



# Mayors for Peace News Flash

January 2020 / No.121

## Mayors for Peace Member Cities

**7,861** cities  
in 163 countries and regions  
(as of January 1, 2020)

**Please also check our website and Facebook page:**

**Website:**

<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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## Selection results: Mayors for Peace Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns" 2019

Two years ago, Mayors for Peace began a children's art competition on the theme of "Peaceful Towns", in order to further promote peace education in member cities around the world. The 2019 competition was open for submissions from June 3 until November 20, 2019.

Children in 70 member cities in 21 countries submitted artworks and the total number of applications was 2,829. The artworks went through the screening process in each city and selected works were submitted to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat in Hiroshima, which conducted the final screening and decided on the 12 prize-winning works.

The prize-winning works can be seen on the Mayors for Peace website. The winner of the Mayors for Peace President's Award will be printed on plastic folders which Mayors for Peace will be using to promote its work on various occasions.



The Mayors for Peace President's Award winning work by Ms. Kiana Bordbar (10 yrs) from Shiraz, Iran

▼ Selection results: Mayors for Peace Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns" 2019:

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/ecbn/projects/2019\\_Art\\_Competition\\_result.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/ecbn/projects/2019_Art_Competition_result.html)

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## ■ Reports on the Youth Exchange for Peace Support Program 2019

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Since 2016, Mayors for Peace has invited selected youths from various member cities to Hiroshima to participate in its Youth Exchange for Peace Support Program. The program aims to support young people from its member cities, financially and otherwise, in participating in programs run by Hiroshima City to share in the messages of the *hibakusha*, to discuss their message of peace, and to promote connections and friendships between participants from around the world. Support recipients participate in activities led by the Mayors for Peace Secretariat, including a briefing on the activities of Mayors for Peace, and a meeting between support recipients and the Secretariat.

Please visit the Mayors for Peace website and read the reports of representatives from member cities who participated in the two programs in Hiroshima last summer:

- [HIROSHIMA and PEACE](#) (July 30 – August 9, 2019)
- [The International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future, 2019 Hiroshima](#) (August 4 – August 12, 2019)

This year, Mayors for Peace will once again run this program to provide financial and other support to selected youth from member cities participating in “HIROSHIMA and PEACE”. We are currently accepting applications from member cities.

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## ■ Applications for the 2020 Youth Exchange for Peace: Support Program for “HIROSHIMA and PEACE” Course

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“HIROSHIMA and PEACE” is an intensive summer course run by Hiroshima City University, in which students from around the world study and discuss Hiroshima and peace-related issues in English. This year, Mayors for Peace will once again run this program to provide financial and other support to selected youth from member cities participating in the course. We are now accepting applications in this program from member cities.

For this year, it is planned that during the 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in Hiroshima from August 3 to August 6, a few participants in this support program will give presentations about youth-led activities carried out in collaboration with member cities in a session about the role of youth.

We request that each member city widely advertise this program in their city, choose up to three local applicants, and email the required documents **by 3pm on Thursday March 12, 2020**, Japan Standard Time (UTC +9).

Hiroshima City University and the Mayors for Peace Secretariat will select the participants and notify member cities of the results in mid-April 2020.

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

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/ecbn/projects/2020\\_HAP.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/ecbn/projects/2020_HAP.html)

▼ Please email completed application documents to:

[mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp](mailto:mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)

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## ■ Mayors for Peace staff member takes part in the Obama Foundation Leaders: Asia-Pacific program

[Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; December 10-14, 2019]

A member of the Mayors for Peace Secretariat staff was invited to join the Obama Foundation Leaders: Asia-Pacific program, and attended a convening held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from December 10-14.

The program is hosted by the Obama Foundation as part of its efforts to inspire, empower and connect emerging leaders from across the region to become the next generation of engaged citizens and positive role models in the Asia-Pacific. This year, it brought together around 200 leaders from 33 nations and territories throughout the region who work in various fields in both the public and private sectors.

Over the course of the five-day convening, the participants took part in skills-building workshops, leadership development training, and networking opportunities in addition to opportunities to hear talks by President and Mrs. Obama, as well as other prominent speakers including AirAsia Group CEO Tony Fernandes.

The participating staff member exchanged opinions and values with other young leaders from the region, while also telling them about the work of Mayors for Peace and asking for their understanding and cooperation.

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## ■ Member City Activities

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### <Mirano, Italy>

#### Report on the peace events in 2019

The City of Mirano, a member of Mayors for Peace since 2014, organized three peace events last year.

