



Mayors for Peace News Flash

October 2020 / No.130

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

7,961 cities

in 164 countries and regions

(as of October 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>

Facebook 

<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.

Table of Contents

- Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to enter into force!
- Invitation for the Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns" 2020
- Secretary General Koizumi visits two embassies to ask for support to expand membership
- Member city recruitment model cases
- Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,961 cities in 164 countries/regions
- Member City activities
- Regional chapter activities
- Events Commemorating 2020 International Day of Peace
- Request to promote various measures based on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan
- Call for input: examples of initiatives to foster peace-seeking spirit
- Request for payment of the 2020 Mayors for Peace membership fee
- Peace news from Hiroshima (provided by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center of the CHUGOKU SHIMBUN)
- Mayors for Peace collaboration with "the Hibakusha Appeal" signature campaign

■ Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to enter into force!

Mayors for Peace wholeheartedly welcomes the historic event of the number of states ratifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons reaching 50 on October 24, ensuring its entry into force. The *hibakusha*, the atomic bomb survivors, have been appealing for the abolition of nuclear weapons for many years, despite their physical and emotional trauma. We must never forget that their voices have pushed international society forward and led to the conclusion of the treaty.

To mark this significant occasion, we have drafted an Open Letter appealing to make the treaty a comprehensive and fully effective legally binding instrument, and to accelerate the abolition of nuclear weapons by this treaty. The Open Letter has been sent to UN officials, all UN Member States, and all Mayors for Peace member cities.

▼ Open Letter from Mayors for Peace:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/statement/openletter/201025_openletter.html

Please share this Open Letter with as many people as possible, such as governmental representatives and civil society partners in your community.

To commemorate this occasion, Mayors for Peace held a special ceremony in the evening of the following day, October 25.

Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima, President of Mayors for Peace, and its Secretary General Mr. Koizumi welcomed youth gathered to attend the ceremony with candles in their hands in front of the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims. These young people are students actively engaged in peace activities in Hiroshima, namely the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons! Signature Campaign (petition drives held in the streets) and the Youth Peace Volunteer program (taking visitors from overseas for English-language tours of Peace Memorial Park).



Youth attending the ceremony with candles in their hands

At the beginning of the ceremony, President Matsui gave opening remarks including these words of encouragement: “Students engaged in peace activities are here with me today to express their determination for action in the future. May their actions demonstrate to the people of the world that being free from nuclear weapons is the way this world should be. May such thinking become a global standard, that will lead people to take action based on such peace-seeking-spirit in their daily lives. This is my sincere desire.” Young students then reported to the victims with their candles lit, that the long-awaited treaty's entry into force is now ensured.



President Matsui's opening remarks



Speech by youth engaged in peace activities

In their speech, representatives of youth stated: “For many years, many citizens all around the globe extensively sought greater understanding of *hibakusha*'s messages that ‘no one else should suffer as we have.’ We would like to rejoice that such efforts have been successful, and led to ensure the treaty's entry into force. On the other hand, we are now confronted with a significant challenge—that is, what we, the young generation, can do to encourage international society, including nuclear-armed states, to make steady progress toward the abolition of nuclear weapons.” They pledged to continue working to realize a world free of nuclear weapons, and to have more and more people of the world share in the spirit of Hiroshima.

▼ Read the full text of President Matsui's opening remarks:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/news/data/2020/candle/Speech_by_Kazumi_Matsui.pdf

▼ Read the full text of the speech by youth engaged in peace activities in Hiroshima:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/news/data/2020/candle/Speech_by_youth.pdf

■ Invitation for the Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns" 2020



Prize-winning works of the 2019 competition

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.

▼ 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

■ Secretary General Koizumi visits two embassies to ask for support to expand membership

On October 15, Mr. Takashi Koizumi, Secretary General of Mayors for Peace, visited the Embassy of the Argentine Republic and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Tokyo.

During the visits, Secretary General Koizumi explained about Mayors for Peace and our recent initiatives, while also expressing gratitude for both countries' long-term support for Mayors for Peace activities. In addition, Secretary General Koizumi requested their continued support to expand our network in their countries.

Both Ambassadors showed deep understanding for Mayors for Peace. H.E. Mr. Alan Claudio Beraud, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Argentine Republic to Japan, pointed out that there are almost 100 member cities in Argentina, and expressed that he would like to support Mayors for Peace to achieve 200 member cities as the organization's next goal in Argentina. In addition, H.E. Ms. Inga M. W. Nyhamar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Norway to Japan said that she was surprised that more than 100 cities in Norway are already members. She also explained that in Norway, the national government is not generally involved in local government directly, but said that she would like to continue to call on municipalities for their support to increase the number of member cities. Both countries' ambassadors showed their willingness to support Mayors for Peace initiatives, leading to meaningful meetings.

Mayors for Peace has been working on recruiting member cities actively to achieve 10,000 member cities, and we plan to continue recruiting member cities through embassies.



