



Mayors for Peace News Flash

February 2023 / No.158

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

8,237 cities
in **166** countries and regions
(as of February 1, 2023)

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

Check our website and follow us on social media:

Website 

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

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“Like” and **share** our Facebook and Twitter posts to help spread awareness of our mission.


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Mayors for Peace issues “Joint Appeal on the invasion of Ukraine as it approaches the one-year mark”

On February 14, 2023, now that the Russian invasion of Ukraine has been protracted and the risk of creating another Hiroshima and Nagasaki is looming, Mayors for Peace issued to the UN member states, the UN Secretary-General, and other parties a Joint Appeal strongly raising its voice in protest to state that nuclear weapons must never be used and call for their total elimination, and declaring its determination to stand in solidarity to demand a swift end to this agonizing war through dialogue.

On the same day, Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki handed the Joint Appeal to the national representatives of the G7 countries in Japan, when visiting their embassies to appeal to their leaders to visit the atomic-bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

 Mayors for Peace Joint Appeal on the invasion of Ukraine as it approaches the one-year mark:

What must be done to prevent a third nuclear attack (Mayors for Peace website):

https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/file-2302-MfP_Joint_Appeal_1yr_Ukraine_war_E.pdf

Mayors for Peace Secretariat welcomes a new Secretary General [February 2023]

On January 31, Mr. Takashi Koizumi stepped down as Secretary General of Mayors for Peace.

On February 1, Mr. Takehiro Kagawa, former Ambassador of Japan to Egypt, assumed office as the new Secretary General. With Secretary General Kagawa, Mayors for Peace continues to strive to enhance its initiatives. Your ongoing kind support and cooperation are highly appreciated.

[Greetings from the New Secretary General]

My name is Takehiro Kagawa, and I am pleased to announce that I have succeeded Mr. Takashi Koizumi as Secretary General of Mayors for Peace. With its origins in the wishes of the A-bombed city of Hiroshima, Mayors for Peace is engaged in various activities in Japan and abroad to carry on Hiroshima's legacy and promote peace in the world. It is a great honor for me to assume the important responsibility of Secretary General of Mayors for Peace. I will make my utmost efforts to contribute to its further development with the help of the many people supporting the organization and its activities. I would like to contribute to the promotion and development of the initiatives of Mayors for Peace aimed to realize a world without nuclear weapons, realize safe and resilient cities, and promote the culture of peace.

Looking at the current international situation, after Russia's invasion of Ukraine last February, a serious humanitarian crisis involving civilians has been prolonged, and the risk of the use of nuclear weapons is said to be the highest in the post-Cold War world. Despite the positive signs of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, we must recognize that the situation regarding the abolition of nuclear weapons has become even more difficult. Nuclear disarmament by the nuclear weapon states has made no progress, and nuclear proliferation is a serious concern. However, no matter how difficult it may be to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons, we must never give up on this goal. I am convinced that the power of solidarity and the mobilization of the voices of civil society is now more important than ever before, and not only from the perspective of national security in terms of nuclear deterrence. In that light, the solidarity of the members of Mayors for Peace is becoming increasingly important.

Since this is my first time to work in Hiroshima, please help me and work together for the better future of Hiroshima and for prevailing peace in the world.

Takehiro Kagawa

Mayors for Peace Secretariat hosts an intern from Manchester

[January 11-25, 2023]



Ms. Keiko Ogura, Atomic-bomb Survivor (left) and
Mr. Outram, Intern from Manchester City (right)



With students from Hiroshima Municipal Funairi High School

From January 11 to 25, 2023, the Mayors for Peace Secretariat welcomed as an intern Mr. Richard Outram from the Mayors for Peace UK and Ireland Chapter at Manchester City Council. Manchester is the Vice President City of Mayors for Peace and the Lead City of the UK and Ireland Chapter.