##### 1) Flash mob on August 5th

On the occasion of the 74th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, a series of peace events were held by “Tavolo Intercomunale per la Pace” (The Inter-communal Table for Peace), an association of cities for peace that involves five cities in northern Italy: Mira, Mirano, Noale, Salzano, Spinea. The City of Mirano organized a flashmob titled “Tu che ne sai di Hiroshima?” (“What do you know about Hiroshima?”) performed in the main square of Mirano on August 5.

▼ Video of the flashmob available on the YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5opZAweN7o>

##### 2) Planting of a second-generation A-bombed tree

In 2017, the City received seeds from a ginkgo biloba whose mother tree was exposed to the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. After that, the students of a local agricultural school named “8 marzo-Lorenz” cultivated the seeds and on November 5<sup>th</sup>, nine of the seedlings were planted in Rabin Park, a city garden dedicated to peace. Mirano also donated three of the seedlings that the city had been growing to its neighbouring municipality Mira.

▼ Photos of the planting on the City of Mirano’s Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/Comunedimirano/posts/2518077918308618?\\_tn\\_=-R](https://www.facebook.com/Comunedimirano/posts/2518077918308618?_tn_=-R)

##### 3) Inviting municipalities in the Metropolitan City of Venice to join Mayors for Peace

In December, Maria Rosa Pavanello (the Mayor of Mirano), Francesco Venturini (a Mirano City Councillor and delegate to peace politics), and Vincenzo Guanci, the coordinator of “Centro per la pace e la legalità” (City Association for Peace and Legality), sent a joint letter to all the municipalities in the Metropolitan City of Venice to invite them to join Mayors for Peace, explaining the aim of Mayors for Peace and how to join the network.

### <Linz, Austria>

#### Peace Declaration of the City of Peace Linz 2019

The City of Linz, which declared itself as a city of peace in 1986, unaniously passed the Linz Peace Declaration 2019 in its City Council on September 26, 2019. The Linz City Council has adopted peace declarations since 1989, making the latest one the 22nd such declaration.

▼ Declaration in English on the Mayors for Peace website:

<https://www.linz.at/english/culture/3888.php>

▼ Original declaration in German on the City of Linz website:

[http://www.friedensakademie.at/fileadmin/friedensakademie/Friedensinitiative\\_Linz/Friedenserklaerung\\_2019\\_Endfassung.pdf](http://www.friedensakademie.at/fileadmin/friedensakademie/Friedensinitiative_Linz/Friedenserklaerung_2019_Endfassung.pdf)

### <Moissac, France>

#### Inauguration of a rock garden for peace

The town of Moissac in the region of Occitanie in Southern France is known for its white grapes and beautiful townscape including churches, an abbey and the town hall.

Moissac joined Mayors for Peace on December 1st last year through an invitation from a local citizens’ group named “Sentries of Peace”. This group highlights the importance of passing down the messages of the *hibakusha* of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to the younger generation and promotes an art activity involving stacking stones into towers as prayers for peace. The concept behind this is: “The stone towers symbolize the fragility of peace that must be protected and constantly rebuilt.” On October 24, the town inaugurated a rock garden built with this concept. Later, when the stone towers in this garden were destroyed by rain and wind, citizens spontaneously rebuilt them.



The peace rock garden Moissac installed with the collaboration of “Sentries of Peace”  
(Photo by Michel Cibot)

▼ Report on the town of Moissac website in French:

<https://www.moissac.fr/actualites/cadre-de-vie/lespace-dedie-aux-sentinelles-de-la-paix-inaugure/>

## < Lasséran, France >

### A day of peace events on Armistice Day

Lasséran is a French commune in the Occitanie Region with 350 inhabitants. Last year, Lasséran built a peace garden with the collaboration of a local citizens' group named "Sentries of Peace".

On November 11, the day commemorating the end of WWI, Lasséran observed a day of peace events to inaugurate the new peace garden, which involved more than half of the population. Among the invited guests were Mr. Michel Cibot, the Executive Officer of AFCDRP-Maires pour la Paix France and Mrs. Miho Cibot, a Hiroshima Peace Ambassador.



On one of the stone towers inscribed the dates of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. (Photo by Michel Cibot)

The event began with a peace march from a square dedicated to Nobel Peace Prize laureates to the new peace garden. After a ribbon-cutting ceremony, children recited a poem and sang a song in front of a cenotaph for victims of the war. Ms. Cibot recited a French translation of a poem by an "A-bombed poet", a poet who survived an atomic bombing, and an African poet read his own poem.

