



# Mayors for Peace News Flash

September 2023 / No.165

## Mayors for Peace Member Cities

**8,287** cities

in **166** countries and regions

(as of September 1, 2023)

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>

**X (Twitter)** 

<https://x.com/Mayors4Peace>

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

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## Mayors for Peace joins Hiroshima Peace Song Project

The Hiroshima Peace Song Project seeks to convey a strong message of peace to the world from Hiroshima, a city that symbolizes peace, by translating the lyrics of the Hiroshima Peace Song into English and creating a new musical arrangement for the song. Utako Toyama, a winner of the inaugural Hiroshima Award for Music at the first Hiroshima Festival in August 2022, directed the translation and musical arrangement in collaboration with Songs for World Peace, a global initiative co-founded by Toyama herself.

A video of the English version of the Hiroshima Peace Song was released on September 21, the International Day of Peace. This video features President Matsui, Mayor of Hiroshima, along with representatives from Executive Cities of Mayors for Peace including Hannover (Germany), Granollers (Spain), Bangkok (Thailand), and Cervia (Italy). The video is available on the following website.

 Hiroshima Peace Song Project (The City of Hiroshima official YouTube channel): <https://youtu.be/k4p7ZOZ8MOo>



Scene from the video



Representatives from Executive Cities in the video

### About The Hiroshima Peace Song

The Hiroshima Peace Song was composed as an expression of the will to make Hiroshima into a cornerstone for world peace, and completed for the Peace Festival in August 1947. Public lyric submissions were held by the Peace Festival Association (led by Chair Shinso Hamai, then Mayor of Hiroshima) and of these submissions, Mr. Yoshio Shigezono's lyrics were chosen and set to music by Mr. Minoru Yamamoto. The song was performed with pride by a chorus during the very first Peace Festival, held with dignity on August 6 of the same year. Currently, the Hiroshima Peace Song continues to live on, and is performed each year at the Peace Memorial Ceremony.

### About the Hiroshima Festival

Held every other year, the Hiroshima Festival aims to provide a wide range of opportunities for visitors to Hiroshima to enjoy a diverse range of high-quality music and art, promote the culture of peace and share in the will for peace, revitalize the cultural and artistic activities in Hiroshima, and generate city vitality while promoting tourism. The second Hiroshima Festival will be held in August 2024.

 Hiroshima Festival website (in Japanese): <https://hiroshimafest.org/>

## 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

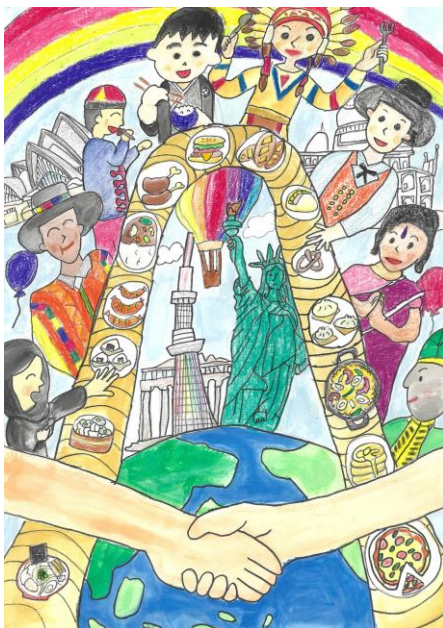
**Submission:** Via Google Forms: <https://forms.gle/X4FMTDq7VXk9YDss7>

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](mailto: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/>



Artworks winning the Mayors for Peace President Award 2022 (left) and the Mayors for Peace President Award 2021 (above)

## 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/>

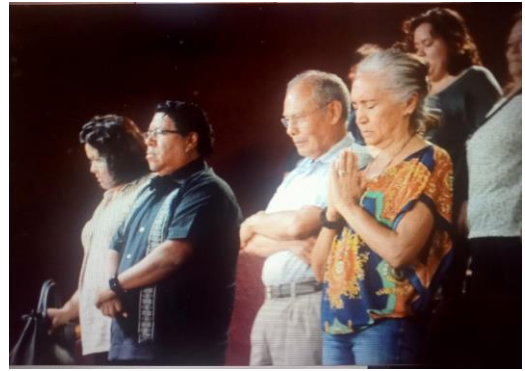
## Member city activities

### ● Cuernavaca, Mexico

#### Cuernavaca, Mexico Remembers Hiroshima

Report by Mr. Ernesto Takayanagui García, Municipality of Cuernavaca, Mexico

On July 22nd, 29th, and August 5th, Cuernavaca, Mexico, commemorated the 78th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima City by organizing the Peace Movie Round Table Sessions. The sessions aimed to raise public awareness about peace. They welcomed the participation of local residents, commentators, filmmakers, academics, and city government personnel.



