



Mayors for Peace News Flash

December 2022 / No.156

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

8,228 cities

in **166** countries and regions

(as of December 1, 2022)

Help us achieve **10,000** member cities!

Check our website and follow us on social media:

Website 

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/>

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.

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Dear friends and colleagues,

As 2022 draws to a close, we would like to extend our sincerest thanks for continuing to support the initiatives of Mayors for Peace in contributing to the realization of a world without nuclear weapons.

Wishing you happy holidays and a happy new year!

*MATSUI Kazumi
President of Mayors for Peace
Mayor of Hiroshima*

第10回平和首長会議総会報告書
Report of the 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace

核兵器のない平和な未来を創造するために
～ 市民社会に「平和文化」を根付かせよう ～

Creating a Peaceful, Nuclear-Weapon-Free World:
Cultivating a Culture of Peace in Civil Society

会期
Dates **2022年10月19日(水)・20日(木)**
October 19 (Wed) and 20 (Thu), 2022

主催
Organizers **平和首長会議、広島市**
Mayors for Peace, The City of Hiroshima

The Report of the 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace, which convened in Hiroshima City on October 19 and 20, 2022, is now available on the Mayors for Peace website.

Please visit the website, where the resolutions adopted at the Conference and relevant materials are also available.

 Report of the 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace (Mayors for Peace website):
https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/file-2212-10th-GC_Report_E.pdf

 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace (Mayors for Peace website):
<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/news/2022/post-221102-2/>

Japan Chapter submits a letter of request to the Japanese government December 13, 2022

The Japan Chapter annually submits a letter of request to the Japanese government calling for the promotion of actions to realize the abolition of nuclear weapons.

On December 13, Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima (President of Mayors for Peace) and Mayor Taue of Nagasaki (Vice President of Mayors for Peace) visited the Prime Minister's Office of Japan. There they met with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida of Japan, and directly handed him the Letter of Request to the Japanese Government Calling for the Promotion of Actions to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, which was adopted at the 10th Mayors for Peace Japanese Member Cities Meeting in October, and the Hiroshima Appeal, which was adopted at the 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace.



(from left to right) Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima,
Prime Minister Kishida, and Mayor Taue of Nagasaki
(Photo: courtesy of the Cabinet Public Affairs Office)



Mayor Taue of Nagasaki handing in the Letter and
the Hiroshima Appeal to Prime Minister Kishida
(Photo: courtesy of the Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

In the letter, the Japan Chapter calls on the Japanese government to:

- fulfill its role in resolving the division between nuclear- and non-nuclear weapon states and establishing common ground for a dialogue toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons;
- participate in the second Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW as an observer, and, heeding calls from the non-nuclear weapon states, make efforts to abolish nuclear weapons; and
- sign and ratify the TPNW at the earliest date.

Secretariat picks seeds of Hiroshima atomic bomb survivor trees

As one of the initiatives implemented under the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2021 – 2025), the Mayors for Peace Secretariat distributes seeds from atomic bomb survivor trees to member cities so that they can raise public peace consciousness by planting them at places where many citizens visit and nurturing them by hands of citizens as symbols of peace.

As part of this initiative, on the morning of December 10, staff of the Mayors for Peace Secretariat picked seeds of survivor trees (*hibaku jumoku*) in Hiroshima, together with some of the organizations comprising “Hiroshima Hibaku Jumoku Working Group,” such as Green Legacy Hiroshima Initiative, which organized the seed picking.



(left) Pruning berries from the Kurogane holly (*Ilex rotunda*) tree
(right) Squashing seeds out of the Kurogane berries

The participants first collected seeds of one of the three Kurogane holly (*Ilex rotunda*) trees at the Hiroshima Castle. The Kurogane trees were planted in the yard in front of the Imperial Headquarters, the then highest military command center established in the castle in 1894. They managed to survive the atomic bombing 910 meters north-east of the hypocenter. The Secretariat staff and the other participants pruned berries off from the tree and squashed seeds out of the berries.

The group next went to a green area in front of Shirakami Shrine on the Peace Boulevard. Before the bombing, this site, 530 meters south of the hypocenter, was the grounds of Kokutaiji Temple. While many of the trees were lost in the bombing, 11 trees continued to grow. The Secretariat staff and the other groups picked berries of the two Japanese hackberry trees (*Celtis sinensis var. japonica*) and pruned fruits of the Japanese persimmon (*Diospyros kaki*).



