



Mayors for Peace News Flash

July 2023 / No.163

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

8,265 cities

in **166** countries and regions

(as of July 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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<https://twitter.com/Mayors4Peace>

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

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Invitation for the Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” 2023

In order to expand peace education efforts in its over 8,200 member cities in 166 countries and regions around the world, Mayors for Peace holds a children’s art competition on the theme of peace, for children from 6 to 15 years old in all these cities.

Categories: [Category 1] 6-10 year olds [Category 2] 11-15 year olds

Theme: What Peace Means to Me

Number of applications allowed per city: Up to 5 artworks for each category


Submission Deadline: 5:00 PM (Japan Standard Time), October 31, 2023

Submission: Via Google Forms: <https://forms.gle/X4FMTDq7VXk9YDss7>

To ensure that submissions are only received from member cities, the form is password protected. The password was emailed to respective member cities. Please contact the Secretariat for any inquiries.

Note: If it is difficult to submit artworks via the form, member cities can submit them by email. Please send the scanned artworks and application form, along with a cover sheet, to the Secretariat.

Inquiries: Email the Secretariat: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

 Details of the Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” 2023 (Mayors for Peace website): <https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/visions/initiatives/arts/>

Request for payment of the 2023 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 16 USD/15 Euro as of March 27, 2023) 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.

A request for payment of the 2023 membership fee was sent to each city by email on April 4. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

 Request for the 2023 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee (Mayors for Peace website): <https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/about-us/joins/fees/>

Member city activities

● Luzern, Switzerland

Inauguration of the memorial at the Speuzerbrunnen, Luzern: Ginkgo trees and a memorial stone for disarmament and peace

Report by Ms. Claudia Willi, the City of Luzern, Switzerland



Photos: courtesy of the City of Luzern

Near the Speuzerbrunnen on Schirmerstrasse in Luzern, the Memorial for Disarmament and Peace was inaugurated on June 2, 2023. It consists of three ginkgo trees, which had grown from seeds of a mother tree that survived the terrible atomic bombing of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, and a memorial stone with plaque. Mayor of Luzern, Beat Züsli, was pleased to welcome the Minister of the Japanese Embassy in Bern, Masahiro Nakata, and the Attaché for Culture, Tsuyoshi Kawahara, to this solemn occasion. About fifty people attended the simple ceremony, which was musically accompanied by a horn quartet of the Youth Wind Orchestra.

In the inauguration ceremony, Mayor Beat Züsli of Luzern stated, “Our city is proud to be part of Mayors for Peace and to make our contribution to the global movement for peace. By placing this memorial stone and planting these trees, we are sending a clear message: Nuclear weapons will never be acceptable. We are committed to a future where security and peace are top priorities.”

The City of Luzern is endeavoring to ensure that local tourist organizations will include a visit to the memorial in their guided tours of the city. Likewise, the City of Luzern will encourage local schools to visit the site together with students as part of teaching units on war and peace in order to deal with the consequences of nuclear weapons violence.

● Yzeure, France

An elected official from Yzeure and the citizens’ peace group organize a public debate on the government’s move to modernize France’s nuclear arsenal

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

On Thursday, June 8, 2023, Laëtitia Planche, an elected representative of Yzeure, AFCD RP–Mayors for Peace member city, together with the citizens’ peace group, the Moulins “Peace” collective, organized a public debate in Avermes, Allier. The topic of this debate was the 2024–30 French defense budget announced by President Macron, which aims to modernize France’s nuclear arsenal. More than forty participants took part in a lively debate that highlighted the need to raise awareness about this move towards nuclear development, which contradicts international norms against nuclear weapons, environmental goals, and human needs. Councillor Planche explained to the audience the goal of promoting the culture of peace and the importance of city diplomacy in voicing opposition to the use of nuclear weapons. Furthermore, she called for the development of the Mayors for Peace network in France through the peace citizens’ movement.



Photo: courtesy of AFCD RP–Mayors for Peace France

Regional chapter activities

● UK and Ireland Chapter

Mr Hiro Shimai receives survivor seeds from Hiroshima

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

UK/Ireland Chapter Secretary Richard Outram was pleased to post seeds harvested from the ginkgo tree which survived the Hiroshima atomic bombing to nine Mayors for Peace towns and cities in the UK.

Mr Outram had the chance to visit the survivor tree located in the Shukkeien Garden in person whilst he was on an internship with the Hiroshima Mayors for Peace Secretariat in January and vowed on his return to promote greater take-up of the kind offer of seeds from Mayors for Peace President, Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima.

Amongst the recipients was the very aptly named Curator of the Glasgow Botanic Gardens, Mr Hiro Shimai, who will be caring for the seeds allocated to Glasgow City and Renfrewshire Councils until they are saplings and ready for planting.