Photos: courtesy of the Municipality of Cuernavaca



Mayor Salgado of Cuernavaca

On August 5th, Mayor José Luis Urióstegui Salgado of Cuernavaca reaffirmed the city's commitment to peace. The participants observed a minute of silence in solidarity with Hiroshima in this event intended to help pass down the unforgettable history lesson.

Other participants in this initiative included the Sister Cities Council of Cuernavaca, the Economics Academy of Morelos State Autonomous University, and two Japanese language schools: the Meguro School and the Kame House School in Montevideo, Uruguay.

The event also featured a peace message from Mayor Kazuhiko Ueshima of Minoh City, Japan, which has strengthened the sister city relationship between Cuernavaca and Minoh. The round table movie sessions served as a platform to reflect on the importance of international peace and worldwide solidarity.

🔗 For details, see Municipality of Cuernavaca official facebook page (in Spanish): [https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid0W4zBJdKxap74p88biDJ76Rxf9UeXcYHoUozcsqELuVsJntbfEyjEtEHnvEGNK6P2l&id=100064589324029](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0W4zBJdKxap74p88biDJ76Rxf9UeXcYHoUozcsqELuVsJntbfEyjEtEHnvEGNK6P2l&id=100064589324029)

### ● Corvallis (OR), US

#### Corvallis, Oregon celebrates A Day of Remembrance

Report by Mr. Patrick W. Rollens, City of Corvallis, US

Community members in Corvallis, Oregon celebrated “A Day of Remembrance for Hiroshima and Nagasaki” on August 5 in the city's downtown district. The event featured remarks from Corvallis Mayor Charles Maughan and Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility Executive Director Kamil Khan. Visitors had the opportunity to explore a photo exhibit, learn to fold paper cranes, and enjoy poetry and music.



The event concluded at sunset with a traditional candlelight procession to the Van Buren Bridge as the lantern-lit Peace Flotilla passed beneath the audience.

The event was sponsored by Veterans for Peace, Corvallis Divest from War, and Oregon State University's Peace Studies program. Corvallis is home to three Peace Trees planted from seeds collected in Hiroshima, Japan.



Photos: courtesy of City of Corvallis

● **Mosbach, Germany**

**Hans Günter Brauch Foundation awards first International Science Prize**

Report by Ms. Meike Wendt, the City of Mosbach, Germany

The City of Mosbach and the Hans Günter Brauch Foundation for Peace and Ecology in the Anthropocene (HGBS) jointly organized the first International Science Prize, which was awarded to Dr Tobias Ide during the award ceremony on 14 July 2023 in Mosbach. The prize winner received the 3,000-euro award for his book on the effects of natural disasters on wars and insurgencies.

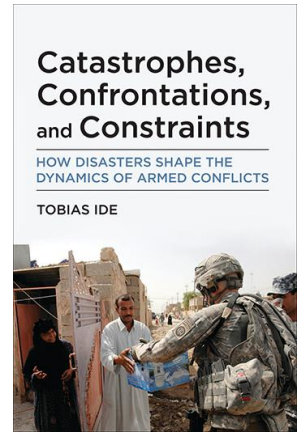


HGBS founder Dr Hans Günter Brauch (left), Dr Tobias Ide (second from left), and Lord Mayor Julian Stipp of Mosbach (second from right)

Image and Photo: courtesy of the City of Mosbach

Dr Ide is a Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Relations at Murdoch University (Australia) and a Specially Appointed Professor of the Network for Education and Research on Peace and Sustainability (NERPS) at Hiroshima University. He also teaches at the Technical University of Braunschweig. His award-winning book, “Disasters, Confrontations, and Constraints: How Disasters Shape the Dynamics of Armed Conflicts” is a groundbreaking study of how natural disasters can escalate or defuse wars, insurgencies and other unrest.

Lord Mayor Julian Stipp of Mosbach congratulated the award winner, who is building a bridge to Hiroshima, the headquarters of the Mayors for Peace network, of which Mosbach is also a member. “Everything is connected, climate change and sustainability, research, education and awareness and war and peace.”



