



# Mayors for Peace Newsletter

Edited and published by the Mayors for Peace Secretariat

Overview of April 2013 - March 2014 / No.34

## The 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace



President Matsui greeting  
at the Opening Ceremony

From August 3 (Sat.) to August 6 (Tue.), 2013, the quadrennial General Conference was successfully held in Hiroshima city.

At the 8<sup>th</sup> General Conference this time, lively discussions were made on concrete measures toward the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020, with 305 participants in total from 157 cities and municipalities in 18 countries, as well as governments and NGO representatives under the Keynote Theme of 'Toward a World without Nuclear Weapons - Conveying the "Spirit of Hiroshima and Nagasaki" to the World -'.

Reports of the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace are available at our website:  
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/meeting/8th/report/index.html>

### ■ [August 3] Executive Conference

Prior to the General Conference, executive cities gathered to discuss the agenda for the General Conference.



### ■ Opening Ceremony

On behalf of the organizers, President Matsui, Mayor of Hiroshima, greeted first. Regarding the Keynote Theme for this General Conference, he explained that it was filled with our determination to achieve a world without nuclear weapons within a

period where as many of the A-bomb survivors as possible are still alive. He also called for cooperation of the participants to make this general conference fruitful leading to strengthen the future activities of Mayors for Peace. Then, Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki of Hiroshima Prefecture delivered a words of greetings as a guest, and lastly, messages were read from UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and from the President Mikhail Chernyshev of the Union of Russian Cities.

### Table of Contents

- The 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace 1-4
- Hiroshima Appeal 5-6
- Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2013-2017) 7-10
- Major News from April 2013 to March 2014 11-13
- Mayors for Peace A-bomb poster exhibition 14
- Member City and Regional Activities 15-20
- Petition drive for a Nuclear Weapons Convention 20
- Developments from April 2013 to March 2014 21
- Mayors for Peace member cities (as of April 1, 2014) and membership development 2013-2014 22
- From the Secretariat 22

## New Executive Officials

President: Mayor of Hiroshima (Japan)  
Vice Presidents:

- Mayor of Nagasaki (Japan)
- Lord Mayor of Hannover (Germany)
- Mayor of Volgograd (Russia)
- Mayor of Malakoff (France)
- Mayor of Muntinlupa (Philippines)
- Lord Mayor of Manchester (U.K.)
- Mayor of Akron (U.S.)
- Mayor of Ypres (Belgium)
- Mayor of Biograd na Moru (Croatia)
- Mayor of Granollers (Spain)
- Mayor of Halabja (Iraq)
- Mayor of Brussels (Belgium)
- Mayor of Fongo-Tongo (Cameroon)
- Mayor of Mexico City (Mexico)
- Mayor of Frogn (Norway)

Total: 16 Executives



Representatives from Executive Cities at the Press Conference after the General Conference

## A-bomb Survivor Testimony

Mr. Keijiro Matsushima shared his experience exposed to the A-bombing.

Describing the horrible reality at the time of the bombing, he concluded his story with his desires that "this bomb must never be used on any people at any place in the world again" and asked participants to "tell your people what you have learned here in Hiroshima and our sincere appeal to oppose all the nukes in the world when you return to your home."



A-bomb Survivor Testimony by Mr. Keijiro Matsushima

## Offering flowers at the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims

Participants led by President Matsui offered flowers at the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims, and visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.



## [August 4] Session I

President Matsui chaired the floor. Five agenda were discussed and approved including the election of new executive officials and the Action Plan 2013-2017. (\* Full text of the Action Plan is on pages 7-10)

## Session II

Under the theme "Future Initiatives of 2020 Vision Campaign", Chairperson Yasuyoshi Komizo of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation coordinated the session and reports of the past activities and discussion on future initiatives of 2020 Vision Campaign, aiming to abolish nuclear weapons by 2020, were made.

Representatives from 2020 Vision Campaign Association, member cities, 2020 Vision Campaigners as well as a professor from Beuth Hochschule fur Technik Berlin where a Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course has long been taught reported their initiatives and shared their views on future campaign efforts.



Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, Chairperson of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation (appointed on April 2013) assumed the office of the first Secretary General of Mayors for Peace on August 6, 2013

## Session III

Mayor Thore Vestby of Frogn (Norway) coordinated the session and regional peace activities in various regions were reported and views were exchanged under the theme "Regional groups of Mayors for Peace and facilitating regional activities with citizen involvement".

Started with a report from Malakoff (France) on activities in France as well as introduction of the plan for new Conference of Cities for Peace in the Mediterranean. Hannover (Germany), Manchester (UK), three other cities from France, two cities from Spain, three cities from Japan, a city each from Australia and the Netherlands also presented their views. The chemical weapon attacks were also discussed by Kurdish cities in Turkey and Iraq.

Mayor Vestby closed the session with a call for participants to bring all the issues raised here back home for further review and take actions locally.



Session III

**■ Dialogue Session with Citizens and Atomic Bomb Survivors Groups**

Under the theme "What Should We Do to Abolish Nuclear Weapons?" Professor Kazumi Mizumoto, Vice President of the Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University, coordinated the session, where participants and representatives of citizens groups and A-bomb survivors' groups gathered to talk. Two representatives from the Hiroshima Prefectural Council of A-bomb Sufferers Organizations and citizens representing Hiroshima Consumers' Co-operative Union and Hiroshima Jogakuin Senior High School reported their efforts for peace.

The group making a documentary film titled "That Day" on Hiroshima A-bomb survivors was also invited to speak on their initiative.

Professor Mizumoto concluded the session saying, "The presentations we heard today show the activities of various organizations who are working for tomorrow's Hiroshima."



**■ [August 5] The 3rd Meeting of Japanese Member Cities**

107 participants including 34 mayors from 67 cities in Japan participated in the meeting and a document to sum up the meeting was adopted.



The 3rd Meeting of Japanese Member Cities

**Related topic**

**Letter of Request for promotion of actions for the early realization of a "Nuclear Weapons Convention" and the Hiroshima Appeal were submitted to the Japanese government**

Based on decision at the Third Mayors for Peace Japanese Member City Meeting, Mayor Matsui of the City of Hiroshima and Mr. Kuroda, the office manager at the Tokyo Office of the City of Nagasaki representing Japanese member cities of Mayors for Peace met with Foreign Minister Kishida and submitted a Letter of Request to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in reference to a promotion to address the early realization of a "Nuclear Weapons Convention" on September 10, 2013.

At the same time, the Hiroshima Appeal adopted at the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace was also submitted.

Minister Kishida said "With acknowledgement of every contribution of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Mayors for Peace, we would like to address the issue in an effort to realize a world without nuclear weapons working together with you all".



**■ Dialogue Session with government officials and NGOs, etc.**

With the theme "Roles of Respective Governments and NGOs for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons", Ms. Keiko Nakamura, Associate Professor of the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University, coordinated the session.

Ambassador of Mexico, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of India and Norway to Japan as well as a representative of Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs shared each country's view and efforts. Then, representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) reported their activities. Governor Yuzaki of Hiroshima Prefecture introduced the prefecture's "Hiroshima for Global Peace" plan. Mayor of Semey, Kazakhstan also shared their experiences suffered from nuclear tests. Other NGOs reported their activities as well.

Professor Nakamura concluded the session as it is the critical moment to select our future and called for voicing out the inhumanity of nuclear weapons.



### ■ Message of Peace

As a special guest, Film Director Oliver Stone delivered a Message of Peace, concluded by the impressive words:

"We must also abolish nuclear weapons and this continuing mentality of militarization, evident in all governments, come to life once again in the Far East, and do so not only in our lifetime but in the lifetime of the aging *hibakusha* who have sent a message of love, not revenge, peace not war, as they dedicate their lives to making sure that Hiroshima and Nagasaki never happen again and that no one else suffers the way they have."



### ■ Session IV

Under the theme "The Path toward the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons", reports on Session II and III, and Dialogue Sessions were made.

The Hiroshima Appeal was adopted to sum up the General Conference.



Session IV

### ■ Closing Ceremony

Following the message of Foreign Minister Kishida, Mayors for Peace Vice Presidents Mayor Plusquellic of Akron (USA) and Mayor Tawue of Nagasaki (Japan) delivered their closing remarks. Lastly, President Matsui thanked the participants and expressed his determination to strengthen our efforts toward the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020.