(With Ambassador Beraud of Argentine to Japan)



(With Ambassador Nyhamar of Norway to Japan)

■ 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 showcase model cases that have led to gaining new members.

<Model case in the Netherlands>

In this year, which marks the 75th year since the atomic bombings, Mayor Geert van Rumund of Wageningen sent a letter to 218 cities in the Netherlands that were not yet members of Mayors for Peace to join the network. The letter highlights that, just as with the threat posed to civil society by COVID-19, solidarity among municipalities against the threat of nuclear weapons is vital. This letter has so far resulted in 10 new member cities from the Netherlands.

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

■ Mayors for Peace member cities - 7,961 cities in 164 countries/regions

On October 1, we gained 7 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 7,961. 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	1	12	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	2	395	Thanks to efforts by Ypres, a Vice President and Lead City.
Germany	1	697	Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City.
Netherlands	3	161	Thanks to efforts by a member city in the Netherlands.

▼ List of New Members (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/03_newmembers/2020/newmembers2010_en.pdf

▼ Membership by country

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

■ Member City activities

<Ringsaker, Norway>

“Bike for Peace” trip in Norway

<Report by Mr. Thomas Eriksen, local councilor of Ringsaker>

The Ringsaker kommune (local council), Norway has been actively engaged in the country’s demilitarization, and also in recruiting Norwegian municipalities to join the Mayors for Peace network.

Ringsaker was visited by representatives of Bike for Peace and Mayors for Peace in September 2020. Mr. Tore Naerland (Bike for Peace) and Mr. Thore Vestby (former Mayor of Frogn) visited two towns in Ringsaker: Brumunddal and Moelv, by bicycle, to make an appeal and discuss with local politicians on prohibiting nuclear weapons. This bike trip's main purpose was to have Norwegian municipalities endorse a Joint Appeal addressed to the Norwegian Prime Minister and the Norwegian government urging them to prohibit nuclear weapons in the country, and also to encourage Norwegian municipalities to join Mayors for Peace. On the first day of their bike trip, Ringsaker had the honour to welcome Ambassador Yerkin Akhinzhanov of Kazakhstan in Norway and other embassy officials who joined.



(Photos: Courtesy of the Ringsaker kommune)

During their journey, Mr. Naerland and Mr. Vestby visited other cities in Norway—Lillehammer, Gjøvik, Hamar, Stange, Løten, Elverum, Flisa, Årnes and Grue og Kongsvinger—encouraging local authorities to join in the appeal and make action with them.

<Isfahan, Iran>

Event in Isfahan to celebrate the International Day of Peace

<Report by Mr. Iman Hojati, the City of Isfahan>

On the occasion of the International Day of Peace, 21st September, Isfahan municipality held an event with the presence of a group of Syrian, Iraqi and Afghan children living in Isfahan to celebrate this day and send the message of peace to the world. The mayor of Isfahan and other attendees symbolically released pigeons from the Centre for International Cooperation of Isfahan and planted olive trees to mark the Day.



(Photos: courtesy of the City of Isfahan)

■Regional chapter activities

<West Australia>

Tree planting ceremonies and events in Western Australian cities

<Report from Fremantle, Australia>

Hundreds of people in the South West of Western Australia have been inspired by the stories from *hibaku-jumoku*, second-generation A-bombed trees, grown from seeds brought to Fremantle in 2014. Now healthy saplings, the Ginkgo biloba trees were honoured and planted in seven South West cities' parks, with formal ceremonies and plaque unveilings held on Hiroshima Day, Nagasaki Day, and International Peace Day 2020. Various events were attended by mayors and dignitaries, staff and school children, and many locals, including Indigenous elders who bestowed welcomes and blessings, attracting local media coverage.

Some photos from the seven events show the relaxed attitude to social distancing rules compared to many other places in the world, thanks to there being no community-transmission, for now. We hope this ease of gathering in peaceful sharing will extend to all places on our precious planet.



(Photos: courtesy of the City of Fremantle)

Conversations continue to grow understanding of the plantings' themes of peace, resilience, and hope for a Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to come into force.

▼ Click the link below to see the full article with links to media coverage:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/2020Sep_AU.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 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 September):

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

■Events Commemorating 2020 International Day of Peace

The United Nations has established September 21 as a fixed International Day of Peace (IDP) and an annual day of non-violence and cease-fire. Mayors for Peace has been a long-time supporter of the IDP and this year again all member cities were encouraged to commemorate the IDP.

In Hiroshima and member cities around the world, various commemorative events were held, including the ones in the above articles.

