



# Mayors for Peace News Flash

November 2023 / No.167

## Mayors for Peace Member Cities

**8,321** cities

in **166** countries and regions

(as of November 1, 2023)

[Help us achieve 10,000 member cities!](#)

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**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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## Hiroshima celebrating “Month for the Culture of Peace”



Month for the Culture of Peace Logo

Since 2021, the City of Hiroshima has been celebrating every November as the “Month for the Culture of Peace.” During this Month, the City aims to cultivate the culture of peace in the daily lives of its citizens by organizing a variety of events that encourage them to share in the wish for peace.

This year, the third year of this initiative, a total of 82 events(\*) are being organized by various entities in Hiroshima, including the City of Hiroshima, its affiliated organizations, groups of citizens, private sector companies, and the towns and cities that make up the Hiroshima Regional Urban Area, all in celebration of the Month for the Culture of Peace.

(\*Note: As of November 17, 2023. In 2022, a total of 68 events were organized.)

### Promotion of the Month for the Culture of Peace

This year, the City of Hiroshima has implemented expanded promotional activities to raise awareness of the initiative among the broader public. For instance, promotional posters for the Month for the Culture of Peace have been distributed to and displayed at public facilities, as well as elementary, junior-high, and high schools within Hiroshima City. Additionally, banners and digital signages have been featured along Peace Boulevard, the city’s main street, and at Kamiya-cho Shareo Underground Shopping Area in the city center.



Digital signages at Kamiya-cho Shareo (left); Banners along Peace Boulevard (right)

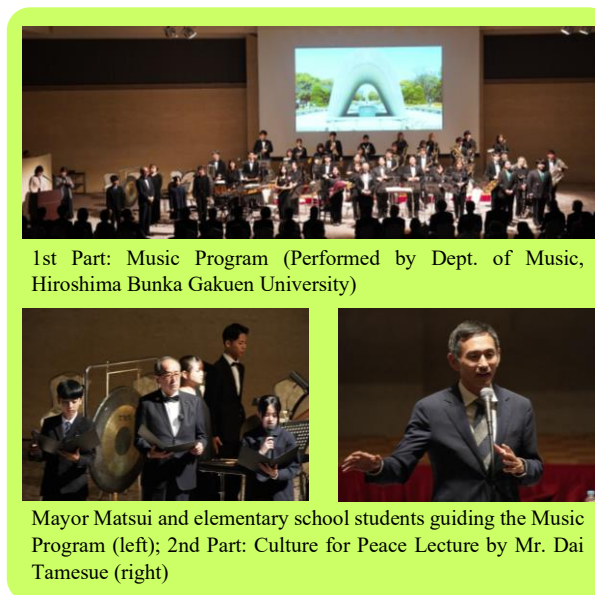
### Month for the Culture of Peace Opening Event

Right before the Month for the Culture of Peace began in November, the Month for the Culture of Peace Opening Event took place at the International Conference Center Hiroshima in Peace Memorial Park on October 30.

The first part of the Opening Event featured a music program that introduced the audience to the history of the reconstruction of Hiroshima after the atomic bombing. The program included videos and was guided by Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima and two elementary school students in the city.

The second part of the event was the Culture for Peace Lecture by Dai Tamesue, a track and field athlete from Hiroshima City who won the bronze medal in a World Athletics Championships. Tamesue delivered a lecture on sports and peace under the title, “Sports Diplomacy: Making the World a Peaceful Place through Sports.”

The combination of music, videos, and the lecture provided a contemplative experience for over 200 audience members, encouraging them to reflect on the theme of peace.



1st Part: Music Program (Performed by Dept. of Music, Hiroshima Bunka Gakuen University)

Mayor Matsui and elementary school students guiding the Music Program (left); 2nd Part: Culture for Peace Lecture by Mr. Dai Tamesue (right)

### Citizens’ Culture of Peace Event

On November 3, Japan’s “Culture Day” (public holiday), a special event titled “Citizens’ Culture of Peace Event: May the Spirit of Hiroshima Reach the World!” took place. To expose a broader audience to peace-focused performances, this event was hosted at Kamiya-cho Shareo Underground Shopping Area in the city center. The event conveyed messages of peace by showcasing stage performances and art exhibitions organized by groups of citizens, mainly composed of youth engaged in peace activities.

The stage performances encompassed various acts suitable for Culture Day, including music, recitations, a picture-story show, and presentations highlighting international cooperation activities. The event captured the attention of numerous visitors and passersby, prompting many to pause and see the engaging performances. It proved to be a day during which many citizens were able to share in the wish for peace.



Stage Performances at Citizens’ Culture of Peace Event

“Month for the Culture of Peace” website (in Japanese): <https://heiwabunka.info/>

## Member city activities

### ● Manchester, UK

#### Updated Peace Trail invites pupils to explore traces of struggles toward peace

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

Historic England has created an updated Manchester Young People’s Peace Trail, with accompanying resources, in partnership with the Mayors for Peace team at Manchester City Council. This walking trail is designed to help pupils understand Manchester’s historical contributions to peace and social justice by highlighting the traces left on the city’s landscape by individuals and movements that have contributed to the promotion of peace, tolerance, mutual understanding, and social justice.

The updated resources include a printable map of the trail and an interactive Story Map, so young people can access the trail virtually. There is also a set of classroom resources that can be accessed and downloaded from the Historic England website.

The updated Peace Trail and resources were launched, via Historic England’s Heritage Schools programme, in November 2023, to mark the Mayors for Peace Month for the Culture of Peace, with 30 children from Cheetwood Primary School and 24 children from Abbott Community Primary School.



