



Mayors for Peace News Flash

September 2020 / No.129

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

7,956 cities

in 164 countries and regions

(as of September 1, 2020)

Help us achieve 10,000 member cities!

Check our website and follow us on SNS:

Website

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/index.html>

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<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace>

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/Mayors4Peace>

"Like" and share our Facebook and Twitter posts to help spread awareness of our mission.

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■ New segment! Member city recruitment model cases

Mayors for Peace aims to achieve 10,000 member cities to foster international public support for the realization of a world without nuclear weapons. To encourage recruitment of new members, we have started this new segment in the News Flash to shine the spotlight on model cases that have led to a large number of new members.

<The City of Ypres, Belgium> (Report by Mr. Filip Deheegher, Peace Manager of the City)

Mayor Talpe of Ypres called, in order to expand the network, on all cities in Belgium that are not yet members of Mayors for Peace to join the network. An invitation letter with the Mayors for Peace registration form in attachment was sent to all the mayors of those cities. After a month, a second letter was sent as a follow up or reminder. This call has so far resulted in 19 new member cities. This means that as of today, 393 of the 581 (more than 2/3) Belgian cities and municipalities are members of the network.

Please take inspiration from the model cases that we introduce here to invite other cities in your country, as well as your sister cities and any other cities with which you have relations to join Mayors for Peace. You can download a letter of request and document pack (ten languages) below.

▼ Letters of request to join Mayors for Peace and documents packs

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/outlines/join.html#section01>

The Secretariat is looking for model cases of recruiting new members. We would like to share cases which will encourage other member cities in the News Flash. Please contact us if your city has any model cases.

Email: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

■ Invitation for the Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” 2020



Mayors for Peace has put emphasis on peace education to raise awareness among future generations as part of its intensified efforts outlined in the Action Plan from 2017 to 2020, which was adopted at the 9th General Conference. In order to further promote peace education in member cities, Mayors for Peace holds an annual art competition on the theme of “Peaceful Towns” for children in all these cities.

Please advertise this competition widely among schools and other organizations in your city. Member cities are asked to accept entries from interested local applicants, select up to 5 artworks for Category 1 (6-10 year olds) and Category 2 (11-15 year olds), and submit the scanned artworks in PDF along with the other required documents by email to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat by the designated deadline.

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we expect that many member cities must be occupied with necessary measures. We would be grateful if you could advertise this art competition after things settle down.

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

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/ecbn/projects/2020_Art_Competition.html

▼ Submission Deadline:

5:00 PM (Japan Standard Time), Friday November 20, 2020

▼ Submission:

Email the application materials to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat at mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

■ Member City activities

<Ypres, Belgium>

Conference “No more Hiroshima! No more Nagasaki!” held on September 19 to celebrate the International Day of Peace

<Report by Mr. Mr. Filip Deheegher, the City of Ypres>

This year marks 75 years since the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki fell victim to atomic attacks. The atomic bombs killed more than 200,000 people. A nuclear arms race followed these.

On the occasion of the International Day of Peace (September 21), Ypres Peace City (Belgium) organised the conference “No more Hiroshima! No more Nagasaki!” To open the conference, the mayor of Ypres welcomed those present. Afterwards, Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima called on the participants in a video message to work with the *hibakusha* and Mayors for Peace to promote a world free of nuclear weapons. Subsequently, Sibylle Bauer (SIPRI) gave historical interpretation of the nuclear age since 1945. This was followed by a panel discussion on Belgium's role in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and the presence of American nuclear weapons in our country. Tom Sauer, Professor of International Political University Antwerp, and Sigurd Schelstraete, Director of the Department of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, discussed these topics. Finally, Leo Hoffmann-Axthelm spoke on behalf of ICAN of the status of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. ICAN is convinced that the treaty will enter into force within some months, he stated.

After the conference, volunteers and participants rolled out the 1,800 square metre peace flag on the Ypres Grand Place for the third time.



(Photos: Courtesy of the City of Ypres)

■Regional chapter activities

<UK and Ireland Chapter>

UK and Ireland Chapter welcomes 2020 International Peace Day initiatives and support for the International Day for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

<Report by Mr. Sean Morris, UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary>

On September 21st, the UK & Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter has released a Statement welcoming national and international initiatives to support 2020 International Day of Peace (Sept. 21) and the International Day for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (Sept. 26).

The Chapter also welcomes support from the global Mayors for Peace Executive to support the initiative ‘#We The Peoples 2020’, which is organising a number of events between September 21st and October 2nd.

▼ Click the link below to see the full statement:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/data/2020/UK_2020_IDP_Statement.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 share the activities with other member cities. Please send us information including the date, venue, organizers and a description of the event result. We look forward to receiving information from your city.

