Mayors for Peace News Flash (June 2017) No.90

Dear member cities and supporters of Mayors for Peace,

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Please find below some recent news related to our activities. If your city has any news it wishes to share, please feel free to contact us.

Mayors for Peace member cities as of June 1, 2017

7,355 cities in 162 countries/regions with 60 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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■ Mayors for Peace Participation in the Second Session of the UN Negotiations on a Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons

[New York, USA; June 15 and 16, 2017]

The second round of UN negotiations on a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons is being held from June 15 to July 7 at the UN Headquarters in New York. Mr. Kazumi Matsui, Mayor of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace and Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, Secretary General of Mayors for Peace, attended the first two days of this conference.

On the first day of the conference, Mayor Matsui delivered a speech, first in the NGO segment. Mr. Matsui shared the earnest wish of the hibakusha who have continued to appeal for nuclear abolition for a long time and asked that the prohibition of nuclear weapons be realized in their lifetime. He expressed our strong hope that the new treaty will be adopted in this session as a result of open and constructive discussions.

Prior to the conference, on June 14, Mr. Matsui and Mr. Komizo met with Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and thanked her for planning to attend the Peace Memorial Ceremonies in Hiroshima and Nagasaki this August on behalf of the UN Secretary General and also to attend the 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in Nagasaki.

During their stay in New York, Mr. Matsui and Mr. Komizo also met with the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other government representatives, NGOs, and UN officials to exchange views toward the realization of a nuclear weapons ban treaty.

More details of the Mayors for Peace attendance to this Conference will be posted on the Mayors for Peace website soon. Mayor Matsui's speech on June 15 can be found at the link below.

▼ Speech by Kazumi Matsui, Mayor of Hiroshima on June 15, 2017 at the Second Session of the UN Negotiations on a Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/news/data/2017/170615_Statement_2nd_ban_mtg_EN.pdf

■The 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace

Mayors for Peace will hold its 9th General Conference in Nagasaki this year from August 7 through 10. Registration through the official registration website ended on June 19. Please accept our gratitude for those who have registered to participate in the Conference.

As a new development, it has been confirmed that the keynote speaker will be H. E. Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. Her speech will be delivered after the opening ceremony on Tuesday, August 8. We hope to welcome as many participants as possible to join this precious opportunity to listen to Ms. Nakamitsu who is playing a significant role in the international arena.

▼ The 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in Nagasaki (Mayors for Peace website): http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/report/meeting/9th_meeting.html

■ Mayors for Peace UK and Ireland Chapter Issued Statements on the Terrorist Attacks in Manchester and London

On May 22, a terrorist attack targeting a concert occurred in Manchester, UK. Less than two weeks later, on June 3, another terror struck at the heart of London. Both attacks left multiple victims dead and injured. The UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts, and Leaders for Peace Chapter, led by the City of Manchester, a Vice President and Lead City of Mayors for Peace, quickly responded and issued statements of sympathy and solidarity to all those affected by the attacks.

▼ The UK and Ireland Chapter's most recent Briefing paper including the statement to the Manchester terrorist attack and other recent activities by the Chapter:

 $http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/M4P_Briefing_No_10_Manchester_attack_and_other_initiatives.pdf$

▼ The Chapter's statement on the London terrorist attack:

http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Mayors_for_Peace_London_statement_June17.pdf

■ Regional Chapter Activities

<Catalan Chapter, Spain>

* The Catalan Parliament's approval of a resolution to support the prohibition of nuclear weapons

On June 8, the Catalan Parliament approved a resolution to express its support for the UN resolution L.41 approved last year to convene negotiations to prohibit nuclear weapons in March and June-July this year. The Catalan Parliament's resolution urged the international community, governments and especially the Government of Spain to attend the negotiations and play an active role toward realizing a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination. The Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace, led by the City of Granollers, considers this to be an important initiative that shows the capacity of Catalan civil society.

▼ The Catalan Parliament's Resolution 696/XI to support the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (in Catalan): http://www.parlament.cat/document/bopc/221577.pdf#page=11

■ Member City Activities

Oak Bay, B.C., Canada

Proclamation Hiroshima and Nagasaki Memorial Day August 2017

On May 17, Mayor Nils Jensen of the District of Oak Bay issued a Proclamation to designate August 6th, 2017 as Hiroshima Memorial Day and August 9th, 2017 as Nagasaki Memorial Day in Oak Bay, a day to remember the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, and to renew the commitment to ensuring freedom from the threat posed by nuclear weapons. Dr. Jonathan Down, a local physician who has done much to advocate for a nuclear-weapon free world, proposed the Proclamation to the Mayor.

▼ The Proclamation on the District of Oak Bay website:

https://www.oakbay.ca/sites/default/files/Hiroshima%20and%20Nagasaki%20Memorial%20Day%20August%202017.pdf

<< 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 send us information including the date, venue, organizers and a description of the event. We look forward to receiving information from your city.