During the internship, Mr. Outram engaged in the Secretariat's activities, such as public relations activities on social media and collection of petitions calling for all states to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) at the earliest date. Furthermore, Mr. Outram deepened his understanding of the realities of the atomic bombing by visiting the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and listening to Atomic-bomb Survivor Testimony. He also visited Hiroshima Municipal Funairi High School and made a presentation about Manchester and its peace initiatives.

Upon completion of the internship program, Mr. Outram made the following comment:

"I enjoyed my internship immensely. It was great to get to know the Mayors for Peace team much better and to find out more about the work they do.

"The program also provided me with opportunities to meet the Mayor and senior staff, tour the A-bomb sites, meet the survivors (the Hibakusha) and the volunteers who keep their testimony alive, see the mother trees which survived the atomic bombing, speak to a class of students at a high school and visit one of the trams which survived. The Japanese people are all wonderfully welcoming and friendly and the culture, music, and food are inspiring.

"As a result of my visit, I have been inspired to work more closely with the Mayors for Peace team when I return home to achieve our common goal of nuclear disarmament."

Member city recruitment model case

Mayors for Peace aims to expand its membership to 10,000 in cooperation with the existing members to foster international public support to realize a world without nuclear weapons.

To further promote your city's recruitment activities, this February Issue showcases successful activities by the City of Évora, Lead City of the Portuguese Chapter. Évora's recruitment activities led two cities in Portugal, Mourão and Tomar, to join the Mayors for Peace network on February 1, 2023.

Évora's efforts to expand the membership in Portugal and promote the Culture of Peace

Report by Ms. Paula Helena Santos, the City of Évora

The Municipality of Évora, appointed in September 2022 as a Lead City responsible for the Portuguese Chapter of Mayors for Peace, has been actively inviting other Portuguese municipalities to join the Mayors for Peace network. The city created a mailing list of all 308 Portuguese municipalities and shared the Mayors for Peace document pack in Portuguese, accompanied by a letter from Mayor of Évora, encouraging them to join the network. In addition, in the annual meeting of the Movement of Portuguese Municipalities for Peace, which took place in Seixal City, Portugal last November, Évora distributed to all the representatives an information dossier about Mayors for Peace.


Évora is also working on disseminating the theme of peace among the children and young people in Évora, in accordance with one of the three objectives of the PX Vision, "Promote a Culture of Peace." The municipality decided to choose the theme "Évora, A City of Peace" for two activities planned for 2023, involving children and youngsters. The first activity is "Schools Carnival Parade." It will be performed on 17 February, involving all the pre-schools and basic schools in Évora. The second is "The Month of Youth" in March. The month will see a vast number of activities involving all the local youth organisations, such as student associations, universities, local institutions, and sports clubs. All activities developed by the involved partners in these events will be related to the theme of peace.



Mayors for Peace membership dossier in Portuguese

Photo: courtesy of the City of Évora

We hope this model case inspires your city to invite non-member cities in your country/region, your sister cities, and any other cities you have relationship with to join Mayors for Peace. In your recruitment activities, you are always welcome to use the "document pack" as the City of Évora did. The document pack is a set of recruitment documents including the letter of request to join Mayors for Peace, and available in ten languages on the Mayors for Peace website.

 Letters of request to join Mayors for Peace and document pack (Mayors for Peace website): <https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/about-us/resources/#recruit>

Please share your city's successful recruiting activity

The Mayors for Peace Secretariat is looking for model cases of recruiting new members. We would like to share successful cases in the News Flash to further promote member cities' recruitment efforts. Please contact the Secretariat to share your experience!

Email: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

Award ceremonies celebrate winners of the Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” 2022

In order to expand peace education efforts in its member cities, Mayors for Peace has been holding an annual Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” for children living in all member cities. For the 2022 competition, as described in the January Issue, a total of 8,644 artworks were submitted to 86 member cities in 15 countries and 15 artworks won awards.

To celebrate the award winners, mayors and school officials held award ceremonies. Award winners were congratulated and handed certificates and commemorative gifts.



Hiroshima, Japan



Komae, Japan

We hope that the Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” provide children with an opportunity to think about peace through creating artworks. This year, we plan to hold the Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” 2023, and we look forward to your city’s participation!