In September, the Hiroshima Appeal was sent to the UN Secretary General and 151 national governments around the world.

(\*Full text of the Hiroshima Appeal is on pages 5-6)



### ■ [August 6] Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony

Participants attended the Peace Memorial Ceremony and representatives offered flowers to the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims. A minute of silent prayer was offered at 8:15am, the time the A-bomb was dropped. Then, the mayor of Hiroshima read out the Peace Declaration.



## **The Hiroshima Appeal** (Adopted on August 5, 2013)

We, representatives of 5,712 cities from 157 countries/regions around the world, have met at the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace held in Hiroshima and engaged in extensive discussions on the theme ‘Toward a World without Nuclear Weapons—Conveying the “Spirit of Hiroshima and Nagasaki” to the World.’

In August 1945, the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were reduced to ruins, in both cases by a single atomic bomb, and more than 210,000 people from the two cities lost their precious lives. The suffering of the atomic bomb survivors—known as *hibakusha*—from the blast, heat and radiation continues to this day, 68 years later. Having lived through an experience too cruel to be put into words, the atomic bomb survivors have continued to appeal for nuclear abolition and to extend their desire for peace to the people of the world. Their dedication stems from their deep humanitarian conviction that “no one should ever again suffer as we have.”

Mayors for Peace, which feels a strong sense of responsibility to guarantee the safety and welfare of citizens everywhere, empathizes profoundly with the spirit of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in striving for nuclear abolition and peace, and is intensifying its activities to promote the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020.

“Hiroshima” and “Nagasaki” are names that are now well known throughout the world. However, those states that possess nuclear weapons have turned a deaf ear to the earnest appeals of the *hibakusha*, and during the Cold War they engaged in a nuclear arms race that eventually increased their number to the current total of nine. While there has been some reduction in the number of nuclear weapons, this has been too slow and inadequate. Today, almost a quarter of a century since the Cold War ended, an estimated 17,300 nuclear weapons continue to pose an intolerable threat to humanity and the environment. With about 2,000 nuclear weapons on high alert, the threatened use of nuclear weapons, euphemistically called “deterrence,” and the unspeakable horror it implies, is still the mainstay of the international security regime. Furthermore, nuclear proliferation remains a current and dangerous threat, and we cannot deny the possibility that a sub-national terrorist group might obtain nuclear weapons.

And yet, in a time of unprecedented global economic crisis, fantastically expensive programs to use new tests to modernize nuclear weapons systems are underway in all of the states that possess nuclear arms, with no end in sight, misappropriating resources that are badly needed to fund basic human needs.

The need to achieve a world without nuclear weapons that will be sustainable over the long term compels us to build a new society in which mutual distrust and threats are replaced by a shared sense of community, rooted in an awareness that we all belong to the same human family. In such a society, diversity will be treasured and disputes will be resolved through peaceful means. The road to this goal may be long and difficult, but it is certainly achievable, and we must proceed with determination. At the same time, while on this path, it is absolutely necessary to prevent the criminal act of another use of nuclear weapons, which would result in unfathomable disaster to humanity and the environment. To this end, concrete policies, frameworks and confidence-building measures to promote international and regional peace and security must be put in place—in particular, in regions such as the Middle East, North East Asia and South Asia, where nuclear tensions are on the rise.

Facing the continuing threat posed by nuclear weapons, we need to redouble our efforts to bring all states to the table to commence negotiations for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons at the earliest possible date. This is the main goal of the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign to ban nuclear weapons.

While we acknowledge the many complementary efforts to abolish nuclear weapons, we, Mayors for Peace, place our priority at this stage on promoting a nuclear weapons convention or other effective means of establishing a world free of nuclear weapons. In this context, we welcome several promising new developments that are highlighting the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and accelerating the momentum toward their becoming outlawed. The Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference referred for the first time to the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and a nuclear weapons convention. In March this year, Norway hosted a ground-breaking conference in Oslo on the Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons, with 127 governments in attendance. A follow-on conference, hosted by Mexico, is scheduled for February 2014. In May, a new United Nations working group open to all member states began

(The Hiroshima Appeal continued from page 5) meeting in Geneva “to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.” And the first ever UN High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament will take place on September 26 in New York.

Mayors for Peace calls on all states, including those that possess nuclear weapons, to participate constructively and in good faith in the new UN working group, the UN High-Level Nuclear Disarmament Meeting, and the Mexico conference on the Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons, as well as in preparations for the 2015 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference.

Along with this immediate campaign, we will also expand our activities to advance the longer-term goal of cultivating the sense of global community as one human family that will ultimately be the basis for lasting world peace.

In order for Mayors for Peace to carry out this ambitious agenda, further expansion of our membership and the development of proactive and independent activities at the regional level are necessary. Further, we need to convince people around the world to actively support the heartfelt desire of the atomic bomb survivors for peace. To raise global awareness as widely as possible about the harsh reality of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, especially among future generations, we must strengthen our relationships with the United Nations, parliamentarians, associations of local authorities, the International Committee of the Red Cross, international peace organizations, other organizations working for peace, human rights, and protection of the environment, and prominent figures in culture, the arts, and sports. Our collaborative activities can help to mobilize widespread international public opinion for peace.

By expanding the number of our member cities and deepening the involvement of existing members, and through increased networking with diverse organizations, we will overcome the barriers of mutual distrust based on nationality, race, or religion, and create a security system rooted in a sense of global community as members of the same human family.

In light of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the gas attacks on Halabja and the upcoming commemoration of the centennial anniversary in 2015 of the first use of a weapon of mass destruction on Ypres, Mayors for Peace will use these tragic examples of the use of other weapons

of mass destruction to further our goal of a nuclear-weapons-free world.

Mayors for Peace has been a humanitarian organization since its founding in 1982 by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Cities join first and foremost out of human solidarity with the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, especially the survivors of 1945. Membership has grown to 5,712 member cities in 157 countries/regions, and we now represent more than 1 billion people. We shall further enhance our capacity to serve member cities and support their activities, and call upon others to join our efforts to further nuclear abolition and peace. Finally, whatever the source of radiation may be, we must do everything we can to prevent any more *hibakusha* anywhere.

Mayors for Peace calls on the United Nations and all governments to take the following measures:

1. To make sure that policy makers and officials from governments and international agencies responsible for nuclear disarmament visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki in order to deepen their understanding of the indescribable human tragedy of the atomic bombings, and disseminate the earnest wish of the atomic bomb survivors for the abolition of nuclear weapons
2. To establish policies and frameworks for confidence-building measures among nations to make sure that nuclear weapons will never be used again
3. To aim for the early implementation of a nuclear weapons convention, or other effective means of establishing a nuclear-weapons-free world, and to start concrete negotiations towards its conclusion
4. To actively work on replacing the current security system of nuclear deterrence, which attempts to maintain peace through the threatened use of nuclear weapons, with one rooted in a shared sense of community as fellow members of one human family, taking into account experiences gained by regional communities such as the EU, ASEAN, and CELAC.

Addressing the above points, at its 8th General Conference, Mayors for Peace adopted a dynamic Action Plan for the period from 2013 to 2017. We hereby pledge to make every endeavor to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020.

August 5, 2013

The 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace  
Hiroshima

## **Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2013-2017)**

### **I Purport**

Mayors for Peace has been dedicating its efforts to the expansion of its membership in order to develop the 2020 Vision (Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons), a set of guidelines for action aimed at abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020, under the cooperation of ever more cities and citizens worldwide. Currently, 5,712 cities from 157 countries/regions around the world have joined Mayors for Peace, representing one-seventh of the total global population, or one billion people.

As the circle of support for nuclear weapons abolition widens, we witness an accelerating momentum to highlight the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and outlaw them, which is precisely in line with our 2020 Vision in three key areas.

Greater awareness of the urgent imperative to abolish nuclear weapons

The international Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons held in Oslo on March 4 and 5, attended by 127 countries, considered both the direct impact of a nuclear explosion upon humanity and the indirect catastrophic impact on the global climate.

Good faith efforts to get negotiations started towards achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world

The 2012 UN General Assembly established an Open-Ended Working Group with a mandate to develop proposals to proceed with multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons. The Working Groups sessions in Geneva attended by about 70 countries, including many of those allied to nuclear weapon states, as well as international organizations and civil society, started sessions in May to compile a report for the sixty-eighth UN General Assembly Session in September.