An exhibition of peace art by local artists and children was held in the community's cultural center, whose facade is inscribed with the lyrics of "Imagine" by John Lennon. There was a screening of "La bombe et nous", a documentary on nuclear weapons, followed by a discussion between the film's producer, AFCDRP's Executive Officer, and the audience of approximately 100 people.

The day of peace events in Lasséran was reported on public television network and gained national attention.

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## ■ "Peace News from Hiroshima"

(Provided by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center of the CHUGOKU SHIMBUN)

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It has been learned that, as of the end of March 2019, the City of Hiroshima has identified the names of 89,025 victims of the atomic bombing who died between August 6, 1945, the day the U.S. dropped the bomb on the city, and the end of that year. There is a big gap, however, between this number and the typical estimate of total victims given by the city of 140,000 (+/- 10,000). This discrepancy illustrates how a large number of total victims remain unidentified even almost 75 years after the atomic bombing.

The number of victims measured by the City of Hiroshima is based on the city government's survey of victims of the atomic bombing. The city government has been trying to find an accurate number of victims by comparing data from the survey and the estimated number of overall victims, which is 140,000 (+/- 10,000). But it has been difficult to glean information on victims from the Korean Peninsula, military personnel, or from families with no surviving members, according to the city.

The survey was launched in fiscal 1979, 34 years after the bombing, when there were increasing calls for efforts to investigate the actual extent of damage. The survey is still going on. To identify those who are alive and those who are dead among the victims, different sets of data have been used, including the register of the A-bomb victims kept in the stone chest under the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims, which was erected in 1952, as well as several different data compiled by the national and the prefectural governments. But there is still a long way to go.

The Chugoku Shimbun has begun running a long series of articles titled "Striving to fill voids in Hiroshima" to mark the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing. What do we still not know? What can we do now to fill such "voids?" To help each and every victim regain their dignity, we will probe deeply into the actual damage.

Please access the following URLs to read the series "Striving to fill voids in Hiroshima."

### "Striving to fill voids in Hiroshima"

<a href="#">Part 1: Names fall into oblivion</a>	<a href="#">Part 2: Government reluctant to grasp overall picture of damage</a>	<a href="#">Part 3: Small victims of the bombing</a>	<a href="#">Part 4: Victims from other parts of Japan</a>
<a href="#">Part 5: Recent surveys on conscripted students by Kyoto University</a>	<a href="#">Part 6: Korean victims</a>	<a href="#">Part 7: North Korean victims</a>	<a href="#">Part 8: White Russians</a>
<a href="#">Part 9: Police autopsy report as the most promising data</a>	<a href="#">Part 10: Documents of establishments in the air</a>	<a href="#">Part 11: Whereabouts of former classmates</a>	<a href="#">Part 12: A-bomb orphan</a>

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

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The Mayors for Peace Secretariat has been seeking examples of peace education initiatives conducted by any organization (city hall/school/NGO, etc.) in Mayors for Peace member cities that are conducive to raising peace-seeking spirit among future generations. The Mayors for Peace Secretariat accepts reports on a rolling basis, so please send your report whenever your project is completed. The submitted reports will be posted on our website and in the Mayors for Peace News Flash as a source of information for other member cities that are planning to launch their own peace education program.

▼ Call for Input on the Mayors for Peace website:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/ecbn/projects.html#section10>

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## ■ Request to promote various measures based on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2017-2020)