 Selection results: Mayors for Peace Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” 2022:
<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/news/2022/post-221227-2/>

Member city activities

● Cervia, Italy

Online meeting for primary school students with Mrs. Yoshiko Kajimoto, Hiroshima atomic bomb survivor

Report by Ms. Bruna Rondoni, the City of Cervia, Italy

On January 17, 2023, the City of Cervia, in collaboration with the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, organized an online meeting between pupils of Michelangelo Buonarroti Primary School and Mrs. Yoshiko Kajimoto, survivor of the Hiroshima atomic bombing.

The students at the M. Buonarroti Primary School reported as follows:

“On January 17, 2023, we children of the 5th class of the Michelangelo Buonarroti School made a connection via Zoom with the city of Hiroshima, and the hibakusha YOSHIKO KAJIMOTO, a lady who survived the explosion of the atomic bomb on August 6, 1945, was waiting for us.



Photo: courtesy of the City of Cervia

“The witness told us in detail a dramatic experience of her life that has profoundly marked the history of humanity. She described her state of mind and the strength she had to survive and find her family again.

“At the end of the story some of us asked questions and told the lady about how we children take care of “Pacifico,” a Ginkgo Biloba plant which represents the symbol of peace and which comes directly from Hiroshima.

“Hibakusha’s message reached our hearts directly and taught us that we can all fight so that these episodes that only bring hatred and destruction never happen again.

“It was a very emotional moment for us to have lived such a special day.”

● Montreal, Canada

The protection of biodiversity: a powerful tool to improve international relations, while contributing to world peace.

Report by Ms. Lucie Lavoie, the City of Montreal

The 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held in Montreal on December 7–19, 2022. It brought together national, as well as regional and city governments from around the world. The Parties delegates agreed to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, a historic global landmark to safeguard nature and halt and reverse biodiversity loss, putting nature on a path to recovery by 2050.



Photo: courtesy of the City of Montréal

As host city of the UN CBD Secretariat, Montreal invited cities across the world to make a commitment to protecting biodiversity.

In less than a month, 47 cities from all across the globe, from the 5 continents, committed to the “Montreal Pledge,” putting forth 15 tangible actions towards pursuing and accelerating their efforts to preserve ecosystems. They include: reducing threats to biodiversity, sharing the benefits of biodiversity, solutions, governance, management and education, which align with:

- [Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework \(CDB\)](#);
- [ICLEI Cities with Nature](#), an international platform highlighting the commitments and initiatives undertaken by cities to promote greening and biodiversity protection; and
- [C40 Urban Nature Accelerator](#), a commitment by cities that are actively supporting nature and climate resilience.

If your city hasn’t already done so, we invite you to sign the [Montreal Pledge](#).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Y3xzhGhbjo&t=2s>

● **Malakoff, France**

The City of Malakoff gathers to celebrate the 2nd anniversary of the TPNW entry into force

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

In partnership with the “Mouvement pour la paix” and local associations, the City of Malakoff gathered in front of the City Hall in order to celebrate the second anniversary of the entry into force of the TPNW (Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons). Mayor of Malakoff and Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Jacqueline Belhomme, followed by Fatiha Alaudat, Deputy Mayor Delegate for Culture of Peace and Aurélien Saintoul Deputy District (Parliament), reminded in her speech the importance of the treaty and called the President of the French Republic to sign and ratify it. As Mayor of one of the first French member cities of Mayors for Peace, she stated, “We do not cultivate peace by preparing war, and we must stop investing billions so necessary for the people and the planet!”



Photo: courtesy of AFCDP–Mayors for Peace France

● **Basel, Switzerland**

Basel-Stadt (City) sponsors Basel Peace Forum and PACEY 2023 Awards

Report by Mr. Alyn Ware, Director of the Basel Peace Office, Basel-Stadt Liaison for Mayors for Peace

As one of its main activities as a member of Mayors for Peace, Basel-Stadt (City) cosponsors an annual Basel Peace Forum and the annual “Peace, nuclear Abolition and Climate Engaged Youth (PACEY) Awards.”