(left) Picking berries of the Japanese hackberry trees (*Celtis sinensis var. japonica*)
(right) Fruits of the Japanese persimmon (*Diospyros kaki*)

The collected seeds will be cleaned and taken care of by an arborist so that they could be preserved under the specialist care of the experts at the Hiroshima Botanical Garden until they are sent to their new homes.

While the past three years were challenged by worldwide logistics disruptions, the recent days see resumption of express mail services to a growing number of countries and regions. Any member cities interested in nurturing seeds from atomic bomb survivor trees are encouraged to contact the Secretariat. For details of the various activities which the member cities have conducted with the descendants of atomic bomb survivor trees, please see [the Mayors for Peace website](#).

📧 Contact: Mayors for Peace Secretariat (Email: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)

📧 Distribute and nurture seeds from atomic bomb survivor trees (*hibaku* trees) (Mayors for Peace website): <https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/visions/initiatives/trees/>

Member city activities

● Allonnes, France

The City of Allonnes organizes an exhibition for peace

Report by Ms. Loréna Schlicht, AFCD RP–Mayors for Peace France

The City of Allonnes has responded to calls for participation in the Mayors for Peace Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” 2022. During the last week of November, *Atelier Arts d’Allonnes* (Arts Workshop of Allonnes) hosted the exhibition, “Extinguish War, Blow and Sow Peace,” which displayed the paintings created by children of *Atelier d’Arts Plastiques* (Plastic Arts Workshop). The exhibition opening on Wednesday, November 23 was attended by the children, their parents, elected officials and local residents.



Photos: courtesy of AFCD RP–Mayors for Peace France

● Occitanie/Pyrénées-Méditerranée (Région), France

The first Japan Week in Occitanie launched: Focus on the peace initiative at Lycée Jules Guesdes

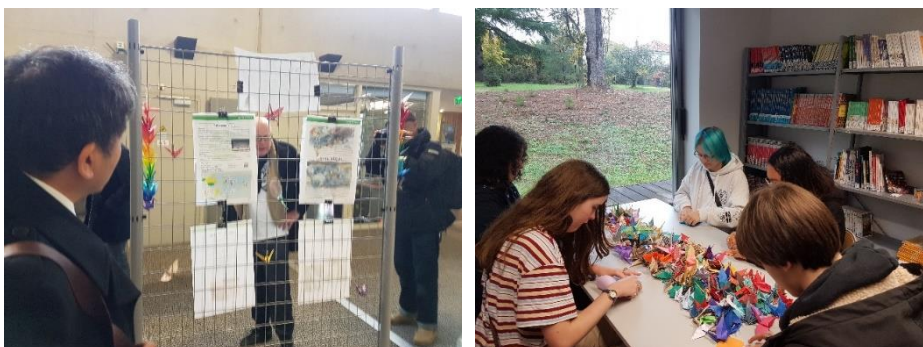
Report by Ms. Loréna Schlicht, AFCD RP–Mayors for Peace France

The opening ceremony of the Japan Week in Occitanie was held on Saturday, November 26 at the House of International Relations in Montpellier, which is also a member of Mayors for Peace. Until December 2, more than 160 events were organized in nearly 50 different cities of the Region. This project, the first of its kind in the Region, was organized by the Yujo (“friendship” in Japanese) Association, under the patronage of the Groupe Dépêche Foundation, the Occitanie Region and the Japanese Embassy in France, in collaboration with the Japanese Consulate General in Marseille.

At the opening, Mayor Michaël Delafosse of Montpellier recalled his attendance at the 2022 Hiroshima commemoration day and emphasized how being part of Mayors for Peace helped deepen the Occitanie-Japanese friendship through inter-municipal cooperation for peace.

During the Week, Saori Ouziel, Japanese teacher at the Jules Guesdes High School, and the students organized workshops and events on the story of Sadako and Hiroshima: the animated movie, “L’oiseau Bonheur” (English title: “On a Paper Crane: Tomoko’s Adventure”) by Seiji Arihara and a testimony video of *hibakusha* Fumiko Amano were screened, Mayors for Peace Poster Exhibition was held at the school library, and the students folded more than 1,000 *origami* paper cranes to be sent to Hiroshima City.

On Monday the 28th, accompanied by Loréna Schlicht and Saori Ouziel, Consul General Yoshikazu Iwata of Japan in Marseille paid a visit to the Poster Exhibition, which reaffirmed the importance of passing on memories of the past, promoting nuclear disarmament and advocating peace in the Japan-French relationship.