Holding the High-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on nuclear disarmament

For the first time ever, the UN General Assembly will hold a high-level plenary meeting at the opening of the UN General Assembly on September 26 to discuss nuclear disarmament. The UN resolution that scheduled this session urges participation at the "highest level", and Mayors for Peace has been urging the same.

From now on, one of the roles that Mayors for Peace must play is to strengthen the voice of the citizens urging concrete measures towards nuclear weapons abolition to governments worldwide, and to raise the international public awareness calling for nuclear weapons abolition. For this purpose, the expansion of membership in Mayors for Peace and the active development of independent activities at the city,

regional, and international level are necessary. In addition to having even more people understand the reality of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and having the message of the atomic bomb survivors, calling for nuclear weapons abolition, be shared by people around the world, it will be necessary to foster public opinion with the cooperation of many groups. Furthermore, it is necessary to strengthen the measures calling on the United Nations and governments of various nations to overcome the barriers of mutual distrust, regardless of nationality, race, religion, as well as building a sense of community, and creating a security system rooted in a feeling of brotherhood as fellow members of the human race.

In addition, the improvement of the financial basis of Mayors for Peace and the Secretariat's function is also an important challenge.

Based on these considerations, the main projects to be promoted from 2013 to 2017 under the 2020 Vision are as listed below.

### **II Main Projects**

1. Expanding membership and strengthening Mayors for Peace's management system

1) Expanding membership

i. Calling on non-member cities for membership through various channels

We will call on non-member cities to join Mayors for Peace, not only through the Mayors for Peace Secretariat (hereafter referred to as Hiroshima Secretariat) but through associations of local governments, lead cities, 2020 Vision Campaigners, and other channels.

ii. Calling on capital cities for membership <new>

We will promote the membership of capital cities, which have great political influence.

2) Promoting regionalization and galvanizing regional activities <new>

i. Selection of lead cities and their roles

In order to encourage proactive and independent activities appropriate to each region, we will promote the creation of regional groups. For this end, we will select a number of lead cities, which will serve as chapters for the Hiroshima Secretariat and take the lead in their regional activities. The lead cities are also expected to establish an appropriate system as chapters. Following discussions with candidate cities, the President will select lead cities, which will then identify countries and areas that will join their regional group. Also, when non-executive cities have been selected as lead cities, the cities will be appointed to become executive cities.

ii. Holding of regional conferences by member cities

To stimulate regional activities, lead cities will hold regional conferences to exchange information and determine the content of activities based on regional characteristics.

3) Strengthening information transmission <new>

We will utilize social media to facilitate the transmission of information about Mayors for Peace's activities and information exchange among member cities.

4) Solidifying the financial basis

i. Fundraising

Mayors for Peace will seek to explore and use better and more effective fund raising strategies to maximize fund raising beyond membership fees, for example, specific events, joint projects with partners and application to funding and revenue giving organizations.

ii. Membership fees <new>

In order to build a system through which all member cities cooperate to support the organization while maintaining membership, each city will bear an annual membership fee of 2,000 yen. Furthermore, we will welcome any voluntary payment of more than 2,000 yen. Cities will not lose their membership automatically if they do not pay the fee.

5) Improving the Secretariat's functions

i. Receiving of interns, etc.

We will work to improve the functions of the Secretariat through receiving interns from member cities and maintaining information about member cities.

ii. Establishing the positions of Secretary General and Under-Secretary General <new>

The Chairperson and Executive Director of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation will serve respectively as Secretary General and Under Secretary General at the Hiroshima Secretariat.

2. Fostering the international public opinion for nuclear weapons abolition

1) Communication and transmission of Hiroshima and Nagasaki's messages

i. Spreading the reality of atomic bombing through holding A-bomb Poster Exhibitions in member cities

Member cities will hold Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Poster Exhibitions in their cities so that more citizens may deepen their understanding of the reality of atomic bombings and share our strong desire for nuclear abolition. Also, through the cooperation with worldwide peace and war museums, we will disseminate the reality of the atomic bombings. In order to hold an exhibition, cities will apply to the City of Hiroshima, the City of Nagasaki, or the Hiroshima Secretariat for

A-bomb posters, etc. as well as carrying out effective promotional activities.

ii. A-bomb survivor testimony through Skype

We will transmit testimonies of A-bomb survivors through Skype connecting venues in member cities and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

iii. Promotion of Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course

We will encourage colleges and universities in member cities to establish and promote Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Courses designed to analyze, systematize, and convey the reality of the atomic bombings and A-bomb survivors' messages to younger generations.

iv. Distribution and cultivation of seeds and seedlings of A-bombed trees <new>

We will distribute the seeds and seedlings of A-bombed trees, which have survived the atomic bombing and are alive today, to the member cities wishing to receive them. They will carry out activities to raise citizens' awareness for peace using trees, as well as taking care of them as a symbol of peace.

v. Distribution and preservation of the Flame of Peace <new>

We will distribute fire from the Flame of Peace, which will keep burning until all nuclear weapons on the planet are eliminated, to the member cities which are interested in this project. They will carry out projects to raise citizens' awareness for peace using the flame, as well as keeping it burning as a symbol of peace.

vi. Holding of Exhibition: 'The Light' - Portraits of the 'Hibakusha' <new>

To the member cities wishing to hold this event, we will lend portraits of atomic bomb survivors and their second/third generation drawn by the faculty and students of the Hiroshima City University, as well as descriptions about their A-bomb experiences and wish for peace.

vii. Screening of animated films: 'On a Paper Crane' and 'Barefoot Gen' <new>

To the member cities wishing to hold this event, we will lend animated films for screening, such as 'On a Paper Crane', a story about a 12-year-old girl Sadako Sasaki who died due to an A-bomb related disease while folding paper cranes in hope for her recovery, and 'Barefoot Gen', depicting a strong-willed boy named Gen who lived through hardship among the ruins of Hiroshima.

viii. Receiving of journalists and peace activists from member cities and diplomats <new>

We will receive journalists and peace activists from member cities and diplomats of foreign



missions in Japan in Hiroshima and Nagasaki so that they may understand the reality of the atomic bombings and share our strong desire for nuclear weapons abolition. Following their return to their home countries, we will encourage them to engage in various activities to foster public opinion toward nuclear abolition in their cities.

ix. Receiving of youths and university students to Hiroshima and Nagasaki <new>

We will receive youths from member cities and students from universities which have established the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course so that they can deepen their understanding of the reality of the atomic bombings, and get involved with nuclear abolition activities in their cities. We will provide them with opportunities to participate in peace-related programs, such as listening to an A-bomb survivor's testimony, interacting with local youths and peace activists in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and attending a briefing about Mayors for Peace.

2) Cooperation with a variety of groups, promotion of awareness activities

i. Promotion of a resolution for Mayors for Peace initiatives at associations of local authorities around the world

In order to foster public opinion for nuclear weapons abolition on a wide-ranging city and citizen level, we will encourage various associations of local authorities around the world, such as United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), United States Conference of Mayors (USCM), Federation of Latin America and Caribbean Cities, Municipalities and Local Government Associations (FLACMA) and Japan Association of City Mayors, to pass a resolution for our initiatives toward nuclear weapons abolition. When a resolution is passed, we will publicize the fact on our website or through a press release.

ii. Strengthening of collaboration with worldwide peace institutes including the Hiroshima Peace Institute and the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition

We will investigate the possibility of joint projects with worldwide peace institutes including the Hiroshima Peace Institute of Hiroshima City University, and the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition of Nagasaki University, as well as utilizing their human resources and academic research results as peace research institutions in atomic bombed cities.

iii. Collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies <new>

We will collaborate with ICRC and Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies around the world in

order to foster international public opinion toward nuclear weapons abolition through activities such as co-sponsoring A-bomb poster exhibitions, distributing seeds and seedlings of atomic bombed trees, and sharing the fire of the Flame of Peace in the Peace Memorial Park.

iv. Building of networks with international peace organizations and collaboration with their activities <new>

We will work to build networks with international peace organizations, peace NGOs, parliamentarians, prominent figures in culture, arts, sports, etc. as well as collaborating with their activities. We will especially strengthen and intensify our collaboration with the Abolition 2000 - Global Network to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons (Abolition 2000) and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).

v. Collaboration with the Peace Boat on the Hibakusha World Tour Project with the theme "I was her age." <New from 2020VCA>

