

## Mayors for Peace News Flash (March 2016) No.75

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.

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

**6,996 cities in 161 countries/regions with 9 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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### ■ Secretary General Komizo's Attendance of the UN Open-ended Working Group on Nuclear Disarmament

[Geneva, Switzerland; February 22 - 25, 2016]

The first session of the UN Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations was convened from February 22nd to 26th at the Palais des Nations in Geneva to substantively address concrete and effective legal measures to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons.

Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, Secretary General of Mayors for Peace, attended the first four days of the session and had two speaking opportunities in which he appealed for the negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention. During his attendance at the session, Mr. Komizo handed government representatives an open letter from Mayors for Peace that calls on all UN Member States to constructively engage in the deliberations of the Working Group. He also met with representatives of NGOs and UN officials and confirmed their further cooperation toward the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Please visit the following link to find more details about Mr. Komizo's activities in Geneva as well as his speeches at

the session.

▼ Secretary General Komizo's Attendance of the OEWG (Mayors for Peace website):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/gallery/201602\\_OEWG/index.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/gallery/201602_OEWG/index.html)

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**■ Hosting of the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting by Hiroshima City on April 10th and 11th**  
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On May 26th and 27th, this year's G7 Ise-Shima Summit will be held in Ise City, Mie Prefecture. The G7 Summit is a meeting attended by the leaders of the seven countries of Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy and Canada, along with the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission.

Prior to this Summit, the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting will be held in Hiroshima City on April 10th and 11th. It is one of the related ministerial meetings of the Summit and an important forum for foreign ministers to hold discussions on current international affairs of the time, which will later become the base for discussions by the G7 Summit.

This meeting will be the first time for the foreign ministers of three nuclear powers - the US, the UK and France - to visit this A-bombed city.

▼ G7 Hiroshima Foreign Ministers' Meeting (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan website)

[http://www.mofa.go.jp/ms/is\\_s/page24e\\_000138.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/ms/is_s/page24e_000138.html)

▼ 2016 G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Hiroshima, Support and Promotion Council (official website)

<http://g7hiroshima.jp/en/index.html>

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**■ Invitation from Hannover to Participate in an International Traveling Art Project**  
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The City of Hannover, a Vice President of Mayors for Peace and a Lead City in Germany, invites Mayors for Peace member cities to participate in a new international traveling art project titled "50 Cities 50 Traces," which was initiated by an artist based in Stuttgart, Germany. The project promotes the Cities Are Not Targets (CANT) initiative of Mayors for Peace. The project is intended to begin in 2018 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons signed by the USA, the Soviet Union and the UK in 1968.

▼ Full article on the Mayors for Peace website:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2016/Hannover/50Cities50Traces.html>

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**■ Meeting of Honorary Mayor of Frogn, Norway, and Mayors for Peace Vice President, with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister**  
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[Oslo, Norway; February 18th, 2016]

On February 18th, the Honorary Mayor of Frogn, a Vice President of Mayors for Peace, met Mr. Majid Takht-Ravanchi, Deputy Foreign Minister for European and American Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Mr. Takht-Ravanchi was a senior member of the negotiating team for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) reached between Iran and the E3/EU+3 in July of last year.

▼ Full report and a photo of the meeting on Mayors for Peace website:

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2016/Frogn/Iranian\\_minister.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2016/Frogn/Iranian_minister.html)

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**■ Tore Naerland, Founder of Bike for Peace, Nominated for 2016 Nobel Peace Prize**  
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Bike for Peace is a Norway-based organization that seeks to promote peace and nuclear disarmament through bike rides and peace education efforts between different communities. It has toured in over 120 countries and organized a number of successful events along the way. In recent years, Bike for Peace has been in close cooperation with Mayors for Peace and the Atom Project, which seeks to ban nuclear weapons testing.

Mr. Tore Naerland, who founded Bike for Peace in 1978, has been nominated for the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize by Mr. Sergy Matvieiev, a retired Ukrainian cyclist and the Head of the Professional, Non-Olympic and Adaptive Sport Faculty of National University of Physical Education and Sport of Ukraine.

This year again, in cooperation with Mayors For Peace and the ATOM Project, Bike for Peace will organize peace tours in Ukraine, China, Albania, Poland, Qatar, the United States, India and Indonesia to appeal for a peaceful world free from nuclear weapons.

▼ Bike for Peace website:

<http://www.bikeforpeace.no/>

▼ Bike for Peace Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/BikeForPeace-195630593782513/>

▼ Atom Project website:

<http://www.theatomproject.org>

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### ■ “Peace News from Hiroshima” (Contributed by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

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Anne Hidalgo, the Mayor of Paris, France, visited Hiroshima for the first time in early March. She met with Kazumi Matsui, the Mayor of Hiroshima, and they agreed that Paris, which experienced coordinated terrorist attacks last year, and Hiroshima, which experienced an atomic attack, will strengthen their cooperation in the field of education to advance the cause of peace in the world. They believe their combined efforts can multiply their impact by three or four times. The people of Hiroshima have begun to take action with this same idea in mind. The Hiroshima prefectural government has been urging peace-related organizations, including governmental organizations and universities, to cooperate with one another to further enhance Hiroshima’s influence. When Hiroshima as a whole works together, more can be achieved.

This month marks the fifth anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami and the accident at the Fukushima No. 1 (Daiichi) nuclear power plant. The people of Hiroshima are especially concerned about the effects of exposure to low-level radiation, a so-called “gray area,” and opinions are divided among experts. The Chugoku Shimbun newspaper has begun to carry a series of articles on this concern.