Photos: courtesy of AFCD RP–Mayors for Peace France

Introducing Executive Cities on Mayors for Peace social media accounts

At Mayors for Peace, whose member cities have reached a total of 8,228 in 166 countries and regions (as of December 1, 2022), [21 cities](#) from different parts of the world serve as Executive Cities.

To let more people know about the Executive Cities, [the Mayors for Peace official Twitter account \(@Mayors4Peace\)](#) and [Facebook account \(@mayorsforpeace\)](#) present the following three kinds of information from eight Executive Cities: (1) messages from the Mayors, (2) what the Cities are famous for, and (3) peace events.

The Mayors for Peace News Flash also introduces these Executive Cities in series.

This December Issue introduces Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

● Hiroshima, Japan



(1) Message from Mayor MATSUI Kazumi

"Help us expand our membership to 10,000 cities and create real momentum for the realization of a peaceful world without nuclear weapons!"



(2) What Is the City Famous for?

Hiroshima has:

- Atomic Bomb Dome,
- Peace Memorial Park, and
- Okonomiyaki (Japanese savory pancake)!



(3) Peace Events

Hiroshima City declared November as Month for the Culture of Peace. During the month, the city holds a variety of events aimed at raising awareness of peace through exchange linked to art, sports, etc.!

● Nagasaki, Japan



(1) Message from Mayor TAUE Tomihisa

“I believe the culmination of each and every one of our actions for peace will create a larger movement that will ultimately affect change in the world.

Let's work together to spread the culture of peace.”



(2) What Is the City Famous for?

Nagasaki is well known for Nagasaki Peace Park, Glover Garden, its city view from Mt. Inasa, its castella, and its champon & sara udon (noodle dishes)!



(3) Peace Events

Every year on Aug 9, the city holds the annual Peace Ceremony in Nagasaki Peace Park to comfort the souls of the victims of the atomic bombing and to pray for lasting world peace.

The Mayors for Peace official social media accounts not only introduce Executive Cities but also present a variety of news stories with photos and images. Please follow us!

 Mayors for Peace official Twitter account ([@Mayors4Peace](https://twitter.com/Mayors4Peace))
<https://twitter.com/Mayors4Peace>

 Mayors for Peace official Facebook account ([@mayorsforpeace](https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace))
<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace>

Regional chapter activities

● UK & Ireland Chapter

Saddleworth School students plant tree for peace

Report by Mr. Richard Outram, UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary

On Monday 21 November, students and staff at Saddleworth School in Oldham, North-West England were joined by Saddleworth Parish Council Chair, Cllr Pam Byrne, President of Bike for Peace, Tore Nærland, Maria Ellis, Chair of Peace Talks Oldham, and Richard Outram, UK/Ireland Chapter Secretary to plant a tree from Hiroshima.



Photo: courtesy of Mayors for Peace UK/Ireland Chapter

The hackberry tree was grown from a seed from a survivor tree sent by the Mayors for Peace Secretariat as a gift to Oldham because of its membership of Mayors for Peace.

Saddleworth School was the eighth school in Oldham to receive a tree as a signatory of the Pledge to Peace.

Head girl Anya Wyatt and head boy Daniel Wood broke the ground to plant the tree then the other Year 10 pupils took turns with the shovel.

Tore, Richard and Maria spoke with the students, Headteacher Mike Anderson and RE Head Kate O'Connell, and Cllr Byrne read from Tore's new book.

Richard said: *"It was wonderful to visit Saddleworth School to plant this symbolic tree which reminds us that we must never again see the use of nuclear weapons, and of the ties of friendship that now exist between Hiroshima and Oldham."*

● UK & Ireland Chapter

Bike for Peace cooperates with Mayors for Peace to celebrate its 45th anniversary

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

Bike for Peace is a Norwegian group led by the partially blind and inspiring activist Tore Nærland, and Frank Tomlinson. In 2023 it will be 45 years old.

Tore has written a new book that outlines the many events that Bike for Peace has organised and some of the prominent people they have met.

Tore recently visited a number of places in Greater Manchester and the UK Parliament. He shared what he has learned from all his travels to young people in Oldham and Saddleworth, supported by Manchester officer Richard Outram.

In Manchester, Tore met with the Lord Mayor of Manchester where he presented his book. He talked to the Lord Mayor of his experiences and of a potential 2023 bike tour that will again take in a visit to the city.