In collaboration with the peace NGO Peace Boat, we will plan a route for a ship voyage with atomic bomb survivors and youth, coinciding with the 2015 NPT Review Conference in New York, and making stops at member cities on the way from and to Japan. In member cities and New York, we will organize peace gatherings, in which parents with their young children encounter hibakusha who in 1945 were the same age as their child is today and pledge to strive for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Host cities will undertake to promote public awareness of and participation in the gathering with the hibakusha, as well as local, national, and where possible international media attention.

vi. Creation and publication of the Cities' World Peace Calendar <New from 2020VCA>

The Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Association (2020VCA) will take the lead in creating and publicizing the Peace Calendar, which recognizes activities toward nuclear weapons abolition being undertaken in member cities on each of the 365 days of the year. Cities which have experienced the scourge of war will be encouraged to commemorate the anniversary of the attack on their city in the spirit of "Cities Are Not Targets!" All member cities will also be encouraged to commemorate the 1945 atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (on or between 6-9 August) and/or the International Day of Peace (21 September).

vii. Centennial Commemoration of the first use of weapons of mass destruction <New from 2020VCA>

An international conference of cities in Ypres, Belgium, to commemorate the 100th anniversary

of the first use of weapons of mass destruction (begin 22 April 2015). The themes will be “A Century of WMD: Enough!” and “Cities Are Not Targets!” and will publicize the results of a comprehensive survey of the historical experience of cities coming under attack in the last 100 years compiled by the 2020 Vision Campaign. The conference will consider how cities can most effectively mobilize to counter the targeting of cities in the future, including threats of use of weapons of mass destruction.

3. Promotion of actions for the early realization of a nuclear weapons convention

i. Calling on the United Nations and governments for action

Taking advantage of the following international conferences, we will call on the United Nations and governments around the world to take action in good faith toward the conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention. As well as other international gatherings that may in due course be scheduled by governments and the United Nations, such as a renewed mandate for the Open-Ended Working Group on Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations in 2014

- September 2013 High-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on nuclear disarmament (New York, USA)
- February 2014 International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons (Mexico)
- April 2014 2014 ministerial meeting of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPTDI) (Hiroshima, Japan)
- April-May 2014 Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference (New York, USA)
- April-May 2015 NPT Review Conference (New York, USA)

ii. Promoting a petition drive calling for a nuclear weapons convention

Member cities will carry out a petition drive demanding the immediate commencement of negotiations for a nuclear weapons convention. Each member city will collect as many signatures as possible ahead of the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference to be held in 2014, and send them to the Hiroshima Secretariat by the end of March 2014. They will continue to collect petitions thereafter and the President of Mayors for Peace will submit them to the United Nations as appropriate.

iii. Sending protest letters against acts contrary to the objective of nuclear weapons abolition

Mayors for Peace will send letters and messages of protest against acts contrary to the objective of nuclear abolition, such as nuclear tests, threats, and development.

iv. Selection of 2020 Vision Ambassadors

Member cities will nominate 2020 Vision Ambassadors who will spread the philosophy of Mayors for Peace and communicate messages for nuclear abolition utilizing their talent, fame, and status. The 2020 Vision Campaign Association will choose from among the nominees.

v. Increasing the number of 2020 Vision Campaigners and support for their activities

We will increase the number of 2020 Vision Campaigners working to promote and educate people about the 2020 Vision Campaign, and to recruit member cities for Mayors for Peace. Furthermore, we will support their activities by providing information and promotional goods through the 2020 Vision Campaign Association.

**Responses from the UN and national governments to the Hiroshima Appeal**

On September 10, 2013, the Mayors for Peace Secretariat sent out the Hiroshima Appeal adopted at the 8th General Conference to the UN and national governments. So far, we have received positive responses to the Hiroshima Appeal from the following countries/organization.

- 1 The United Nations Letter of Reply from H.E. Angela Kane, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs (September 26)
- 2 Republic of Lebanon Letter of Reply from H.E. Najib Mikati, President of the Council of Ministers (September 28)
- 3 Republic of Bulgaria Letter of Reply from H.E. Plamen Oresharski, Prime Minister (October 3)
- 4 The Kingdom of the Netherlands Letter of Reply from H.E. Mark Rutte, Prime Minister (October 23)
- 5 The State of Kuwait Letter of Reply from H.E. Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister (November 6)
- 6 The Vatican Letter of Reply from His Eminence Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, Secretary for Relations with States (November 8)
- 7 The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Letter of Reply from H.E. Dr. Abdalla Ensour, Prime Minister and Minister of Defense (November 11)
- 8 Jamaica Letter of Reply from H.E. Portia Simpson Miller, Prime Minister (November 21)
- 9 Republic of Ireland Letter of Reply from Mr. Nick Reddy, Private Secretary to the Taoiseach (December 5)
- 10 The State of Qatar Letter of Reply from H.E. Abdullah Bin Nasser Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Prime Minister (December 30)
- 11 The Sultanate of Oman Letter of Reply from H.E. Khalid Al-Muslahi, Ambassador to Japan (February 17, 2014)

**Participation in the Second Preparatory Committee Meeting for the 2015 NPT Review Conference [Geneva, Switzerland, April 22-25]**

Mayors for Peace delegation from 8 cities participated in the second Preparatory Committee Meeting for the 2015 NPT Review Conference (the 2013 NPT PrepCom) held in Geneva. At the NGO session of the meeting, the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki delivered speeches and conveyed to the government representatives the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons and the necessity for efforts toward the early realization of a nuclear weapons convention.

They also submitted the grassroots petitions for a nuclear weapons convention to the chair of the 2013 NPT PrepCom.



**President Matsui speaking at the NGO session**

**Mayors for Peace Secretary General Komizo visited Europe and the US – to request several mayors to be lead cities and to observe the High-Level meeting of the UN General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament [September 16 -27]**

In order to request to be lead cities of Mayors for Peace, Yasuyoshi Komizo, Secretary General of Mayors for Peace visited three countries in Europe, prior to his visit to New York to observe the High-Level meeting of the UN General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament. He has requested the mayors of Manchester (UK), Ypres (Belgium), Malakoff (France) and Granollers (Spain) and the mayors of Manchester, Malakoff and Granollers agreed and signed the letter of acceptance on site.

Mr. Komizo also attended the Conference of Cities for Peace in the Mediterranean held in Aubagne (France). He read the message from President Matsui and delivered a speech. As a result of encouraging participated mayors to join Mayors for Peace, the Hiroshima delegates received applications from the mayors of M'chedallah (Algeria) and Kythrea (Cyprus). (Details of the conference are reported on page 15)

In New York, Mayors for Peace delegates observed the High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament.

Secretary General Komizo passed a message on the High-Level Meeting from the president of Mayors for Peace to Ms. Angela Kane, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and Foreign Minister Kishida of Japan, and asked them to work towards a world without nuclear weapons.

He also met with representatives of major NGOs such as International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). He explained future activities of Mayors for Peace and exchanged opinions on further cooperation with them.



**The High-Level meeting of the UN General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament**

**Secretary General Komizo visited Thailand and Australia [November 11-18]**

Secretary General Komizo visited the cities of Bangkok and Chiang Mai in Thailand and Fremantle and Sydney in Australia to exchange opinions on expanding the activities of Mayors for Peace in the regions. He requested Bangkok and Fremantle to be lead cities.

In Sydney, he observed the Statutory Meetings of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. He also met A-bomb survivors who are sharing their testimonies overseas, scholars of some peace study centers of universities and representatives of peace NGOs and discussed future cooperation with them.

He also visited Japanese embassies and consulates in each country to ask for their assistance in the activities of Mayors for Peace.

Later, the Fremantle City Council unanimously agreed, and accepted the request to be a lead city.



**Meeting with Mr. Brad Pettitt, Mayor of Fremantle (right) (Fremantle, Australia)**

**Mayor Vestby of Frogn, Vice President of Mayors for Peace and Secretary General Komizo visited the U.S. and Mexico (Attending the Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, to request two mayors to be lead cities and visit to UN Office for Disarmament Affairs)[February 13-14, 2014]**

The Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons was held in Nayarit, Mexico, hosted by the government of Mexico and delegations representing 146 States, the UN, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement and civil society organizations, participated in the conference.

Mayors for Peace delegation led by Mayor Thore Vestby of Frogn (Norway), Vice President of Mayors for Peace and Secretary General Komizo attended the conference.