[Basel Peace Forum 2023](#) took place from January 19 to 20, and included an [Inter-generational Session on Peace, Climate Action and Nuclear Disarmament](#). Speakers included Philippe Rio, President of Mayors for Peace France, and Lukas Ott, President’s Office, Basel-Stadt Kanton, as well as parliamentary and religious leaders and youth campaigners. See [event report](#) or watch the [video recording](#) on YouTube. Read Mayor Rio’s presentation (in [French](#) or [English](#)).

The [PACEY 2023 Award Ceremony](#) took place on January 21. The [finalists](#)—nine exciting youth projects out of 80 nominated projects—presented their projects after which the online participants voted to determine the [three winners](#). 300 people participated in the event with nearly 200 voting. Each of the winning projects receives €5000 plus organizational support for their project. Watch the [event video recording](#) on YouTube.

The annual Intergenerational Session and PACEY Awards are organized by Basel Peace Office and Youth Fusion, with financial support from Basel-Stadt (City), Dr. Andreas Nidecker (President of Basel Peace Office) and the Reformed Evangelical Church of Basel-Stadt.



PACEY Award 2023 winners
Photos: courtesy of Basel Peace Office/Basel-Stadt

Regional chapter activities

● Japan Chapter

Peace Education Webinar “Peace Activity Reports by Youth”

On February 4, Mayors for Peace Japan Chapter held a peace education webinar titled “Peace Activity Reports by Youth.” Young people living in Japanese member cities reported their peace activities focusing on succeeding the experiences of those exposed to the atomic bombings or World War II as well as their wish for peace. This webinar was live-streamed via Zoom.

From 8 member cities or organizations including Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the webinar gained the participation of 13 youths engaging in peace activities all around Japan. They reported their own activities, answered questions from the audience, and, in a session to exchange ideas, actively discussed how they could involve those unfamiliar with peace activities and boost movements for peace.




● French Chapter

French Chapter appeals to the French government to become an observer at the 2nd Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW

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

On January 23, 2023, a day after the second anniversary of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), AFCDRP–Mayors for Peace France issued a letter of appeal to the President of the French Republic, calling for the French government’s attendance at the second Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW as an observer. Furthermore, the letter expresses hope that the G7 Summit in Hiroshima this year provides the French President with an opportunity to take full measures against disastrous effects of nuclear weapons.

 Letter from AFCDRP–Mayors for Peace France to the French President (AFCDRP website):

<https://afcdp.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Lettre-president-TIAN-2023.pdf>



Image: courtesy of AFCDRP–Mayors for Peace France

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: 8,237 cities in 166 countries/regions

On February 1, we gained 3 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,237. 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
Germany	Horb am Neckar	846	Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City.
Portugal	Mourão and Tomar	43	Thanks to efforts by Évora, an Executive and Lead City (see page 4).



List of new members (PDF):

https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/file-2301-newmembers2302_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