Ide's prize-winning book

🔗 Award Ceremony of the first International Science Prize (HGBS website; in English):

[http://hgb-stiftung.org/html/Award\\_winners.html](http://hgb-stiftung.org/html/Award_winners.html)

🔗 Dr Ide's prize-winning book is available for open access through the following link (MIT Press website):

<https://direct.mit.edu/books/oa-monograph/5593/Catastrophes-Confrontations-and-ConstraintsHow>

● **Allonnes, France**

**Evening for Peace in the City of Allonnes**

Report by Ms. Lorena Schlicht, Mayors for Peace France (AFCDRP)

On Friday, September 1, the City of Allonnes organized the 7th edition of a peace event titled “Evening for Peace.” It began with the presentation of winners of the Culture of Peace–Yvon Luby Prize. The City of Allonnes awards this prize to associations or collectives working for the culture of peace. This year's winners were the 11 young people and the *Atelier Arts d'Allonnes* (Arts Workshop of Allonnes) who created an exhibition titled “Extinguish War, Blow and Sow Peace” as part of the Children's Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” organized by Mayors for Peace. With art



teacher Armelle Chesnel, the young students, aged from 8 to 13, created their artworks based on Pablo Picasso's painting “Guernica.” This world-famous painting depicts the tragic bombing of the Basque city of Guernica in April 1937, during the Spanish Civil War.



Photos: courtesy of Mayors for Peace France (AFCDRP)

One of the young artists' paintings, the centerpiece of the “Extinguish War, Blow and Sow Peace” exhibition, will be on permanent display in Allonnes' André Malraux Gymnasium, which serves as a facility for sports and cultural activities and promotion of the culture of peace. The evening concluded with a live concert by Sanseverino music band.

## Regional chapter activities

### ● Croatian Chapter

#### Biograd Mayor Pays Tribute at Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Ceremony

Report by Ms. Jasminka Bajlo, the City of Biograd na Moru, Croatia

On August 6, the day when the American Army dropped the first of the two devastating bombs on Japan 78 years ago, Vice President of Mayors for Peace and Mayor of Biograd na Moru, Ivan Knez, laid a wreath in remembrance of the victims of the atomic bomb during the Peace Memorial Ceremony in Hiroshima.

Biograd is one of the 21 Executive Cities of Mayors for Peace. Mayor Knez was elected as Vice President at the 7th General Conference in Nagasaki in 2009, right after he attended the commemoration in Hiroshima for the first time.

“Biograd is a small town, but its role in Mayors of Peace is big. Today we are here in Hiroshima to share with the Japanese people in mourning for the victims of the nuclear attack. From that time until the present day, the world has not become a safer place, as far as the use of nuclear weapons is concerned. Current events in Ukraine highlight this best. Our message is therefore always the same: we want peace in the world, we want a world without nuclear weapons. Banning nuclear weapons will eliminate the danger of their use,” says Mayor Knez.



Mayor Knez at the Peace Memorial Park, Hiroshima  
Photo: courtesy of the City of Biograd na Moru

Mayor Knez had planned to participate in the Peace Memorial Ceremony in Nagasaki on August 9. However, the ceremony was restricted to Nagasaki City personnel only and closed to guests due to a weather forecast of a typhoon reaching the city.

### ● Thai Chapter

#### Bangkok organizes peace event, “The Hibakusha: Hope for Peace and Exhibition in Bangkok 2023”

Report by Ms. Busaba Krajangchai, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, Thailand

On 15 and 16 August 2023, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration organized a peace event titled “The Hibakusha: Hope for Peace and Exhibition in Bangkok 2023” at the Bangkok Art & Culture Center, Bangkok City. This event featured the Mayors for Peace Atomic Bomb Poster Exhibition and various related activities, such as peace message writing, paper crane folding, and a *hibakusha* testimony by Ms. Teruko Yahata.

This event gained significant attention of a large number of visitors. Over the course of the two days, the total of approximately 500 people participated in the entire event. These participants included citizens of Bangkok and other provinces, international residents, and tourists.



Image and photo: courtesy of Bangkok Metropolitan Administration



## Mayors for Peace member cities: 8,287 cities in 166 countries/regions

On September 1, we gained 16 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,287. 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
Croatia	Pula-Pola	36	
Germany	Hitzacker and Zeuthen	861	Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City.
Nepal	Bode Barsain and 9 other cities	21	Upon a request from Ambassador of Nepal to Japan, who met with President Matsui this April, Nepal's Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration issued a letter urging all municipalities to join Mayors for Peace.
Netherlands	Cranendonck and Oosterhout	173	
US	Sand City (CA)	226	Thanks to efforts by Monterey Peace and Justice Center, a local peace organization.