Mr. Komizo spoke at a question and answer session after the *hibakusha* (A-bomb survivors) presentation. In his speech, he expressed gratitude and respect for the *hibakusha* and their precious message “no one should ever again suffer as we have.” should be solemnly shared by all of us who live in today’s world. He also mentioned, “Mayors for Peace also works for a longer-term goal of cultivating the sense of global community as one human family that provides a sound basis for accommodating differences as welcome diversity which enriches human life. This sense of global community can support a new type of reliable international security away from the threat based ‘nuclear deterrence’ and will ultimately be the basis for lasting world peace.”

At the last day of the conference, Chair of the conference Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo, Mexico's Vice Minister for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, concluded the Chair’s Summary with placing “Nayarit is a point of no return” to initiate a diplomatic process conducive “to reach new international standards and norms through a legally binding instrument” and “this process should comprise a specific timeframe” and stated “The 70th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki attacks is the appropriate milestone to achieve our goal”.



**Secretary General Komizo speaking at the Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons (left) and requested Mayor Donald Plusquellic of Akron, USA, to be a lead city (right)**

Secretary General Komizo also visited Akron (USA) and Mexico City (Mexico) and requested these cities to be lead cities. The mayor of Akron signed the letter of acceptance on site and Mexico City would also consider the matter positively.

He also met with Ms. Angela Kane, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and discussed on strengthening cooperation between Mayors for Peace and the UN.

**Secretary General Komizo attended the ceremony for the Nuclear Victims Remembrance Day in the Marshall Islands on behalf of the Mayor of Hiroshima [February 26, 2014-March 3, 2014]**

On February 15, when President Loeak of the Republic of Marshall Islands visited Hiroshima, an invitation was made to the City of Hiroshima to participate in the official commemoration ceremony for the Nuclear Victims Remembrance Day (also known as Bikini Day) on March 1 in Majuro, the capital of the Republic of Marshall Islands.

Secretary General Komizo visited Marshall Islands on behalf of the mayor of Hiroshima and attended the ceremony to remember the victims of the U.S. nuclear testing conducted 60 years ago on March 1, 1954.

On February 27, Secretary General Komizo paid a courtesy call to President Loeak and passed the letter from the mayor of Hiroshima.

He also asked the President to support inviting the cities on the Marshall Islands to join Mayors for Peace.



#### **At the Office of the President**

During the official commemoration, following the speeches of representatives of the four atolls, Secretary General Komizo delivered a speech as a guest speaker.

He also listened to two testimonies by the survivors of the nuclear testing, including a dialogue between a survivor who was exposed to the radiation by the nuclear testing in Rongelap Atoll and Mr. Matashichi Oishi, the only remaining survivor among the crew members of the fishing boat “Lucky Dragon No.5” that was exposed to the radioactive effects near Bikini Atoll, and a testimony by a congressman who attended the Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons

held in Mexico in February as a survivor from Rongelap Atoll.

Mr. Komizo also attended the Global Hibakusha Project Workshop and lectured on the realization of a world without nuclear weapons to students from the Marshall Islands, Kazakhstan and Hiroshima.

◆ **Mayors for Peace representatives participated in the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) on nuclear disarmament set up by the UN General Assembly [May, June and August, Geneva (Switzerland)]**

Aaron Tovish, International Campaign Director of the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Association, and Esteban Ramirez, UN Representative from the association, attended the start of the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) on nuclear disarmament set up by the United Nations General Assembly amidst growing frustration with the ongoing paralysis of the Conference on Disarmament and insufficient progress towards the achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons. The working group provides a comparatively informal forum for debate and is mandated to “develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.”

Besides the interactive format of the working group, representatives from civil society and international organizations have been invited to participate.

On May 15, during the second day of meetings at the United Nations Office in Geneva, Mr. Tovish, speaking on behalf of Mayors for Peace, suggested that “‘planning in good faith’ should be our core guiding concept at this time.” On May 17, in concluding remarks, Esteban Ramirez called on participants to continue to engage openly and creatively.

On August 30, the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) on nuclear disarmament adopted, without a vote, a report summarizing the "proposals made and discussions held" during its meetings in May, June and August 2013. On August 28, Mr. Esteban

Ramirez, UN Representative from Mayors for Peace, welcomed the introduction of the draft report, and stressed "the value and contribution of the OEWG to articulate proposals and clarify positions, broadening the discussion, and promoting participation (including by civil society)." However, Mr. Ramirez noted, "Much more could have and should be done with regards to producing concrete recommendations to the General Assembly to move forward with multilateral disarmament negotiations, in accordance with its mandate.

During the meetings of the Working Group, Mayors for Peace contributed alongside other members of the Abolition 2000 Task Force to the drafting of a Manual for Governments, meant primarily to assist smaller delegation.

Mayors for Peace also submitted a working paper jointly with the Basel Peace Office and the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation on August 22, titled “Contributions from Non-Governmental Organizations, Bridging the gaps - building the framework – ensuring success.”

◆ **Mayors for Peace Representative attended the Annual Conference of National Federation of Municipalities of Mexico (FENAMM) [May 15 - 18 Leon (Mexico)]**

Mayor Thore Vestby of Frogne, Norway, who is a vice president of the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign, was welcomed by two Mexican Associations of Local Governments during a series of events to promote Mayors for Peace. During the Annual Conference of FENAMM (National Federation of Municipalities of Mexico) over 2,000 Mayors and local government officials gathered in the City of Leon from May 15 - 18.

Mayor Vestby was invited to address both the Directive Council of FENAMM, as well as a plenary session dedicated to the role of cities to promote a culture of peace. In his speech, he mentioned that Latin America has demonstrated its leadership for a long time in the movements toward the abolition of nuclear weapons.



**Mayors for Peace poster exhibition was on display at the United Nations Office at Geneva, outside the meeting rooms where the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) met**

## Mayors for Peace A-bomb posters exhibition and Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb exhibition

To commemorate the 5,000-city milestone of the Mayors for Peace membership, we called for all member cities to hold a poster exhibit, premiered in Vienna (Austria) in May 2012.

Based on the decisions at the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in August 2013, we have updated a part of the Mayors for Peace A-bomb posters. In this section, we would like to show you some examples of the A-bomb posters exhibitions held in 2013.



From left to right, poster exhibitions in Geneva (Switzerland), Lipetsk City (Russia) [Photo credit: The city of Lipetsk] and Sydney (Australia)

### ◆The United Nations Office at Geneva [Geneva, Switzerland, August 19-30]

Mayors for Peace's poster exhibition was on display at the United Nations Office at Geneva, outside the meeting rooms, where the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG), mandated to develop concrete proposals "to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations," was holding its final segment.

The nineteen posters in the Exhibit aim at raising awareness for the abolition of nuclear weapons by providing information about the reality of the atomic bomb damage in Hiroshima and Nagasaki as well as the prospect of catastrophic climate disruption following a nuclear war, even a "limited" one.

### ◆The Statutory Meetings of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement [Sydney, Australia November 11 -15]

Mayors for Peace set up an exhibition booth for the Mayors for Peace A-bomb Poster Exhibition at Humanitarian Village at the venue of the Statutory Meetings of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Sydney Convention Center. During the exhibit, around 500 visitors including the participants of the meetings, the Red Cross and Red Crescent staff, and the general public visited the booth.

A petition drive for a nuclear weapons convention was also conducted at the exhibition booth and 204 signatures were collected.

### ◆Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Exhibitions in Croatia

[Zagreb, September 10 to October 6, and Biograd na Moru, October 10 to December 10]

The Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Exhibition organized by the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum was held in Zagreb (Croatia) from September 10 to October 6 and then transferred to Biograd na Moru (Croatia), which is a Vice President city of Mayors for Peace. As the first A-bomb testimonies ever offered in Croatia, Mr. Takashi Teramoto, a *hibakusha* (A-bomb survivor), delivered three testimonies in Zagreb and two testimonies in Biograd na Moru in October.

### ●Other cities/municipalities held the A-bomb poster exhibitions●

August: Lipetsk (Russia), Orland (USA), Aki, Gyoda, Himeji, Higashi-Matsuyama, Matsuzaka, Oji and Takarazuka (Japan)

September: Carrieres-sous-Poissy (France), Marion (Australia) and Rucphen (the Netherlands)

November: Miura (Japan)

### ▼Details of the poster exhibition to download the poster data:

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

[The posters are available in Spanish, Catalan, English, French, Dutch, German, Russian and Japanese]

# Member City and Regional Activities

Member cities around the world are making efforts for peace. Here are some examples reported to the Secretariat.