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

- Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall receives 10,000 accounts of A-bomb experiences

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=57034>

- Hiroshima prefectural government to establish liaison center to coordinate antinuclear and peace efforts

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=57032>

- IPPNW regional conference closes after discussing denuclearization of Northeast Asia

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=57030>

- Survey by Hiroshima board of education finds more elementary students know time of atomic bombing

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=57028>

- Gray area: Effects of exposure to low-level radiation, Preface

<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=57044>

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### ■ Member City Activities

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Cervia, Italy

Connecting a local school and Hiroshima through video-conferencing  
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On February 19th, the City of Cervia organized a special video-conference event between the local primary school, M. Buonarroti-Montaletto di Cervia, and the Mayors for Peace Secretariat in Hiroshima. This event was planned as a

follow up to a ceremony in October last year in which the second generation of an A-bombed ginkgo tree was planted in the park next to the school as a symbol of peace.

▼Full report and photos on the Mayors for Peace website:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/memberscity/2016/Cervia/0219Skype.html>

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London, UK

No Trident replacement demonstration against nuclear weapons

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The largest demonstration against nuclear weapons in the UK in a generation took place in London on the 27th February. The demonstration comes amidst an expected Parliamentary debate on whether the UK should replace and upgrade its four Trident nuclear weapon submarines later in 2016. As many as 100,000 people from all around the UK, and representing disarmament groups around the world, took part in a Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) organised event supported by a large number of disarmament groups, faith groups, political parties and trade unions.

▼Full report on the Mayors for Peace website:

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/memberscity/2016/UK/No\\_Trident\\_demonstration.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/memberscity/2016/UK/No_Trident_demonstration.html)

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London and Manchester, UK

Commemorations for the Fukushima and Chernobyl anniversaries in March and April

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In March and April 2016 there is the fifth anniversary of the earthquake, tsunami and Fukushima nuclear disaster and the thirtieth anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster. Events to commemorate these anniversaries and learn from them are planned in the UK. In London, a special Westminster seminar is taking place in mid March with health experts, politicians, Fukushima NGOs and other academic specialists taking part. This will be followed up by a special seminar hosted in Manchester Town Hall and a one day conference in Manchester considering the long-term impacts of both disasters and their wider impact on energy policy.

▼Read the full story on the Mayors for Peace website:

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/memberscity/2016/UK/Fukushima\\_Chernobyl\\_anniversaries.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/memberscity/2016/UK/Fukushima_Chernobyl_anniversaries.html)

<<PLEASE SEND US INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CITY'S PEACE ACTIVITIES>>

Please help us tell others about what you are doing!

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

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

We look forward to receiving information from your city.

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

mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

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**■Invitation for Applicants to the 2016 Youth Exchange for Peace: Support Program for “HIROSHIMA & PEACE” Course**

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At the Executive Conference in November 2015, Mayors for Peace designated “conveying the A-bomb experience to future generations through youth exchanges” as one of its intensified activities for the next few years to promote nuclear weapons abolition.

In connection, we have started a program to provide financial and other support to selected youth from member cities who would like to participate in the course, “HIROSHIMA and PEACE”, at Hiroshima City University. This is an intensive summer course in which students from around the world study and discuss Hiroshima and peace in English.

In this regard, Mayors for Peace is now accepting applications for participation in this program from member cities. If interested, please refer to the Application Guidelines on our website and submit required documents by email by Thursday, April 14th, 2016 at 3pm in Japan Standard Time (UTC +9).

▼Details of the program on the Mayors for Peace Website:

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/Youth\\_Exchange\\_for\\_Peace/H\\_and\\_P.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/Youth_Exchange_for_Peace/H_and_P.html)

▼Please email completed application documents to:

mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

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## ■Mayors for Peace Information System

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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 utilize this system for their activities related to Mayors for Peace.

Please check your city's information on the system such as the name and contact information of the mayor, contact person, etc. If this information needs revision, we ask that you log into the system and make corrections. We would greatly appreciate each city keeping its own information up-to-date.

Instructions on how to use this system are included in an email which has been 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](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:

mfpssystem@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

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## ■Mayors for Peace Membership Fee Payment

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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).

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

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

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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 March 11th) (PDF, Mayors for Peace website):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/70th\\_anniversary/List\\_of\\_commemorative\\_events.pdf](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.

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### ■Request to Hold A-bomb Survivor Testimonies over Skype

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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

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The next step in abolishing all nuclear weapons by 2020 is to negotiate a nuclear weapons convention. A nuclear weapons convention will prohibit the 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 2,243,745 signatures as of March 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](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>

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### ■Visitor(s) to the President of Mayors for Peace Last Month

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President Kazumi Matsui welcomed the following visitor last month and asked him to support the activities of Mayors for Peace and cooperate towards membership expansion.

\*Mr. Nikhil Seth, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research

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### ■Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 6,996 Cities in 161 Countries/Regions

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Through your invaluable support, on March 1st, 2016, we added 9 new member cities, bringing total membership to 6,996.

Thanks to efforts by the City of Hannover, Germany, a Vice President and Lead City of Mayors for Peace, four cities from Germany joined in February. Hannover has been actively working to recruit new members in Germany to join Mayors for Peace. With 35 new members joining in the past twelve months, the total number of German member cities reached 451. Germany is home to the fourth largest number of Mayors for Peace member cities in the world after Japan, Iran, and Italy.

We also welcomed one city each from France, Italy, Spain, the UK, and the USA.

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/newmembers1603\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2016/newmembers1603_en.pdf)

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

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