▼ Reports from member cities:

-[West Australia](#)

-[Ypres, Belgium](#)

-[Isfahan, Iran](#)

-Akita, [Urayasu*](#), Matsumoto, [Takayama*](#), [Motosu*](#), Gero, Ise, Hirakata, [Takarazuka*](#), [Hiroshima](#) and [Nagasaki*](#), Japan (*all in Japanese)

-[UK and Ireland Chapter](#)



▼ Events Commemorating 2020 International Day of Peace (Mayors for Peace Website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/news/200921_news.html

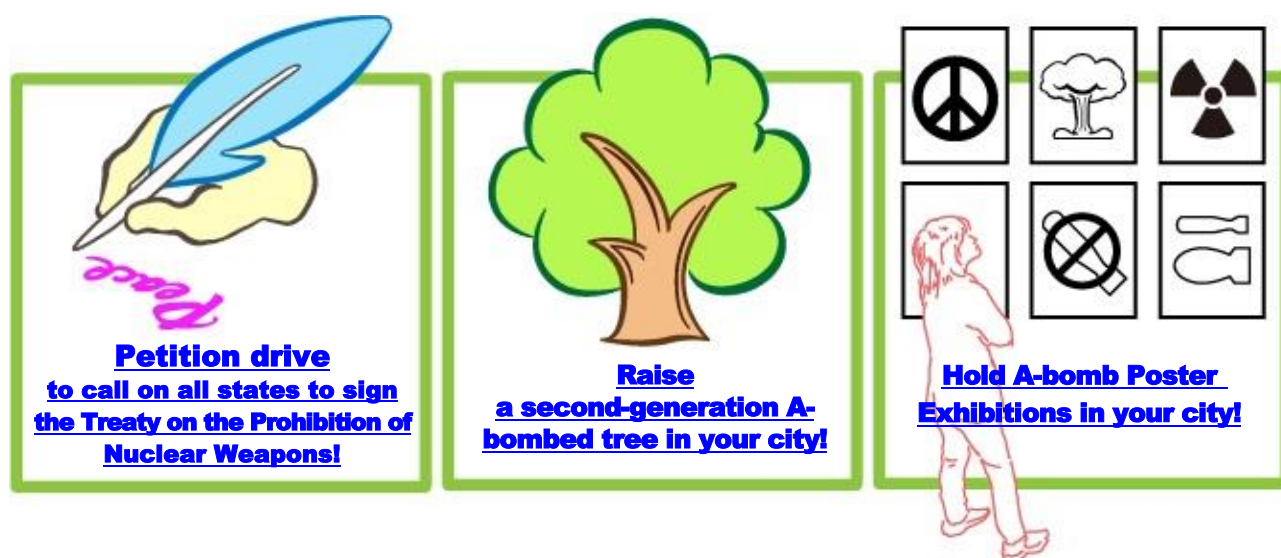
■Request to promote various measures based on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2017-2020)

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:



TPNW reached **50** ratifications

ensuring its entry into force
next January!

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

On October 24, Honduras ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The treaty has now reached its 50th ratification, and it will enter into force next January! (See page 1-2 for a relevant article.)

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 year 2021 appears as if it might go down in history as the year the UN-adopted Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons will enter into force. Expectations already seem to be on the rise among atomic bomb survivors and others of the general public. September 21 marked the UN International Day of Peace and September 26 the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. At those times, citizens of Hiroshima sent out messages in different formats expressing their hopes for world peace and elimination of nuclear weapons.

One such project connected Hiroshima and the United States. Toshiko Tanaka, an A-bomb survivor living in Hiroshima, is a cloisonné artist. At a request from dry landscape gardeners in the United States, Ms. Tanaka created designs for sand patterns symbolizing peace. Coinciding with the International Day of Peace, her pattern designs were raked into fine gravel in five gardens in the United States.

The project involved collaboration that overcame geographical distance between the A-bomb survivor in Japan and people overseas. In the United States, where the coronavirus pandemic is more serious than in Japan, project participants are said to have faced numerous difficulties before the project was finally realized. People engaged in the project in the United States indicated they would like to continue to hold such an event in the future in an expression of the A-bomb survivors' desire for peace.

The approaches used to rake the sand patterns in the five gardens can be seen in a video compiled by the North American Japanese Garden Association at the following URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6j3-XsKmCU>. Even if viewers cannot completely understand the video, which is entirely in English, the project participants' feelings about peace will serve to transcend any language barrier.

Please see the following for more peace-related news.

Hiroshima citizens' group delivers "Friendship Certificate" from the British city of Coventry to Hiroshima Mayor
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=101192>

Striving to fill voids in Hiroshima 75 years after the atomic bombing—Recreating cityscapes: Photos show Jisenji Temple before A-bombing
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=101236>

Mikiso Iwasa, former co-chair of hibakusha group Nihon Hidankyo, dies at 91
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=100953>

Three high school peace ambassadors from Hiroshima pledge to convey peace message to entire world
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=100903>

Handing down experiences of the atomic bombing Training for ninth group of memory keepers begins in Hiroshima No applicants to share A-bomb experience, for first time
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=101372>

From A-bomb survivors: Hiroshima's Toshiko Tanaka to design ripple marks in sand for Japanese gardens in U.S.
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=101456>

■ 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:

Mayors for Peace Secretariat

1-5 Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima 730-0811 Japan

Tel: +81-82-242-7821 Fax: +81-82-242-7452

Email: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp