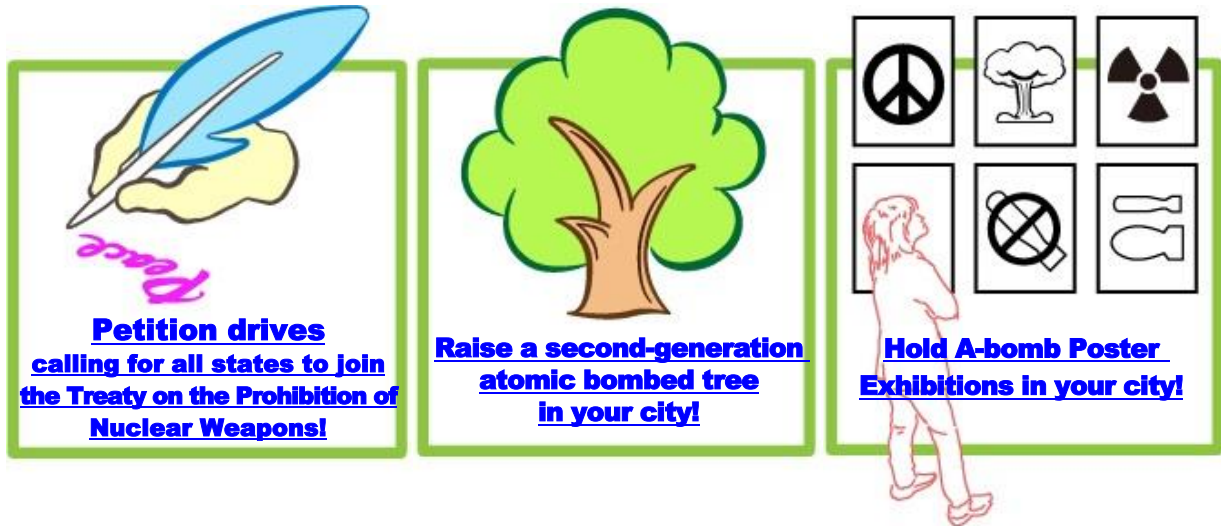
At the 12th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace held online in July 2021, we adopted the latest Action Plan (2021–2025). Together, let us continue our utmost efforts toward our ultimate goal of realizing lasting world peace. Please implement initiatives outlined in the Action Plan within your own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

🔗 Call for Input on the Mayors for Peace website:

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

A closer look at the “World’s Fissile Material Inventory in 2022” Part 3 Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA)

