloaded from the Mayors for Peace website. We would be most grateful if you would continue to support the exhibitions by using the new posters, and hold a poster exhibition in your municipality.

We would appreciate it if you notified us of when you will hold a poster exhibition and submit a report afterwards to the Secretariat. The report format is provided at the Mayors for Peace website below.

>>Posters: A2 size (approximately 24 by 36 inches, or 61 by 91.5 cm); 18 posters.

▼ Related Information and download link to the posters:

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

■ A plea to 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 development, production, testing, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and all related activities.

At our Executive Conference in Granollers, Spain in November 2011, Mayors for Peace members agreed to promote a global grassroots petition drive through which all member cities can call for an immediate start to negotiations for a nuclear weapons convention. Promotion of this petition drive is also included in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2013-2017) adopted at the 8th General Conference.

Thanks to many supporters across the world, we have received 1,076,015 signatures as of October 1, 2014.

Let us gather millions of signatures and make our voices heard.

(The petition is available to print or to sign online at the links below.)

▼ Petition form (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/01_monthly_updating/11_petitionform_en.pdf.

▼ Online petition:

<https://www.ssl-z.city.hiroshima.jp/pcf/en/form.htm>.

■ Financial contributions from member cities to the 2020 Vision Campaign - Update for September 2014 [Ypres, Belgium]

In the month of September, the 2020 Vision Campaign received donations from cities in Belgium, Switzerland and Germany, amounting to a total of 3,925.00 euros.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the people behind every single donation for their continuing 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/a163c40686a4e8e6f216a251684c545e/contributions-september.html>

▼ List of cities that made contributions in September:

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user_upload/2020VC/Home/September_contributions.pdf