List of new members (PDF):

[https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/file-2308-newmembers2309\\_en.pdf](https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/file-2308-newmembers2309_en.pdf)

Membership by country (PDF):

[https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/monthly/file-07\\_membership\\_by\\_country\\_en.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

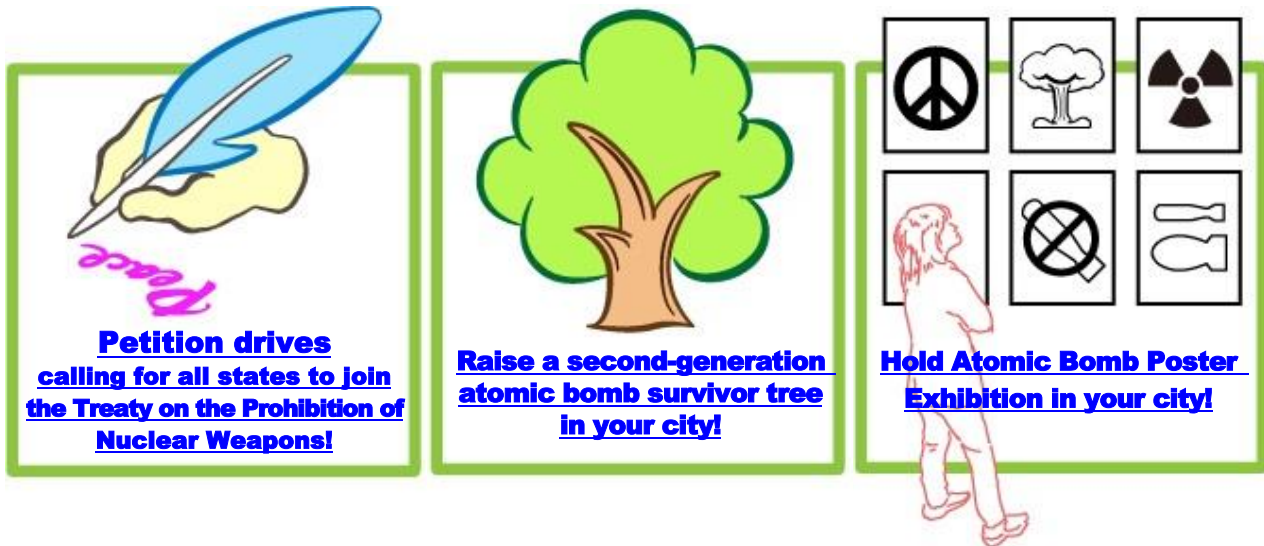
At the 12th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace held online in July 2021, we adopted the latest Action Plan (2021–2025). Together, let us continue our utmost efforts toward our ultimate goal of realizing lasting world peace. Please implement initiatives outlined in the Action Plan within your own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

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

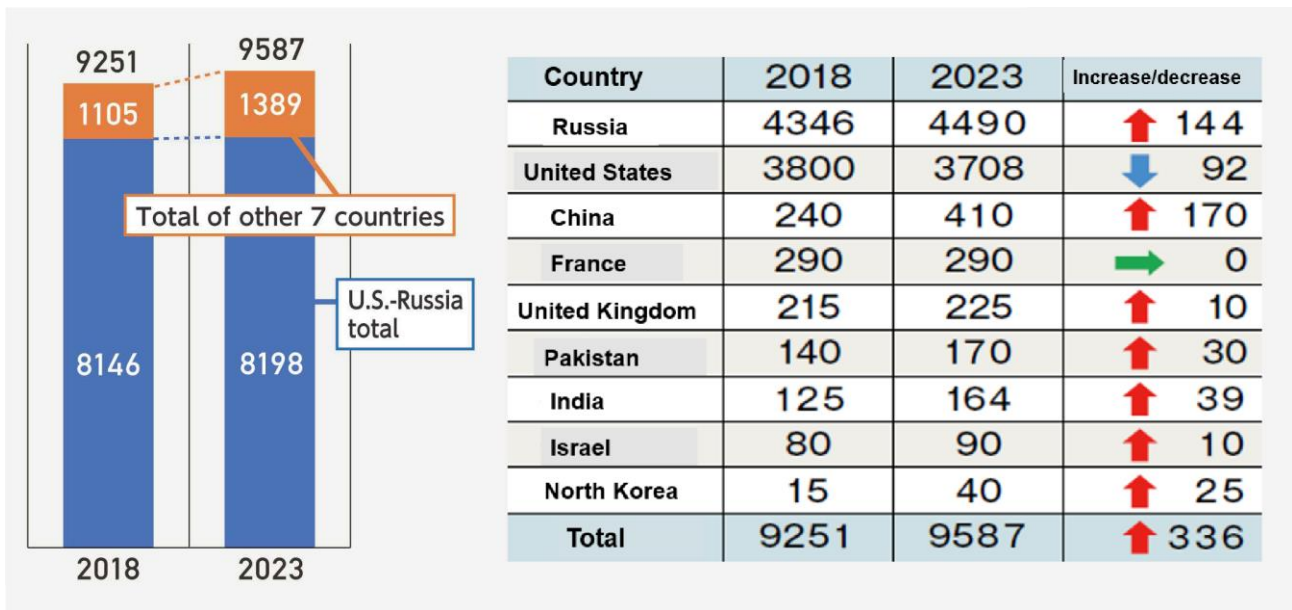
Share your city's peace activities with fellow member cities! Please send the Secretariat a short report on a peace activity or initiative by your city based on the Action Plan so that we can share it on our [website](#) or the News Flash. Reports on your city's activity or initiative that stimulate youth to be engaged in peace activities or promote 'the culture of peace' are especially welcome! We look forward to your submissions!