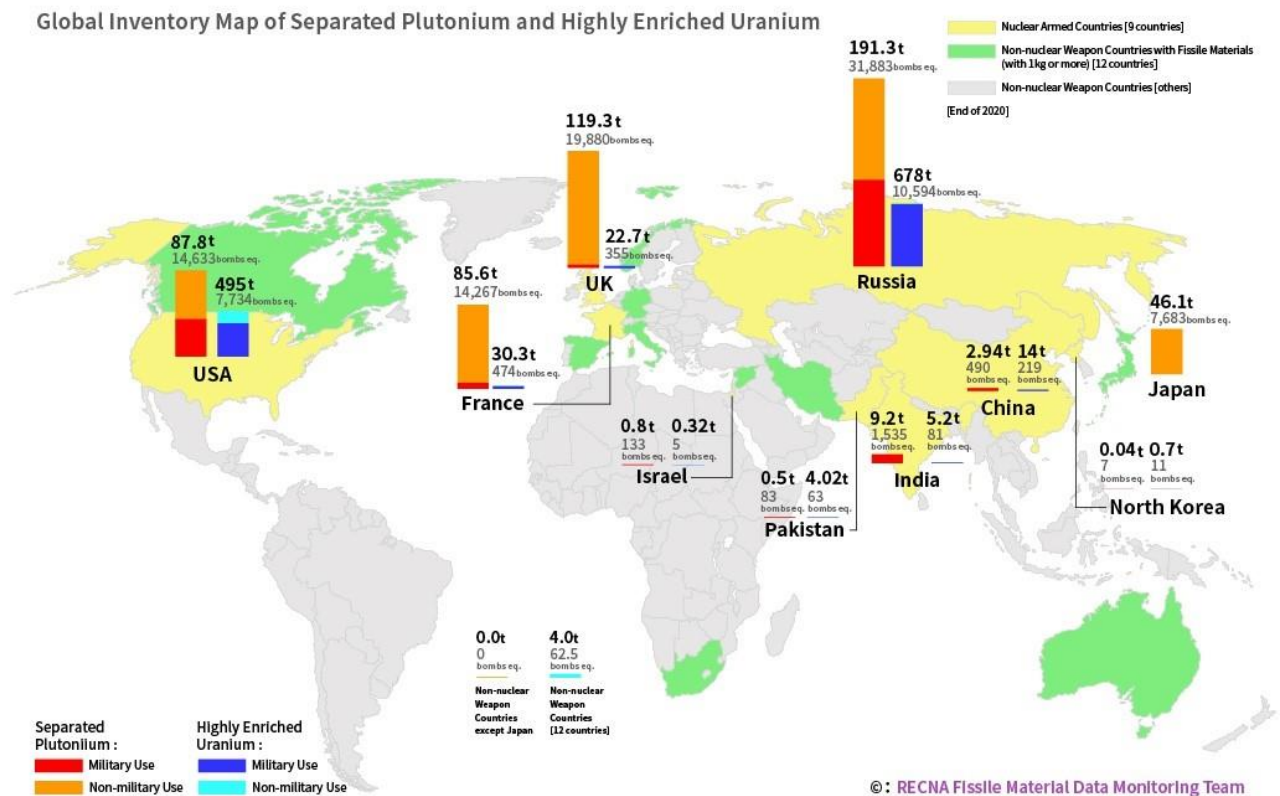


Image: courtesy of RECNA

As mentioned in the previous article, highly enriched uranium (HEU) or plutonium are materials essential for producing nuclear weapons. Facilities for uranium enrichment or reprocessing—chemical treatment of spent fuels to separate plutonium—are indispensable for obtaining these fissile materials. Even some of non-nuclear weapon states possess either or both of these facilities for peaceful use of nuclear energy. Having even small-scale uranium enrichment or reprocessing facilities—even if these facilities are operated under the safeguard agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)—could raise the risk of nuclear proliferation by giving a country the capability to produce fissile materials for military purposes.

Indeed, the global plutonium stockpile accumulated through reprocessing for civilian use is increasing. The amount of civilian plutonium as of the end of 2020 is 395 tons, an increase of 5 tons from last year. Compared to 2010, civilian plutonium has increased by 70 tons, and halting this upward trend is a global challenge.

Japan is the largest owner of plutonium among non-nuclear weapon states. As of the end of 2020, Japan has 46.1 tons of plutonium, which is 99% of all non-nuclear weapons states’ stockpiles. 46.1 tons of plutonium is equivalent to 7,683 Nagasaki atomic bombs (assuming each one contains 6 kg of plutonium). This is the fifth largest amount of plutonium after Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and France, and accounts for 8% of the world’s plutonium.

For more detailed information, please visit RECNA’s website (<https://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/recna/en-topics/41356>).

Peace-related news from Hiroshima

(Provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

The summit meeting of the G7 (Group of Seven industrialized nations), scheduled to be held in Hiroshima in May, is now less than 100 days away. To what extent will the issue of nuclear weapons be discussed at the summit? What impact from the heightened sense of alert will the gathering have on the lives of the public? What effects can be expected from holding the meeting? The upcoming Hiroshima Summit will be convened as the world faces innumerable problems. February 24, later this month, marks one year since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Now is the time to urge leaders of the countries that possess or rely on nuclear weapons to look squarely at the reality of the devastation caused by the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and the horrific circumstances every living person underneath the mushroom cloud was forced to endure. As a representative of the media, we aim to calmly capture this globally important event from the perspective of Hiroshima's people.

The Chugoku Shimbun is working to develop multifaceted coverage of the Hiroshima Summit, posting the results on the Hiroshima Peace Media Center website in both Japanese and English. We have also launched an enhanced portal site that aggregates all the summit articles in one place. Our hope is to have the online information assist people in the lead up to the Hiroshima Summit in May.

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

Message to Hiroshima Summit: Yohei Kono, former speaker of Japan's House of Representatives—Nuclear abolition only path forward

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=128280>

WFC to conduct survey, explore how to preserve materials at U.S. college related to Reynolds, founder of WFC

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=128303>

A-bomb survivors collect signatures in Hiroshima for ratification of TPNW two years after treaty went into effect

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=127841>

Manga story of the A-bombed city newspaper

https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?page_id=127116

@100 days until Hiroshima Summit: Motoujina

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=128278>

Hiroshima Summit, May 19-21: Chugoku Shimbun sets up portal page to provide quick and easy access to news and life information

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=128274>

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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