## <<Hiroshima Day and Nagasaki Day >>

On the occasion of Hiroshima Day on August 6 and Nagasaki Day on August 9, a lot of cities/municipalities and peace organizations around the world observed commemoration peace events.

**We deeply appreciate the commemorations for the A-bomb victims around the world.**

Here are the examples of such events:

### ■ Volgograd, Russia

Report on the August 6 memorial ceremony in Volgograd

Volgograd held a memorial ceremony paying tribute to the victims of the atomic bombing of 1945 in Hiroshima. The ceremony is traditionally organized in the Museum-panorama "The Battle of Stalingrad".

The ceremony was attended by the mayor, the former mayors, members of the "Children of Stalingrad" society, pupils of Volgograd schools, and representatives of the municipality.

The event started at 8.15am with the toll of the Bell of Peace, followed by a minute of silence. Children laid paper cranes at the foot of the Bell in memory of Hiroshima pupils killed in the bombing. After that, the participants gathered in the Hall of Glory to watch documentary films on the bombing of Hiroshima and on the history of friendly relations between Hiroshima and Volgograd.



### ■ Yao, Japan

Peace Gathering commemorating the 30th anniversary of the nuclear free peace city declaration of Yao City

On August 9, in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of nuclear free peace city declaration of Yao City, a peace gathering was held with about 850 participants.

Students of a municipal junior high school reported their Hiroshima study tour and Mr. Yoichi Watanabe, photojournalist and battlefield photographer, delivered a speech at the gathering. The petition drive calling for a nuclear weapons convention was also conducted at the venue.

### ■ Registro (SP), Brazil

Tooro Nagashi of Peace  
(Peace Lantern Floating)

On August 17, the city of Registro held for the fifth consecutive year, the event "Tooro Nagashi of Peace", or peace lantern floating.

300 students from 40 schools in the city brought together to form a big choir to sing songs calling for peace. The colorful lanterns are placed in the Ribeira River and follow the stream, providing a landscape of extreme peace.

### ■ Vienna, Austria

The annual manifestation and a lantern march were held on the Hiroshima Day.

### ■ Berlin and Büchel, Germany

Hiroshima Day Ceremony was held at the Peace Bell in Berlin and an action including a fast that ends on Nagasaki Day in Büchel followed by an action culminate in a 24-hour music blockade on August 11 and 12.

### ■ Greece

Several Greek NGOs and municipalities held a series of events starting from press conference on August 6 to the arrival of Peace Boat on August 18.

### ■ Haiti

Dr. Franck Simon, Representative of Haiti Mayors for Peace, invited the Mayors for Peace of the Republic of Haiti and all the friends of Peace, to observe a minute of silence.

### ■ Imphal, India

The chairperson of the municipal council attended, peace declarations recited and DVDs on the A-bombings screened at the annual commemoration.

### ■ Hiroshima and other cities in Japan

The City of Hiroshima held an annual meeting for the Nagasaki A-bomb victims on August 9. Many other cities including Fujisawa, Itabashi, Nishinomiya, Moriyama and Shinjuku also observed memorial events.

### ■ Sheffield, UK

On August 6, the Lord Mayor signed the Mayors for Peace declaration at the annual commemoration.

### ■ Orlando, Florida, US

The Hiroshima / Nagasaki Commemoration -Abolition 2020 Ceremony was held with presentations by several peace organizations and the Mayors for Peace A-bombings poster exhibit.

## << Events to mark the International Day of Peace 2013 on September 21 >>

The UN invites all nations and people to honor a cessation of hostilities during the International Day of Peace on September 21, and to otherwise commemorate the Day through education and public awareness on issues related to peace and well-being for all.

Mayors for Peace has been a long-time supporter of the International Day of Peace. Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima, President of Mayors for Peace, asked the member cities to hold an event to mark the International Day of Peace 2013 in response to the Message from the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Either in response to our call in July or as their continued efforts, a lot of member cities commemorated the International Day of Peace 2013 on September 21.

Here are some examples of their events.

### ■ Ipswich (Australia)

Ipswich Library hosted a display during the month of September promoting the ongoing work of the UN, Mayors for Peace together with both organization's long term objective to abolish nuclear weapons and end war.

### ■ Marion (Australia)

Promoted the International Day of Peace through the city's website as well as Facebook and Twitter.

### ■ Linz (Austria)

Linz has been the City of Peace since 1986, focused on the object "Active Nonviolence" and held a series of events such as a workshop, a seminar and a lecture.

### ■ Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

International Development Director of 2020Vision Campaign and a 2020 Vision Campaigner organized an event in the favela of Babilonia with the "Stars of Babilonia" or in Portuguese the "Estrelas da Babilonia" including a program with children learning to make the origami peace cranes and sharing the story of Sadako Sasaki and Hiroshima and a musical performance by Symphonic Orchestra with 40 children of the favela of Babilonia.

### ■ The cities of Trail and North Vancouver (Canada)

Proclaimed September 21 as "International Day of Peace" in each city.

### ■ Vukovar (Croatia)

Young people participated in events supported by the mayor such as painting the exterior wall of a local stadium and printing many messages of peace as well as a peace walk carrying flags or banners with messages of peace made at summer peace camp.

### ■ Aubagne (France)

Celebrated its 30th Peace Festival, a 3-day gathering with activities such as debates, concerts, and a running race on a course in the shape of a dove. The Conference of Cities for Peace in the Mediterranean was included in the Peace festival program.

### ■ Carrieres-sous-Poissy (France)

Hosted the Mayors for Peace exhibition for 2 weeks. They also organized various events involving citizens and schools, including releasing balloons with peace messages attached to them.

### ■ Fontaine (France)

Organized an exhibition and a free concert for the schools pupils, as they have been doing since they became a Mayors for Peace member.

### ■ Malakoff (France)

Launched its now traditional event "Malakoff makes Peace grow" with exhibitions, debates and public readings.

### ■ Villejuif (France)

Launched its 5th "Peace culture meetings", a series of events to promote peace culture in the city, from September 21 to October 13.

### ■ Vitry-sur-Seine (France)

Organized a Peace Evening on September 21st.

### ■ Hiroshima (Japan)

Hiroshima held an event praying for the abolition of nuclear weapons and lasting world peace. Participants observed a minute of silence in front of the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims, rang the Peace Bell, and held a Mayors for Peace banner reading "Abolish Nuclear Weapons by 2020". A-bomb survivors also participated in the event.



Event in Hiroshima

### ■ Takayama and other cities (Japan)

Takayama City was widely requesting to ring bells at temples, churches and any institute that has bells in Japanese member cities at noon of September 21. The cities of Akita, Hirakata, Ishigaki, Motosu, Nagasaki (Japan) and others responded to the call and rang the bells in each city, while Mishima (Japan) sounded a siren at noon.



■ **Manzanillo (Mexico)**

Thanks to the cooperation of the Peace Boat, all the mayors of cities/municipalities in the State of Colima have signed applications to join Mayors for Peace and the forms were handed to the Peace Boat staff by the Governor of Colima at the Festival in Manzanillo. The mayors in the State of Colima also attended the event. Earlier on the same day, A-bomb survivors shared their experiences at a university.

■ **Amersfoort (The Netherlands)**

Mayor Lucas Bolsius opened the Week of Peace in Amersfoort, organized by seven different churches and two NGOs. The mayor addressed the public and made a statement for the importance of celebrating peace. Throughout the week there were a lot of dialogues, e.g. with the Syrian community in the Netherlands, several Schools for Peace and between various religions.

■ **Orenburg (Russia)**

In support of the 2013 theme of 'Education for Peace', educational facilities in Orenburg held various activities such as music lessons, drawing contests, concerts, speech and presentation contests and discussions.

■ **Manchester (UK)**

Hosted a Peace History Conference on September 20 and 21, along with a walk of the Manchester City Centre Peace Trail in the afternoon on September 20 and a film about the composer Benjamin Britten, a well-known supporter of peace projects and conscientious objector during the Second World War in the evening of September 20. Manchester Camerata also gave a concert of some of his works the same evening in Manchester Town Hall.