Email: [mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp](mailto: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.



**A closer look at the “World’s Nuclear Warheads Count in 2023” Part 2:  
Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA)**



[Figure]

Figure: Courtesy of RECNA

As we introduced in the last issue, since the end of the Cold War, the total number of nuclear warheads in the world has been greatly reduced. Now, however, the world is once again on the verge of a substantial nuclear arms race.

What is noteworthy is the number of deployable nuclear warheads. This is the total number of warheads minus the number of warheads that are “retired or to be dismantled.” In other words, it is the total number of warheads deployed and ready for use and the number of warheads stored in preparation for deployment. This number has been on a clear upward trend since the implementation deadline (February 2018) of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) between the United States and Russia [Figure]. Over the five-year period 2018-2023, the number of deployable nuclear warheads held by the nine countries increased by 336 warheads, from 9,251 to 9,587.

However, the problem is not only the increase in the number of nuclear warheads. Each country is working to improve the quality of its nuclear arsenal. Led by the United States and Russia, each country has been promoting modernization programs with huge budgets in order to upgrade their aging Cold War-era nuclear weapons systems. The international framework for disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control is facing extremely strong headwinds. (To be continued)

🔗 “The World’s Nuclear Warheads Count in 2023” Poster (RECNA website):  
<https://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/recna/en-topics/43753>

**Peace-related news from Hiroshima**

(provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

The Chugoku Shimbun reports on the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in its morning newspaper each year on August 6, the commemorative date of the bombing, and in its August 7 edition, with information about the happenings of that important previous day. On its website in the section “Front page since 1946,” the Hiroshima Peace Media Center has posted all of the front pages of the August 6 and 7th morning editions starting from 1946, the year after Hiroshima’s devastation in the bombing. The front pages of the morning editions of August 6 and 7th, 2023, the year marking the 78th anniversary of the atomic bombing, were also recently posted on the site in PDF format.

The news coverage of August 6 represents a record of the day on which people seeking a peaceful world without nuclear weapons gather in Hiroshima from across Japan and overseas, as well as a record of the remembrance of A-bomb victims. One headline from the August 6, 1946, edition of the paper reads, “The bombing of Hiroshima City marks the very birth of the atomic age.” Thereafter, the front pages have carried a variety of articles—about the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony held during the years of the Allied occupation of Japan, about the campaign against atomic and hydrogen bombs and the splintering into different factions of that campaign, about nuclear testing conducted around the world, and about the establishment of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The information is a reflection of the social conditions, world affairs, and societal issues in each of the years. The front pages provide insight into changes that took place over time. These August 6 and 7th editions of the Chugoku Shimbun are available to the public and can serve to aid viewers in learning about the history of the A-bombed Hiroshima since the end of World War II.

For related articles, please see the following.

Front page since 1946

[https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?post\\_type=m\\_newspaper&lang=en](https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?post_type=m_newspaper&lang=en)

My guidepost, Hiroshima pioneers: Seiichiro Takemine, 46, professor at Meisei University, speaks about Akihiro Takahashi, A-bomb survivor

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=136077>

Walking tour of A-bombed buildings—Honkawa public restroom, located in Hiroshima’s Naka Ward

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=136101>

Silent Witness: Handmade yarn doll

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=136304>


**Mayors for Peace Official Social Media Accounts**

<X (Twitter)>  @Mayors4Peace  
<https://x.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/>

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

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