The seeds for Glasgow were sown on the 19 June, and those for Renfrewshire on the 21 June. Mr Shimai reports that one ginkgo seed of Renfrewshire has germinated (photo), and the rest will germinate soon.

The take-up of seeds will be promoted again in the autumn after a ginkgo sapling is planted in Manchester's Heaton Park by the Lord Mayor to mark the UN International Day of Peace.



Photo: courtesy of Mr Hiro Shimai

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: 8,265 cities in 166 countries/regions

On July 1, we gained 6 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,265. 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	Tönisvorst	855	Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City.
Pakistan	Turbat	14	
Portugal	Soure	47	Thanks to efforts by Évora, an Executive and Lead City.
US	Salem (OR) and Toledo (OH)	225	Thanks to efforts by a resident of Salem and Veterans for Peace, a peace organization of military veterans.
Viet Nam	Bac Ninh (Province)	7	



List of new members (PDF):

https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/file-2306-newmembers2307_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 11 different languages: Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese (BZ), Portuguese (EU), 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:

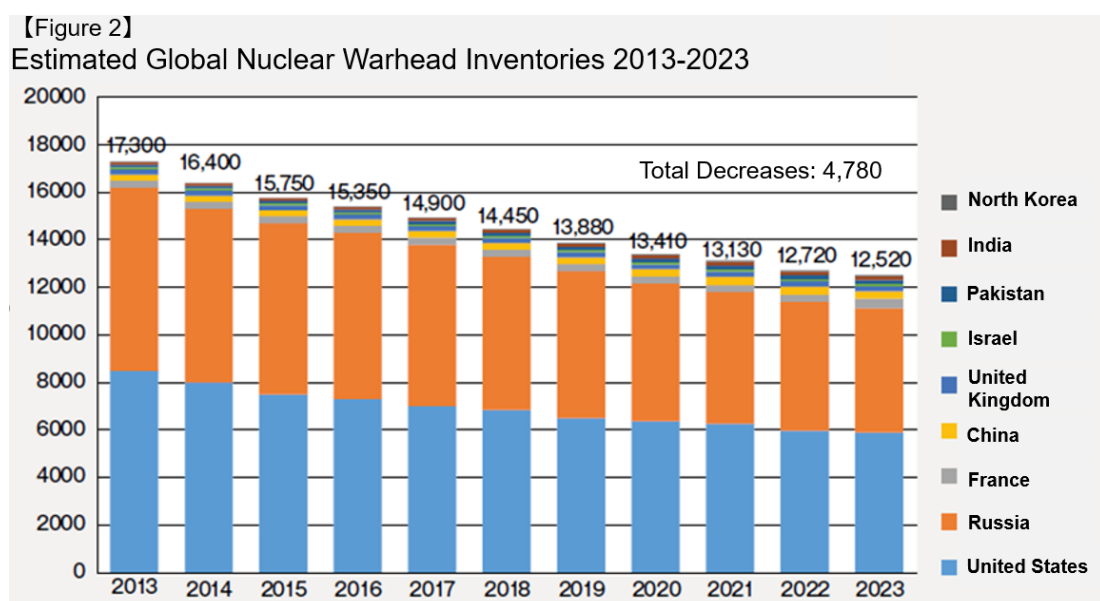
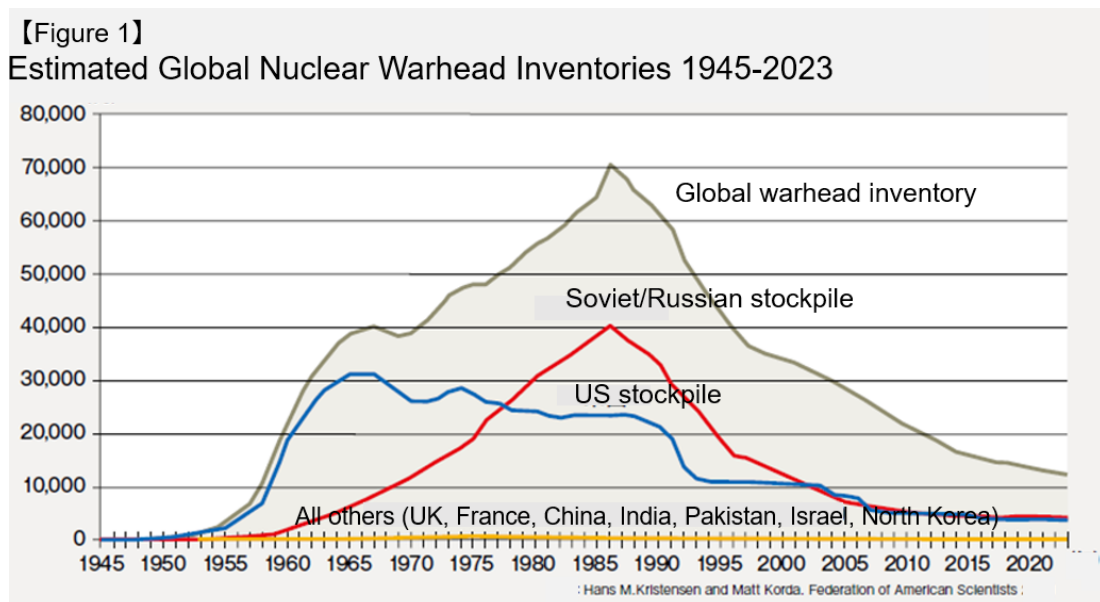
<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/visions/initiatives/edu-examples/>