▼ Please send a report about your event to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat at:

mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

▼ List of peace events as based on those in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (in August):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/04_list_of_activities/monthly/2020_August_List_of_Activities_en.pdf

■Mayors for Peace member cities - 7,956 cities in 164 countries/regions

On September 1, we gained 36 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 7,956. We thank all involved in promoting expanded membership for their invaluable support. Below is the breakdown of the new members.

Country	New Members	Total	Remarks
Jordan	5	11	Thanks to efforts by the Ambassador of Jordan to Japan in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Local Management in Jordan.
Belgium	18	393	Thanks to efforts by Ypres, a Vice President and Lead City.
Germany	11	696	Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City.
UK	1	82	Thanks to efforts by a local peace-related organization.
Netherlands	1	158	Thanks to efforts by a member city in the Netherlands.

▼ List of New Members (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/03_newmembers/2020/newmembers2009_en.pdf

▼ Letters of request to join Mayors for Peace (Available in 10 languages)

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/>

▼ Membership by country

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/01_monthly_updating/07_membership_by_country_en.pdf

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

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

For example, you can promote the following measures:



On September 21, the International Day of Peace, Malta ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, bringing the total to 45 nations as its States Parties. 5 more to go to make the treaty enter into force!

Join us in promoting wider participation in the treaty through the above mentioned petition drive, and accelerating the abolition of nuclear weapons!

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](#)”

■ Call for input: examples of initiatives to foster peace-seeking spirit

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>

■ Request for payment of the 2020 Mayors for Peace membership fee

In order to facilitate future activities and strengthen the sense of solidarity amongst member cities, Mayors for Peace introduced an annual Membership Fee in 2015.

This year again, we ask each member city to pay a fee of 2,000 Japanese yen (about 19 USD/18 Euro as of March 18, 2020) per city. 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 collected Membership Fees will be allocated toward new and existing projects listed on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan 2017-2020.

A request for payment of the 2020 membership fee was sent to each city by email on April 1. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

▼ Request for the 2020 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/outlines/membership_fee.html

■ Peace news from Hiroshima

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

The Hiroshima Fieldwork Committee, a Hiroshima-based citizens' group, has published an English translation of a book titled *Kieta Machi: Kioku wo Tadori* (Vanished Neighborhood: Retracing Memories), a collection of elaborate pencil drawings that depict the cityscape of the central part of pre-war Hiroshima. The group financed publication of the Japanese version of the book in 2011 and plans to translate the book into four other languages, including French and Korean.

The book contains 46 images drawn by Shigeo Moritomi, 91, based on his own memories of that time. Mr. Moritomi, an A-bomb survivor living in Nishi Ward, grew up in the present-day Otemachi area in central Hiroshima and lost five family members in the atomic bombing. The translation was done by Luli van der Does, associate professor at Hiroshima University's Center for Peace. Ms. van der Does translated all the captions and even the names of the shops depicted in the drawings. The book will be sold at a variety of locations including the Rest House, a building located in Hiroshima Memorial Peace Park that survived the atomic bombing.

Now, Peace Memorial Park is replete with greenery. The area surrounding the park is completely rebuilt with many tall buildings. The park and its environs were once a bustling area inhabited by many people before it was annihilated by the single atomic bomb. However, the number of people with memories of those days decreases year by year. Communicating that reality to next generations using drawings, photographs, and writings also serves as a warning that citizens must never be made to suffer in such a way again. Superimposed on Google Maps, more than 1,000 photographs of Hiroshima, some of which were taken the day before the atomic bombing, can be accessed on the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center's website: "Striving to fill voids in Hiroshima: Recreating cityscapes." Please pay the site a visit.

Please see the following for more peace-related news.

South Korean Atomic Bomb Sufferers Association sends 12,000 masks to Japan Confederation of A- and H-bomb Sufferers Organizations
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=100787>

Describing her passion for education, A-bombing memoir of severely wounded teacher to be used as peace-education material
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=100783>

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum initiates online reservation system starting September 1, in consideration of group visitor schedules
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=100657>

Neighborhood lost in the A-bombing to be shown to world—Citizens’ group publishes English version of book of pencil drawings
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=100780>

A-bombing exhibit aimed at abolition of nuclear weapons held by Hiroshima City at U.S. Pearl Harbor for first time
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=100594>

Singer-songwriter HIPPY releases video in eight languages of Hiroshima’s present-day appearance, A-bomb survivor’s testimony, and music
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=100785>

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

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”:



Mayors for Peace Official Social Media Accounts

〈Twitter〉 
<https://twitter.com/Mayors4Peace>



〈Facebook〉 
<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace>



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

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