Finally, Tore met up with Frank Tomlinson to meet a number of Parliamentarians at the Houses of Parliament in Westminster including Baroness Jenny Jones, a former Deputy Mayor of London and Lord David Blunkett, former UK Home Secretary, who was the first blind minister in the UK Parliament.

In May 2023, Bike for Peace are planning a new tour in the UK, taking in Manchester, Rochdale, Leeds and Sheffield.



(above) Tore in the library
(left) Tore Nærland and David Blunkett
(right) Tore Nærland, Jenny Jones, and Frank Tomlinson
Photos: courtesy of Mayors for Peace UK/Ireland Chapter

● French Chapter

Mayor of Grigny, President of the Mayors for Peace French Chapter, participates in the Peace and Sport International Forum

Report by Ms. Loréna Schlicht, AFCD RP–Mayors for Peace France

On November 30, 2022, Mr. Philippe Rio, Mayor of Grigny and President of the AFCD RP–Mayors for Peace France, participated in the Peace and Sport International Forum, which the organization Peace and Sport held in the Principality of Monaco from November 30 to December 1. At the session titled “The Role of Sport in Building Sustainable Peace” between 14:00 and 14:55, President Rio spoke on stage in an interview conducted by Mr. Pascal Boniface, Director and Founder of the French Institute for International and Strategic Relations (IRIS).



Photo: courtesy of AFCD RP–Mayors for Peace France

Philippe Rio said, *“As the President of Mayors for Peace France, [I would like to say] that fighting against exclusion and poverty is first of all considering sport as a right per se—we forget this very often, especially in France—alongside the other rights: to accommodation, housing, education, and culture... Sport should be considered in this way, and we have to build a sport nation. This starts with [...] the city and the local district.”*

Peace and Sport is an organization that leads a unique international platform to promote the intentional use of sport as a peacebuilding tool. In the current international context in which conflict is on the rise, the Peace and Sport International Forum 2022 brought together experts from around the world around the theme *“Sport, a response for peace”*. The Forum offered a variety of ways in which the participants could share experiences, have discussions, and have interviews on the first day, November 30, which was concluded by the prestigious Peace and Sport Awards ceremony.

Link for the Mayor Rio video interview session (from 7.30 to 20.39):

<https://forum.peace-sport.org/en/session/eac0d4b7-81f0-ec11-b47a-a04a5e7cf9da>

Please send us a report on your city's peace activities

Help us tell other members what you are doing! Please send the Secretariat a short report on a peace activity or initiative by your city based on the Action Plan so that we can share it on our [website](#) or the News Flash. Reports on your city's activity or initiative that stimulate youth to be engaged in peace activities or promote 'the culture of peace' are especially welcome! We look forward to receiving ones!

Email: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

*Please write a **SHORT** (up to 200 words long) report in English, and send it to the above email address with photos (if any). Please include key information such as the date, venue, description, and result.

Mayors for Peace member cities - 8,228 cities in 166 countries/regions

On December 1, we gained 6 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,228. We thank all involved in promoting expanded membership for their invaluable support. Below is the breakdown of the new members.

Country/Region	New Members	Total No.	Remarks
Austria	Graz and Schörfling am Attersee	120	
France	Cazeneuve	170	Thanks to efforts by Malakoff, a Vice President and Lead City.
Germany	Birkenwerder	843	Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City.
Mexico	Ciudad Juárez	88	
Ukraine	Nova Ushytsia	6	Thanks to efforts by Hersbruck, a member city in Germany.



List of new members (PDF):

https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/file-2211-newmembers2212_en.pdf

Membership by country (PDF):

https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/monthly/file-07_membership_by_country_en.pdf

Help us achieve 10,000 member cities!

Mayors for Peace aims to achieve **10,000 member cities** to foster international public support for the realization of a world without nuclear weapons. 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 below.

The document pack is available in 10 different languages: Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

Letters of request to join Mayors for Peace and document pack

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/about-us/resources/#recruit>

Your continued cooperation is highly appreciated!