A closer look at the “World’s Nuclear Warheads Count in 2023” Part 1: Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA)

As we introduced in the last issue, as of June 2023, the total number of nuclear warheads in the world is estimated at 12,520. The possessors are: United States (5,244), Russia (5,890), China (410), France (290), United Kingdom (225), India (164), Pakistan (170), Israel (90), and North Korea (40). Five of these countries (the U.S., Russia, France, the U.K., and China) are defined by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as Nuclear Weapon States. India, Pakistan, and Israel possess nuclear weapons outside of the NPT framework. North Korea declared its withdrawal from the NPT in 2003 and proceeded to possess nuclear weapons.

The ‘G7 Leaders’ Hiroshima Vision on Nuclear Disarmament,’ issued during the G7 Summit held in Hiroshima in May 2023, stated, ‘(t)he overall decline in global nuclear arsenals achieved since the end of the Cold War must continue and not be reversed.’ Indeed, the number of nuclear warheads, which reached nearly 70,000 at its peak in 1987, has been significantly reduced through bilateral treaties between the United States and Russia and unilateral reductions [Figure 1]. Looking at the developments over the past ten years since this poster was introduced in 2013, the total number of nuclear warheads has been reduced by nearly 4,800 [Figure 2].

However, substantive nuclear arms expansion is still ongoing. We will explain this in detail in the following issue.



Images: Courtesy of RECNA

Peace-related news from Hiroshima

(provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

Hiroshima is set to commemorate the 78th year since the 1945 atomic bombing of the city by the U.S. military. Ambassadors and government officials from numerous countries as well as visitors from Japan and overseas will attend the city's Peace Memorial Ceremony. What was the appearance of the city's incinerated ruins at the time? How did the city recover after the bombing? What hardships were encountered in the process of reconstruction? We hope visitors to Hiroshima contemplate such issues as they offer a silent prayer to the victims of the atomic bombing. The people of Hiroshima certainly share the same sentiment about the lives lost in the city so many years ago.

Right now, the special exhibition *Hiroshima no Kioku* (in English, 'Memories of Hiroshima') is being held at the Hiroshima Izumi Museum of Art, located in the city's Nishi Ward. On display are about 320 items from Japan and overseas that communicate the story of Hiroshima both before and after the war, including paintings that capture the pre-war cityscape, overseas newspaper articles published immediately after the bombing, and photography collections published after the war that reveal the devastation caused by the bombing.

Ken Domon (1909–1990) continued to photograph people whose bodies were scarred by the atomic bombing. Reproductions of notes of his recording of the topic are also exhibited at the museum. "When I went to Hiroshima, I was in complete shock...I felt a sense of anger that made me want to grind my teeth," wrote Mr. Domon. "I always try to maintain an international viewpoint in all the work I do." His handwritten notes clearly display his determination as a photographer.

"Too much is unknown" about the reality of the atomic bombing at that time. Those words, recorded by Mr. Domon during his lifetime, are described as being the underlying theme of the museum's special exhibition. During the post-war occupation, media reports and speech were censored, making it nearly impossible to communicate from the A-bombed city any information about the tragedy of the bombing. The exhibition displays a variety of items from that time, including both Japanese and American magazines and other publications. "Too much is unknown" remains a serious issue in our present age.

The exhibition runs through August 27 (museum is closed on Mondays, except for July 17, when its doors will remain open).

For related articles, please see the following.

Special exhibition of preserved memories of A-bombed Hiroshima to begin at Izumi Museum of Art, including photos by Ken Domon, media materials

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=134446>

Striving to fill voids in Hiroshima—1,002nd A-bomb victim's remains returned, for first time in two years, by A-bomb Memorial Mound to surviving family

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=134404>

Vivid account of A-bomb tragedy: Seigo Nishioka, Hatsukaichi City, publishes book on A-bombing experience to inform people of horror of atomic bombing

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=134400>

Japan Confederation of A- and H-bomb Sufferers Organizations adopts special resolution at general meeting, calling for "not nuclear deterrence but nuclear abolition"

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=133751>

Average age of 113,649 A-bomb Survivor's Certificate holders exceeds 85 years, according to Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare data

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=134406>

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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