Aside from these, the cities of Cairns (Australia), Red Deer (Canada), Mülheim an der Ruhr (Germany), Dublin (Ireland), Norwich (UK), and others held an event in each city.

These are only some examples.

**We deeply appreciate your solidarity and support for commemorating the International Peace Day.**

=====  
**The Conference of  
Cities for Peace in  
the Mediterranean**

[September 20-21, Aubagne, France]  
=====

On September 20th and 21st, the first Conference of Cities for Peace in the Mediterranean was held in Aubagne (France). Co-organized by Mayors for Peace Executive Cities of Granollers and Biograd na Moru, and by the President city of AFCDP-Mayors for Peace France, Aubagne, the Conference gathered 130 participants from 15 countries who were invited to exchange ideas on the theme: "What kind of local policies promote a culture of peace?".

A wide range of issues relevant to the Mediterranean region were discussed, from the current conflicts afflicting cities and their citizens to ways of promoting a culture of peace in cities facing the economic crisis.

In the plenary session "Peace in the Mediterranean, a critical necessity", Mr. Komizo, Mayors for Peace's Secretary General, stressed on the message of the Hibakusha:

"we don't want anyone to suffer as we did".

A message of hope and a call to action and peaceful resolutions of conflicts shared by representatives of cities from countries such as Palestine, Syria or Lebanon, all of which are suffering or have suffered the scourge of war.

On September 21st, International Day of Peace, participants adopted a Final Appeal in which they committed to develop the initiatives of Mayors for Peace around the Mediterranean and act to help eradicate nuclear weapons and so on.



**Event in Mülheim an der Ruhr (Germany)**

Also, a minute of silence was observed in many cities including Cambridge (UK), Honolulu (USA), Oshika-mura (Japan), Registro (Brazil), Luxembourg (on September 30), Ibaraki-town (Japan) (on September 20) and others.



**Secretary General Komizo speaking at the Conference of Cities for Peace in the Mediterranean**

<<Other Regional and Member City Activities>>

■ **Agreement with UN-Habitat inviting African mayors to be Associate Partners in the World Urban Campaign** [July 25, Nairobi (Kenya)]

The representative of Mayors for Peace to the African Union, Ambassador Mussie Hailu signed an agreement with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) inviting African mayors to be Associate Partners of the World Urban Campaign and promote the campaign through the network of Mayors for Peace in Africa. The World Urban Campaign is a platform for public, private and civil society actors to elevate policies, share practical tools and raise awareness for sustainable urbanization.

Dr. Clos, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat stressed the role of Mayors for Peace and said engagement of each city would be important in launching campaigns under the slogan "I'm a City Changer".

■ **Itabashi (Japan)**  
**Commemoration Projects for the Itabashi Peace City Declaration**

On January 1, 1985, Itabashi City, Tokyo, declared itself to be a city of peace. Since then, in accordance with the peace city declaration, Itabashi has implemented various peace projects and has continued conveying the significance of peace and tragedy of wars. These projects include peace tours to Hiroshima and Nagasaki by junior high school students, exhibitions on peace, peace drawings and A-bombings, and annual meetings for peace.

■ **Wageningen (the Netherlands)**



**October 9-11**  
**Peace Conference:**  
**Post-conflict, cultural heritage and regional development**

Wageningen, a historic city also known as the 'City of Liberation' and the 'City of Life Sciences', hosted the international conference "Post-conflict, cultural heritage and regional development". It was organized by the Liberation Day Committee 1945 Wageningen, as a member of the European Network of Places of Peace [www.placesofpeace.eu](http://www.placesofpeace.eu), in cooperation with Wageningen University and Research Centre.

■ **Donostia - San Sebastian (Spain)**

**October 10 -11**

**International Conference 2013:**  
**Building peace starting at the local level**

Donostia-San Sebastian city council organized the international conference as part of its contribution to tackling the immense challenge of building peace from the local domain.

The conference aimed to draw on the diversity of international experiences at local level to advance towards fulfilling the right of peace for the people.

Also, it was intended to inspire the work currently being carried out in the Basque peace process.

On behalf of Mayors for Peace, Mr. Michel Cibot from Malakoff, France, Vice President city of Mayors for Peace, participated in the Conference.

President Matsui of Mayors for Peace, Mayor of Hiroshima, sent a video message to the conference as well.

■ **Mayors for Peace Germany lobbied vocally the negotiations of the major German political parties to create a new German government** [Report from **Hannover (Germany)**, November 12]

In early November, Mr. Stefan Schostok, the Mayors for Peace Vice-President and new Lord Mayor of Hannover (Germany) raised the voice of the German Mayors for Peace on the occasion of the negotiations among major German political parties on creating a new German government.

More than 110 colleagues from all over Germany from small to large cities asked by individually signing a respective letter that the government be committed to:

- (1) a nuclear-weapon free world,
- (2) the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from Germany and to
- (3) oppose the life extension program of the B-61 bombs based in Germany.

■ **Manchester (UK) November 13**

**Lord Mayor of Manchester holds reception for Mayors for Peace to support the call to abolish nuclear weapons**

The Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Naeem ul Hassan, formally conferred the position of a Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Ambassador to Mr. Salahuddin Choudhry on the 13th November. Mr. Choudhry is a former Consul General of Pakistan to the UK and has over 30 years diplomatic experience. He was stationed in Bosnia on behalf of the United Nations during the civil war in the 1990s and was also in Burma/Myanmar during the campaign for more democratic rights. He is a

Past Chair of the Manchester branch of Rotary International.

As a 2020 Vision Ambassador, Mr. Choudhry has pledged to help Mayors for Peace develop diplomatic contacts at the United Nations and in South Asia and help in the development of events to support a UK & Ireland chapter of Mayors for Peace.

The civic reception also allowed for the Lord Mayor to receive a paper crane garland from the Greater Manchester branch of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, which had been given to them by the Gensuikyo Hiroshima group.

The event was an opportunity for Manchester to reiterate its agreement with Hiroshima to develop a national Mayors for Peace chapter and also to announce its support for the 'Making Peace' exhibition.



**Mr. Salahuddin Choudhry (right end) pledged as a Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Ambassador**  
(Photo credit: Manchester City Council)

---

■ **Linz (Austria) November 21**  
**The 2013 Declaration of Peace by the City of Linz**

It was unanimously approved by the City Council.

---

■ **Mayors for Peace member cities in Uruguay exchanged opinions with Japanese Ambassador to Uruguay**  
[Montevideo, Uruguay, January 16]

On January 16, a meeting took place at the Japanese ambassador's residence to exchange opinions between H.E. Mr. Kazuaki Abe, Ambassador of Japan to Uruguay, and representatives of Mayors for Peace member cities including the departments (provinces) of Canelones, Montevideo and Rocha as well as representatives of the departments of Salto and Rivera, which are not yet members of Mayors for Peace.

In the meeting, representatives of the departments of Salto and Rivera expressed their interests in joining Mayors for Peace.

A representative of Montevideo remarked that as a member city of Mayors for Peace, they had been

actively promoting Mayors for Peace through Mercociudades, which is a network among local authorities in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela. He assured that they would continue to call for many cities/municipalities to join Mayors for Peace.

---

■ **M'chedallah (Algeria) January 31, 2014**  
**Mayors for Peace Algeria group meeting**

The Group of Mayors for Peace Algeria met on January 31 in the city of M'chedallah.

Representatives of several local authorities as well as local associations from neighboring provinces of Bejaia and Tizi Ouzou attended the meeting, including representatives of the city of Akbou, and the municipalities of Aghrib, Azazga and Yakourene and a representative of the organization NECFA (Nouveaux Echanges Culturels Franco-Algeriens /New Cultural Exchanges Franco-Algerian).

The projects, program and action plan of Mayors for Peace were discussed during the meeting. Some participants also gave a report on their participation to the conference of Cities for Peace in the Mediterranean held last September in Aubagne, France.

The discussions also included the various conflicts plaguing Africa, especially North Africa.

---

■ **Ichihara (Japan)**  
**Projects for Peace of the City of Ichihara April 2013-March 2014**

The City of Ichihara held an event on July 15 including such programs as a film showing of "Junod", which describes the life of Dr. Marcel Junod, a Swiss medical doctor dispatched to battle fields from the ICRC during the second world war, a concert for peace by elementary school children and tasting of dumpling soup called "suiton", which was commonly eaten in Japan during the second world war. Winners of a peace motto contest among the junior high school students and the Nuclear Free Peace City Declaration of the city are also shown on the website of the City of Ichihara.