Request to implement initiatives outlined in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan

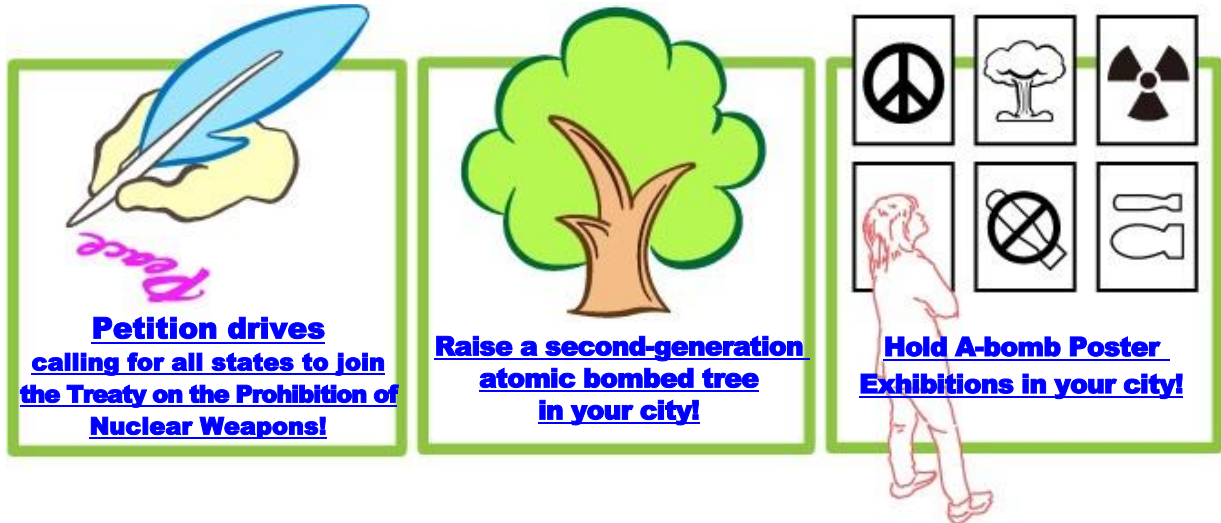
At the 12th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace held online in July last year, we adopted our new Action Plan (2021–2025). Together, let us continue our utmost efforts toward our ultimate goal of realizing lasting world peace. Please implement initiatives outlined in the Action Plan within your own municipality or regional group.

🔗 Mayors for Peace Action Plan (PDF):

https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/file-PX_Vision_Action_Plan_en.pdf

🔗 Initiatives implemented under the Action Plan:

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/visions/initiatives/>



Call for input: examples of peace education initiatives

The Mayors for Peace Secretariat has been seeking examples of peace education initiatives conducted by any organization (city government/school/NGO, etc.) in Mayors for Peace member cities. 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:

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/visions/initiatives/edu-examples/>

Peace-related news from Hiroshima

(Provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

As 2022 nears an end, it must be said that this year was challenging for those of us earnestly hoping for a world free from nuclear weapons amid a host of problems facing the international community.

In June, the First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) was held. That gathering represented the first milestone toward enhancing the effectiveness of the new treaty. Nuclear weapons states and nations depending on the U.S. “nuclear umbrella” have yet to join the treaty, but several non-member countries participated in the meeting as observers. Regrettably, Japan continues to turn its back on the TPNW.

In August, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference was convened. However, adoption of the draft final document, which truly was the product of compromises made by all parties during the four weeks of negotiations, in particular on steps to achieve nuclear disarmament, failed due to opposition from Russia.

Above all else, people around the world joined together to express their outrage against the war in Ukraine, which began in February and has led to the loss of innocent lives including children. The survivors of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, while haunted by memories from 77 years ago, have fervently opposed the war and warned against yet another use of nuclear weapons.

Such circumstances give the impression that the road to nuclear abolition is long and arduous, but quitting is not an option. Against that backdrop, the Chugoku Shimbun has begun a new feature titled “Hiroshima Voices: No Nukes, No War.” Heartfelt messages from A-bomb survivors and the people of Hiroshima are communicated through the series of articles and videos. We encourage our readers to access the content and share it with like-minded people.

May 2023 bring everyone peace, joy, and happiness.

Please access the following websites and read our peace-related news.

Hiroshima Voices: “No Nukes, No War” Sadao Ogasawara, 95, Ouchi lacquerware artist and A-bomb survivor, Yamaguchi City

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=125235>

Five US scientists look over A-bombed trees and meet with Hiroshima City mayor

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=126329>

A-bombing exhibit in Poland displays collections from Hiroshima and Nagasaki Cities

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=126327>

At ICAN Academy, young people make presentations and exchange ideas on abolition of nuclear weapons

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=125718>

Survivor’s Stories: Sueko Fukuda, 82, Asakita Ward, Hiroshima – Lost eldest sister and thrown into dire straits after the war

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=126333>

Mayors for Peace Official Social Media Accounts

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



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



 The latest and archived issues of Mayors for Peace News Flash are available at:
<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/news/newsflashes/>

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

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