▼ Please send a report about your event to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat to: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

▼ List of peace events as based on those in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (As of June 16): http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/images/news/new_list/2017_List_of_Activities_en.pdf

■ "Peace News from Hiroshima" (Contributed by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

Discussions at the United Nations, for a treaty that would outlaw nuclear weapons, are moving forward. A draft of the treaty has been released for the second round of negotiations that are currently being held from June 15 until July 7. The content of the draft conveys a passionate vision for a world without nuclear weapons.

The proposed treaty would prohibit the development, production, possession, stockpiling, or deployment of nuclear arms under any circumstances, as well as prohibit nuclear tests. The draft itself is a milestone. In addition, it makes use of the word "hibakusha," or nuclear sufferers, and acknowledges their pain. This has special importance for the people who live in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the A-bombed cities.

Those affected by the atomic bombings are often referred to, in English, as "A-bomb victims" or "A-bomb survivors." But when did the term "hibakusha" come into wider use internationally? This might be traced to an international symposium of NGOs for nuclear abolition that was held in Hiroshima in 1977, during the Cold War. Philip Noel-Baker, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate from the United Kingdom, read out an appeal, a call from the hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to hibakusha around the world. According to an article in the Chugoku Shimbun from that time, the conference participants decided to begin using the word "hibakusha" in their communication with the United Nations in order to promote the use of this word around the world.

One year has now passed since Barack Obama, who was then U.S. president, paid a historic visit to Hiroshima. In the speech he made in front of the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims, Mr. Obama used the word "hibakusha" twice. Apparently, this word was commonly used within his administration, according to a reporter from the Chugoku Shimbun who interviewed key members of the Obama administration last year. We hope that the word will continue to be used among the members of the administration of President Donald Trump.

The term "hibakusha" does not just stand for the victims or survivors of the atomic bombings. Perhaps "hibakusha" can be a symbolic description of all those who, on behalf of the whole human race, sincerely seek the abolition of nuclear arms. By incorporating the word in the draft of the treaty, its makers are clearly conveying the viewpoint of this document. It is not aligned with the political power games engaged in by the nuclear weapon states, but with the suffering of those who have been affected by nuclear weapons.

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

- Hiroshima citizens welcome word "hibakusha" in draft treaty to outlaw nuclear arms

http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=72577

- East building of Peace Memorial Museum reopens to public, enables visitors to gain deeper understanding of atomic bombing

http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=72147

- Editorial: Peace museum's new exhibits expected to better convey information on atomic bombing http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=72132
- First round of U.N. talks on nuclear ban treaty, Part 1

http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=71730

- First round of U.N. talks on nuclear ban treaty, Part 2

http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=71952

- First round of U.N. talks on nuclear ban treaty, Part 3

http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=71834

■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 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.

If you have lost or forgotten your login information, please contact the administrator at the following email address.

▼ 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

■ Request for Payment of the 2017 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee

At the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in August 2013, the 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. Following this decision, Mayors for Peace has instituted an annual membership fee of 2,000 Japanese Yen (about USD19/EUR17 as of May 19, 2017) per city.

This year again, we would like to ask each city to contribute the same amount. If your city has not paid their Membership Fee in previous years, we ask your city to pay the total amount owed for each unpaid year since 2015. 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 2017 membership fee was sent to each city by email on May 31. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

▼ Request for the 2017 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee (Mayors for Peace website): http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/outlines/membership_fee.html

■ Plea to Support Our Nuclear Weapons Convention Petition Drive

Mayors for Peace is promoting a global grassroots petition drive as a way in which all member cities can call for 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 2,572,763 signatures as of June 1, 2017.

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/english/ecbn/data/11_petitionform_en.pdf

▼Online petition:

https://www.ssl-z.city.hiroshima.jp/pcf/signature_en/

■ Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,355 Cities in 162 Countries/Regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on June 1, we added 60 new member cities, bringing the total membership to 7,355.

From Spain, we welcomed 31 new cities, thanks to the work of the City of Granollers, a Mayors for Peace Vice President and Lead City of the Catalan Chapter and the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP). In February this year, FEMP sent a letter to all Spanish local governments encouraging them to join Mayors for Peace.

From Lithuania, we welcomed five new cities. These cities responded to the invitation by H. E. Mr. Egidijus Meilunas, Ambassador of Lithuania to Japan, who visited Hiroshima in April and sent Lithuanian cities an invitation to join Mayors for Peace.

Thanks to the continued efforts of the team at the Tehran Peace Museum, nine cities from Iran joined this month. We also welcomed six cities from Germany thanks to the continued efforts of Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City of the German Chapter of Mayors for Peace.

We also welcomed a total of nine cities from Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Japan, the Netherlands, Republic of Korea, and Turkey.

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

▼ List of New Members (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/images/news/new_list/2017/newmembers1706_en.pdf

▼Map of Member Cities:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/membercity/map.html

If you have any comments or questions, please contact us at:

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