Mayors for Peace News Flash (January 2016) No.73

Dear member cities and supporters of Mayors for Peace,

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Below is recent news related to our activities. If your city has any news it wishes to share with others, please feel free to contact us.

Mayors for Peace member cities as of January 1st, 2016

6,965 cities in 161 countries/regions with 25 new members

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Please also check our website and Facebook page:

Homepage: http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/index.html

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace

"Like" our Facebook page to help spread awareness of our mission.

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■Letter of Request to the Japanese Government Regarding a Nuclear Weapons Convention [December 24th, Tokyo, Japan]

On November 9th and 10th, the 5th Japanese Member Cities Meeting was held in Hiroshima City. The submission of a Letter of Request to the Japanese government to call for the promotion of actions to aid in the early realization of a nuclear weapons convention was decided at this meeting. On December 24th, on behalf of Japanese member cities of Mayors for Peace, President Matsui, Mayor of the City of Hiroshima, and Mr. Okubo, Director of the Peace Promotion Office of the City of Nagasaki, met with Foreign Minister Kishida and submitted the agreed-upon Letter of Request to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. They also submitted the Resolution adopted at the 9th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace.

On receiving the Letter of Request, Minister Kishida said, "I sincerely accept the wish of Mayors for Peace, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki. Nuclear disarmament can proceed only if nuclear-weapon states and non-nuclear-weapon states work together. As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings, Japan would like to play a leading role in providing a bridge between countries with nuclear weapons and those without them."

▼ Photo of the meeting with Minister Kishida, on the Mayors for Peace Website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/statement/request/151224 en/index.html

▼ Letter of Request (English translation of original Japanese text):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/statement/request/151224_en/request_151224_en.html

■Letter of Protest Against Nuclear Test Conducted by DPRK [January 6th, 2016]
It was announced that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) conducted a nuclear test on January 6th. Mayors for Peace sent a Letter of Protest to First Chairman Kim Jong-Un under the name of the President of Mayors for Peace.
▼ Letter of Protest, on the Mayors for Peace Website: http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/statement/protest/160106 en.pdf
■Mayors for Peace Membership in Iran Exceeds 800
As of January 1, 2016, the number of Iranian member cities reached 812. More than 700 new members joined in 2014 and 2015, which represents the largest single-country increase in two years among all countries. This historical record was achieved by the team at the office for Iranian members of Mayors for Peace, which is based at the Tehran Peace Museum. They achieved this by consistently communicating with all the mayors in Iran and asking them to join our organization. Iran is now home to the second largest number of member cities of Mayors for Peace in the world after Japan.
▼Full article on the Mayors for Peace Website: http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2016/Iran/800members.html
A four page article about Mayors for Peace and its French Chapter is featured in the latest edition of "Presidency Key Brief", an international magazine to promote the ideas and the innovations which contribute to a sustainable future for generations to come. Its 6th edition has been handed to every COP 21 participant in Paris, including government leaders, diplomats, corporation leaders, NGOs and civil society representatives.
▼Article on Mayors for Peace in Presidency Key Brief (pages 54-58, French and English): http://goo.gl/bMtiZn
The First Edition of "Peace in Wellington" Newsletter by Wellington, New Zealand, a Mayors for Peace Lead City
In December 2015, the City of Wellington, a Lead City of Mayors for Peace, issued its first edition of the Peace in Wellington newsletter, which includes the City's peace related events in 2015 and a message from the Mayor.
▼Peace in Wellington Newsletter, Issue #1: http://us12.campaign-archive2.com/?u=070b38357bba2a9dad3c2e8f9&id=f6bcb5a178&e=de3959e37e
■"Peace News from Hiroshima" (Contributed by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center)
A new year has begun. This year, 2016, is the 71st year since the atomic bombings. In April, a meeting of foreign ministers will be held in Hiroshima, with foreign ministers from the United States, the United Kingdom, and France, all

nuclear weapon states, visiting the city for the first time. We sincerely hope that they will tour the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, listen to first-hand accounts from A-bomb survivors, and deepen their understanding of the devastation that the atomic bomb brought to the city and its people. Also, this December will mark the 20th anniversary of the designation of the Atomic Bomb Dome, the symbol of this A-bombed city, as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In contrast with these good tidings, shortly after the year began, North Korea claimed that it conducted a hydrogen bomb test. Hiroshima's response is to steadfastly continue to carry out its duty of transmitting to the world the humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons.