---

■ **Nagano (Japan) February 8 - 16, 2014**  
**The 2014 Nagano Citizen's Peace Day**

It was held to promote the significance of peace and sports marking the declaration of Nagano City as a city of peace as well as the Peace and Sports Day commemorating the 1998 Nagano Olympics. A concert for peace, exhibition of paper crane art objects, the Mayors for Peace petition drive calling for an immediate start of negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention were included in the program.

■ **Fujisawa, Japan**

**Record of desire and efforts for peace by the City of Fujisawa**

Based on the purport of "the City of Fujisawa Declaration for Peace and the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons" and the Fujisawa city ordinance on the basis for promoting peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons, the City of Fujisawa has been implementing various peace promotion projects working together with many citizens, such as the 2012 report from the Executive committee to widen the circle for peace, Nagasaki peace study tour (August 7 to 10), dispatching parent-child reporters to Hiroshima (August 5 to 7), debrief session of peace study, A-bomb survivor's testimonies, peace bus day-trip for citizens, peace exhibition and the Commemorative project for the 30th anniversary of the Declaration for Peace and the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (held on January 20, 2013).

■ **Shinjuku (Japan)**

**Peace Promotion Projects of Shinjuku**

Based on its peace city declaration, Shinjuku has implemented various peace promotion projects to raise awareness for peace. Here are the examples of peace projects last year:

"Peace Exhibition" exhibited pictures of wars in two venues from July to August, a peace concert on July 20, dispatched seven pairs of parents and children to Hiroshima in August and held a meeting on October 6 to report from the parent-child envoys along with a choir concert. Other events held include "Peace Map Walking" on November 17 to visit monuments on peace and war, and a "Suiton meeting" was also held on December 1 where participants listened to stories of war survivors while eating 'suiton' flour dumpling soup which was commonly eaten during the war in Japan.

■ **Mayor Donald Plusquellic of Akron, USA, Featured Speaker at International Parliamentarians Assembly**

[Washington DC, February 27]

Mayors for Peace Vice-President Donald Plusquellic of Akron, Ohio, USA, was a featured speaker at the Annual Assembly of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament (PNND) in Washington, DC, February 26-27, 2014. PNND, a global network of legislators working cooperatively to reduce the risks of nuclear weapons, prevent proliferation and achieve a safe and secure nuclear-weapons-free world, has a close working relationship with Mayors for Peace.

In a session entitled "Building Inter-Parliamentary and Inter-Constituency Cooperation," Mayor Plusquellic made a dynamic and warmly received presentation.

Mayors for Peace

The Member City Activities page on Mayors for Peace website:

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

**The Petition Drive for a Nuclear Weapons Convention**

As of April 1, 2014

**940,667 signatures**

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.

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. Promotion of this petition drive is also included in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2013-2017) adopted at the 8th General Conference. We deeply appreciate your kind support.



Submission of a part of the roughly 260,000 petitions to Ambassador Cornel Feruta, Chairman of the 2013 NPT PrepCom (April 2013, Geneva, Switzerland)

■ Details of the petition drive

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

■ Online petition

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

■ Petition form (PDF)

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/01\\_monthly\\_updating/11\\_petitionform\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/01_monthly_updating/11_petitionform_en.pdf)

**• Developments from April 2013 - March 2014 •**

April 22-25	Mayors for Peace delegation participated in the Second Preparatory Committee Meeting for the 2015 NPT Review Conference (Geneva, Switzerland)
April 23	A meeting of executive cities to strengthen the foundation for Mayors for Peace management held (Geneva, Switzerland)
April 24	General Meeting of the 2020 Vision Campaign Association held (Geneva, Switzerland)
May 15-18	Mayors for Peace representative attended the Annual Conference of FENAMM (National Federation of Municipalities of Mexico) (Leon, Mexico)
June 24	U.S. Conference of Mayors unanimously adopted resolution supporting the elimination of nuclear weapons at the 81st Annual Meeting (Las Vegas, USA)
July 1	Panama City joined as the first member from Panama; membership expanded to 157 countries/regions
July 25	Signed an agreement with UN-Habitat inviting African mayors to be Associate Partners in the World Urban Campaign
August 3-5	The 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace held
August 20	Protest against the new type of a nuclear test conducted by the U.S.
August 22	Mayors for Peace UN Representative submitted a working paper jointly with the Basel Peace Office and the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation at the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) on nuclear disarmament (Geneva, Switzerland)
September 10	Sent the Hiroshima Appeal to the UN Secretary General and 151 national governments around the world
September 10	Submitted a Letter of Request for promotion of actions for the early realization of a "Nuclear Weapons Convention" and the Hiroshima Appeal were submitted to the Japanese government
September 16-27	Secretary General Komizo visited UK, Belgium, France and USA to request several mayors to be lead cities
September 21	Organized events to mark the International Day of Peace 2013
September 26	The president of Mayors for Peace issued a message on the High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament and Mayors for Peace delegates led by Secretary General Komizo observed the meeting.
September 30-October 2	United Nations Disarmament Fellows visited Hiroshima and received a briefing on Mayors for Peace by Secretary General Komizo.
October 1	M'chedallah joined as the first member from Algeria; membership expanded to 158 countries/regions
November 11-18	Secretary General Komizo visited Thailand and Australia to request some mayors to be lead cities
November 11-15	Mayors for Peace Poster exhibition held in conjunction with the Statutory Meetings of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
December 17	Issued a condolence message on the passing of the Honorable Nelson Mandela, former president of the Republic of South Africa on December 5
January 16, 2014	Mayors for Peace member cities in Uruguay exchanged opinions with Japanese Ambassador to Uruguay (Montevideo, Uruguay)
February 5-15	Secretary General Komizo visited USA and Mexico to request some mayors to be lead cities
February 13-14	Mayors for Peace delegates attended the Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons (Nayarit, Mexico)
February 26-27	Mayor Donald Plusquellic of Akron, USA, Mayors for Peace Vice-President, spoke at the Annual Assembly of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament (PNND) (Washington, DC, USA)
March 1	Secretary General Komizo attended the ceremony for the Nuclear Victims Remembrance Day on behalf of the Mayor of Hiroshima (Majuro, Marshall Islands)

**The number of Mayors for Peace Member Cities reached 6,000 cities in 158 countries and regions (as of April 1, 2014)**

Thanks to your invaluable support, on April 1, we have added 413 new member cities to 5,587 cities as of April 2013, bringing total membership to 6,000.

It took two years and six months to add 1,000 cities since we achieved 5,000 members on September 16, 2011.

The first member city joined in Panama (in July 2013) and in Algeria (in October 2013). This expands our membership to 158 countries and regions.

The most rapid increase of the number of member cities during the period from April 1, 2013 to April 1, 2014 was marked in Iran. As of February 1, 2014, the number of Iranian member cities reached 183 on April 1, 2014, an increase of 156 from 27 as of April 2013. This historical record was achieved by the team of the office for Iranian members of Mayors for Peace based at the Tehran Peace Museum, led by Dr. Shahriar Khateri, 2020 Vision Campaigner. They achieved this by consistently communicating with all the mayors in Iran and asking them to join Mayors for Peace.

The second largest increase in the number of member cities was achieved in Japan, an increase of 137 from 1,302 as of April 2013 to 1,439 as of April 2014.

The third was in Mexico, with an increase of 27 cities from 53 cities as of April 2013 to 80 cities as of April 2014. These membership growth include the

**Member Cities by Area (as of April 1, 2014)**

Area	Cities / Municipalities	Countries /Regions
Asia	2,055	30
Oceania	128	9
Africa	351	45
Europe	2,501	46
North America	302	3
Latin America and the Caribbean	663	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>158</b>

results of the cooperation with the Peace Boat as well as invitations to join Mayors for Peace in conjunction with conferences of national associations of local governments.

The fourth was in Italy with an increase of 13 cities and the fifth was in the Netherlands with an increase of 12 cities.

We would appreciate your continued assistance with inviting mayors who are not yet members to join Mayors for Peace.

**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 your mayor, 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



**Mayors for Peace Secretariat**

1-5 Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima 730-0811 Japan  
 Tel: +81-82-242-7821 Fax: +81-82-242-7452  
 Email: [mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp](mailto:mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)  
 URL: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/index.html>  
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace>