

Call for Input: Examples of initiatives to foster peace-seeking spirit

Report Form

Date of report (mm/dd/yyyy) 09.23.2018

Name of municipality VOLGOGRAD

Name of country RUSSIA

Title of peace education initiative	6 th School Alternative Festival of the Japanese Language and Culture (aka "Japanese Cupboard")
The initiative was implemented by (Choose one ✓)	<input type="checkbox"/> School <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality <input type="checkbox"/> NGO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joint initiative by: 1) "Volgograd-Hiroshima" Friendship Society, 2) Volgograd Regional Library named after M. Gorky, 3) International and regional relations directorate of Volgograd administration 4) Center for People's Diplomacy of Volgograd State University
Theme/Aim	Raising youth's awareness about Japanese culture and the friendly links about Volgograd and Hiroshima; Developing creative thinking and team-working capacity among the youngsters; Promoting mutual understanding between Russian and Japanese cultures.
Participants (age, school grade, number, etc.)	450 attendants aged 6-65; 25 amateur performers aged 12-40; organizers of the whole festival and of separate rooms aged 15-35.
Location	Volgograd Regional Library named after M. Gorky (5, Mira Street, Volgograd)
Date(s) of initiative	The festival is held annually since September 2013.

Please answer the questions below clearly and concisely.

1. Please describe the initiative. For classroom lectures and events, please provide a timeline of the event. For other types of initiatives, such as a competition, please describe the process in detail.

Held within the frame of the Year of Japanese Language and Culture in Russia, the festival was organized in the format of Japanese school festivals: visitors were invited to many separate rooms, each of which hid inside some sort of thematic fun. The festival was split into the interactive part (from 10 to 15) and the concert part (from 15 to 16:30). During the interactive part, the visitors could take part in competitions and obtain bonus point for their efforts, and during the concert – trade these bonus points for souvenirs and memorable prizes.

At the entrance, the guests would run into a reference to Hiroshima, the Japanese sister-city of Volgograd: an exhibition of posters about the terrible atomic bombing and its consequences, as well as about the "Mayors for Peace" international organization, whose goal is to promote global disarmament and peace initiatives.

In honor of the new venue, many entertainments were dedicated to books and everything concerning them. Two participating clubs organized quests based on their favorite literary works (the Harry Potter universe and the World of Echo), and the list of rooms featured a reading hall, where one could take a break from festive with a book or a volume of manga in hand. It's also worth mentioning the *uta-karutu* game, where the goal was to quickly complete the poem after hearing its initial lines. Even in one of the beloved "Mafia" sessions, the guests played under the pseudonyms of the 20th century Japanese writers.

Amidst the interactive sites that gave the event its Oriental flare, there were an exhibition of traditional Japanese clothes and masks of the *No* theater, where you could try on all the exhibits; a table with *hanafuda* flower cards, where you could challenge a grandmaster to the game of *koi-koi*; an master class on *origami*; an introductory course of the Japanese language and calligraphy, as well as a "Samurai Spirits Zero Special" video game tournament. A huge popularity was enjoyed by the room where you could take part in the traditional Japanese tea ceremony and taste several types of Japanese tea. Volgograd Club of Intellectual Games organized a Japan-themed game of "*Jeopardy*".

The other side of the culture of the Land of the Rising Sun was not forgotten either: the festival's program

<p>featured lectures on comics and the basics of anime dubbing, and the corridors were decorated with information stands dedicated to the “Pokemon” franchise and Hayao Miyazaki films.</p> <p>The concert part also made a comeback in 2018, featuring intricate dance numbers, <i>aikido</i> and <i>iaido</i> techniques demonstrations, as well as stage performances by cosplayers. The Best Costume and the Best Sketch competitions were held, too.</p>
<p>2. Please tell us about the response from participants.</p> <p>According to the responses published in the Festival’s group registered in the VKontakte Russian social network (http://vk.com/yapshkaf_2018), the 2018 Festival was a great and entertaining way to spend a Sunday. The visitors remarked positively in the variety of entertainment and the creativity of organizers. For further reference, you may check the group itself, please.</p>
<p>3. Please tell us about positive outcomes that resulted from the initiative.</p> <p>Visitors learnt new information about Japan, Hiroshima, and the atomic bombing.</p> <p>The participating creative leisure clubs gained new followers.</p> <p>A free-of-charge anime dubbing study course was initiated by the participants.</p> <p>A Japanese culture club was founded in the Krasnoarmeisky district of Volgograd (the farthest one from the city center).</p> <p>The winners of the competitions (Best Drawing, Best Costume, Best Thematic Room) received an additional incentive to further their studies of the Japanese culture.</p>
<p>4. Please tell us about the challenges encountered in the initiative if any.</p> <p>The challenges encountered in the initiative were the usual challenges connected with organizing a big public event, nothing worth reporting.</p>
<p>5. Please identify any materials used in the initiative (books, videos, slideshow, etc.).</p> <p>A selection of posters (see one of the photos) about the atomic bombing and its consequences, as well as about the “Mayors for Peace” international organization, whose goal is to promote global disarmament and peace initiatives. The posters were provided by the “Mayors for Peace” international organization itself.</p> <p>A set of Jeopardy questions written specifically for the festival.</p> <p>A collection of Russian poems and songs printed in the uta-karutu style for the game itself.</p> <p>A selection of books about Japan and its culture provided by the Library.</p>
<p>6. May the Mayors for Peace Secretariat post the material mentioned in Question 5 on its website? (if there are no copyright or other problems in sharing them publicly)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes *Please attach the material(s). <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don’t know.</p> <p>✓I believe the Mayors for Peace Secretariat already has the posters somewhere, because you were the ones to provide them.</p>
<p>If you would like to submit photos and other materials, please send them in a separate file.</p> <p>Please, see the attached file.</p>

Photos of the event:

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Iaido Club performance at the concert.



Japanese language lesson by the “Satori” Japanese club



Memorable prizes for participants.



Master of the Japanese tea ceremony.



Festival visitors trying on kimonos.



Hayao Miyazaki stand with quizzes and cosplayers.



The exhibition of A-bombing posters.