Visit the following links for articles from the Hiroshima Peace Media Center.

- Hiroshima and Nagasaki mayors request that world leaders visit A-bombed cities http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=55056
- A-bomb survivors fiercely criticize India-Japan nuclear agreement http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=55046
- A-bomb survivors, Hiroshima mayor and governor, condemn North Korean nuclear test http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=55434
- Quake resistance work begins on A-bomb Dome to reinforce brick walls http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=54795
- U.S. Ambassador Kennedy calls visiting A-bombed cities a powerful experience http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=54952

■ Launch of the Mayors for Peace Information System

An online information system for Mayors for Peace has been launched in order to facilitate information sharing among member cities. This system enables searches for member cities' information, the renewal of records by each member as well as payment of membership fees by credit card without any transfer charges. We hope that each member city will keep their own information up-to-date and utilize this system for their activities related to Mayors for Peace. The instructions on how to use this system are included in an email which was sent to each member city.

▼ Mayors for Peace Information System:

https://www.mfpinfosys.org/

▼ Mayors for Peace Information System Operating Manual:

https://www.mfpinfosys.org/manual/secure/pdfs/lec7/lm/07manu_pdf_en.pdf

▼ Please email us at the following address if you have any inquiries about the Mayors for Peace Information System: mfpsystem@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

■Mayors for Peace Membership Fee Payment

At the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in August 2013, introduction of an annual membership fee was determined in order to strengthen the foundation of Mayors for Peace and the sense of solidarity amongst member cities. Last year, we instituted an annual membership fee of 2,000 Japanese Yen per city (about USD15-16 / EUR12-15). We would like to thank everyone for their 2015 membership fee contributions. The funds raised by this fee will be utilized as a resource for the projects listed on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2013-2017).

The request for payment of 2016 membership fee will be sent in April. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

■ Request for Reports on Commemorative Events for the 70th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings

Last year, Hiroshima and Nagasaki marked the landmark 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings. In response to our request to hold commemorative events, many cities, municipalities and peace organizations around the world observed events during the year, which we sincerely appreciate.

The list of events commemorating the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings, as based on reports received from member cities, is available at the link below.

▼ List of commemorative events (As of January 15th) (PDF, Mayors for Peace website): http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/70th_anniversary/List_of_commemorative_events.pdf

If you have not informed us of your event, we would appreciate your doing so. We would be pleased to share the report on the Mayors for Peace website, etc.

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

We continue to encourage all member cities to hold commemorate events by the end of March 2016.

■ Request to Hold A-bomb Survivor Testimonies over Skype

The Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2013-2017) adopted at the 8th General Conference in August 2013 includes the promotion of holding A-bomb survivor testimonies over Skype. Please host an event connecting your city and Hiroshima by Skype in order to have the citizens hear the live voices of the A-bomb survivors and deepen their understanding of the reality of the atomic bombing.

▼ Please consult the Mayors for Peace Secretariat for details: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

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■ Plea to Support Nuclear Weapons Convention Petition Drive

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. Mayors for Peace is promoting a global grassroots petition drive as a way in which all member cities can call for an immediate start to negotiations of a nuclear weapons convention. Promotion of this petition drive is included in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2013-2017) that was adopted at the 8th General Conference in August 2013.

Thanks to many supporters across the world, we have received 2,225,614 signatures as of January 1st, 2016.

Let us gather millions more 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

■ Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 6,965 Cities in 161 Countries/Regions

Through your invaluable support, on January 1st, 2016, we added 25 new member cities, bringing total membership to 6,965.

We welcomed one city each from Georgia and Germany, 20 cities from Iran, and 3 cities from Japan.

We encourage further initiatives to promote membership and can provide support from Hiroshima as needed. Please help us invite mayors who are not yet members to join Mayors for Peace.

▼List of new members (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2016/newmembers1601_en.pdf

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

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