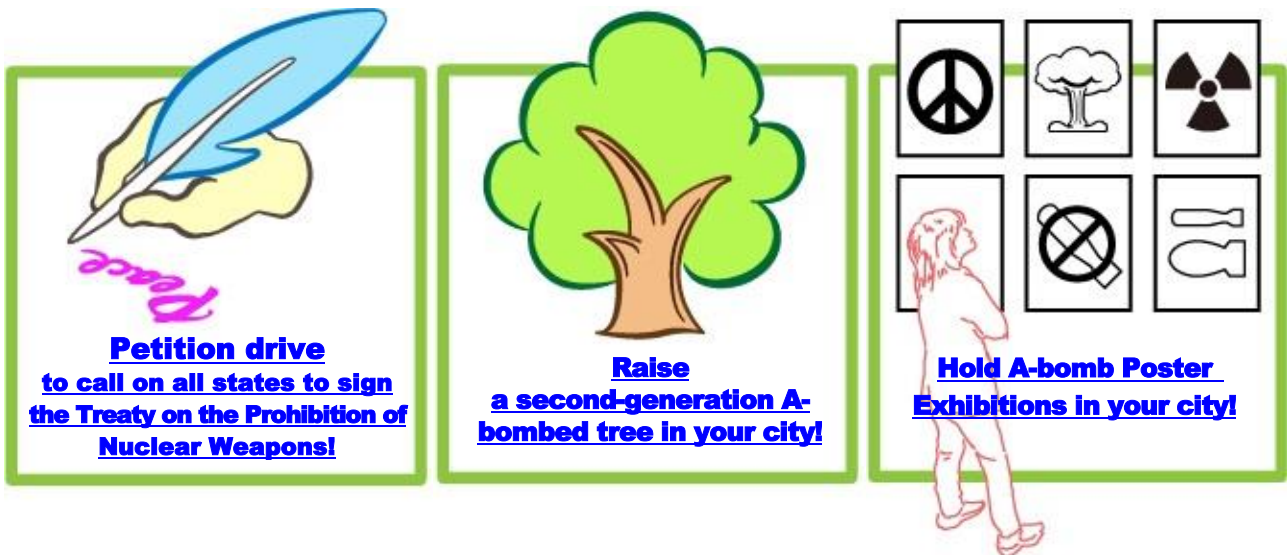
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At the 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace held in Nagasaki in August 2017, we decided our Action Plan for up to the year 2020, aiming for lasting world peace. Together, we hope to make significant strides toward realizing this goal. Please promote all appropriate measures based on the Action Plan within your own municipality or regional group.

▼ Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2017-2020):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/report/meeting/data/9th\\_meeting/Action\\_Plan\\_2017-2020\\_E.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/report/meeting/data/9th_meeting/Action_Plan_2017-2020_E.pdf)

For example, you can promote the following measures:



In November 2019, the Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace decided to set the following three items as priorities for action until the end of 2020, the final year of the 2020 Vision.

1. **Expand membership to support the agreed goals of Mayors for Peace, including the entry-into-force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons** *For more information on “[Expanding membership](#)”*
2. **Conduct peace education to raise awareness among future generations** *For more information on “[Promotion of peace education](#)”*
3. **Strengthen support for existing projects to receive youths in Hiroshima and Nagasaki such as “The Youth Exchange for Peace Support Program”** *For more information on “[The Youth Exchange for Peace Support Program](#)”*

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## ■ Mayors for Peace collaboration with “The Hibakusha Appeal” Signature Campaign

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Based on the Action Plan decided at the 9th General Conference in August 2017, Mayors for Peace is promoting a petition drive urging the nuclear-armed states and their allies to participate in the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It was also decided that in doing so, Mayors for Peace would collaborate with “The Hibakusha Appeal”, a signature campaign launched by the hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Mayors for Peace Secretariat will compile the number of signatures collected and present it to affiliates of the United Nations.

▼ For more information about “The Hibakusha Appeal”:



■ Last month’s visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace

President Kazumi Matsui welcomed the following visitors last month and asked them to support the activities of Mayors for Peace and cooperate on membership expansion.

- \* December 3 - Mr. Dirk Hebecker, Representative in Japan, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
\*December 10 - H.E. Mr. Peter Tan Hai Chuan, Ambassador of Singapore to Japan
\*December 11 - H.E. Mr. Andre Spiteri, Ambassador of Malta to Japan
\*December 12 - Mr. Josep Mayoral i Antigas, Mayor of Granollers, Spain
\*December 18 - H.E. Mr. Pierre Ferring, Ambassador of Luxembourg to Japan
\*December 23 - Mr. Regis Savioz, Head of Delegation in Japan, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

■ Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,861 Cities in 163 Countries/Regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on January 1, we gained 7 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 7,861.

From Thailand, we welcomed Donhualoh municipality as a new member. A staff member from Donhualoh stayed in Hiroshima last year as a Hiroshima International Cooperation Project Trainee. Thanks to her recruitment effort after returning home, Donhualoh municipality has joined Mayors for Peace.

From Germany, 5 new cities joined thanks to the continued efforts of Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City of the German Chapter of Mayors for Peace.

From Italy, we welcomed the city of Follonica. Ms. Lisa Clark, who has supported Mayors for Peace activities in Italy, worked with local peace activists and requested the city to join Mayors for Peace.

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

▼ List of New Members (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/03\_newmembers/2020/newmembers2001\_en.pdf

▼ Map of Member Cities:

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

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

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