Children completing tasks on the trail (left); Children with Emmeline Pankhurst Statue (right)  
Photos: courtesy of Mayors for Peace UK/Ireland Chapter

The children explored the sites on the trail in Manchester city centre, and they took part in a workshop at Manchester Central Library making peace doves with a ‘peace’ message in different languages.

Lois Gyves, the Heritage Schools Programme Manager, said, *“The peace trail helps young people understand the significance of some of Manchester’s iconic buildings, memorials and statues and their connection with the past. They learn how people, places and events in the past have influenced peace and social justice, locally and beyond.”*

The peace trail can be found at:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/education/teaching-activities/manchester-peace-trail/>

### 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.

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## Regional chapter activities

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### ● German Chapter

#### German Chapter holds Mayors for Peace German Conference

Report by Ms. Evelyn Kamissek, The City of Hannover, Germany

On November 3rd, 2023, the Mayors for Peace German Conference was held in Hannover as a hybrid meeting. A total of 25 participants attended in person, while more than 50 participants were connected via Zoom.

A special guest was Mayor Kazumi Matsui of Hiroshima, President of Mayors for Peace. After the greetings by President Matsui and Vice President Mayor Belit Onay of Hannover, Dr. Thomas Hajnoczi, Executive Advisor to Mayors for Peace, delivered a presentation on the status of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and the commitment of the European Chapter.



Speakers at the Mayors for Peace German Conference  
Photo: courtesy of the City of Hannover, Germany

Subsequently, Mr. Robert Siegfried, Head of the Division of Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation in the German Federal Foreign Office, delivered a statement entitled “Nuclear Disarmament and Arms Control Today,” and Mr. Lukas Mengelkamp, a historian from the University of Marburg, gave a presentation about peace movements, focusing on their history and the various perspectives they have presented.

Following a discussion concerning the above topics and a short break, the head office of the Mayors for Peace German Chapter, placed in the City of Hannover, gave a review on peace-related activities within the Chapter, such as the commemoration of Flag Day, and reported on the financial statement of the membership fees for the fiscal year 2022. The cities of Osnabrueck and Marl shared various activities as examples of best practice by the member cities. Last but not least, Dr. Raimund Menges, Director of the “50 Cities – 50 Traces” Project Office, reviewed the international art and peace project “50 Cities – 50 Traces”.

The next German Mayors for Peace Conference will be hosted by the City of Bonn, the former Federal Capital, in 2025.

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## Request for payment of the 2023 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee

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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/>

**Mayors for Peace member cities: 8,321 cities in 166 countries/regions**

On November 1, we gained 10 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,321. 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	Seewalchen am Attersee	125	
Germany	Gomaringen and Staßfurt	869	Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City.
Nepal	Baglung and 3 other cities	37	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	Hulst	176	
Portugal	Freixo de Espada à Cinta and Ponte de Sor	49	Thanks to efforts by Evora, an Executive and Lead City.

**10 new cities from 5 countries**

	<b>Austria</b>	<b>1 city</b>
	<b>Germany</b>	<b>2 cities</b>
	<b>Nepal</b>	<b>4 cities</b>
	<b>Netherlands</b>	<b>1 city</b>
	<b>Portugal</b>	<b>2 cities</b>

**Member Cities**

**8,321** member cities

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**166** countries & regions

As of November 1, 2023

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

List of new members (PDF): [https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/file-2310-newmembers2311\\_en.pdf](https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/file-2310-newmembers2311_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!

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## Reports by Executive Advisors

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### ● The 2023 session of the First Committee of the UN General Assembly

Report by Dr. Randy Rydell, Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace

The UNGA's First Committee held its 2023 session from 2 October to 3 November. It occurred amid deteriorating relations between the US, Russia, and China; wars in Ukraine and Gaza; modernizing nuclear arsenals; soaring military budgets; and new threats to use or test nuclear weapons.

In this context, the Committee considered 65 resolutions, less than last year. Non-nuclear issues ranged from small arms to space weapons.

Nuclear-weapon issues accounted for a third of all resolutions (22 of 65), including: disarmament; fissile-material ban; use, threat, and humanitarian consequences of use; deterrence; risk reduction; related treaties (CTBT, NPT, TPNW); nuclear-weapon-free zones; verification; non-proliferation; security assurances; radiological weapons; and victim assistance. Japan's disarmament resolution received 145 votes in favor, though it also voted against the TPNW resolution. Many addressed the humanitarian aspects of nuclear weapons; and many supported the TPNW as the appropriate response.

As usual, the nuclear resolutions were most divisive in terms of bloc voting, with nuclear-weapon states (and other possessors) and their allies voting against or to abstain; non-aligned nations voting in favor; and scattered non-nuclear-weapon states abstaining. Overall, the committee provided an accurate but unsettling snapshot of the troubled state of disarmament today.



United Nations General Assembly Building (left) and General Assembly Hall in the building (right) at the UN Headquarters in New York City

### ● UN General Assembly resolution on victim assistance receives strong support

Report by Amb. Thomas Hajnoczi, Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace

For the first time the UN General Assembly deals this year with a resolution on “Addressing the Legacy of Nuclear Weapons: Providing Victim Assistance and Environmental Remediation to Member States Affected by the Use or Testing of Nuclear Weapons”. The text was tabled by Kazakhstan and Kiribati, the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on these issues created by the First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Kazakhstan is still suffering from the consequences of Soviet nuclear weapon tests and Kiribati from the impact of British and US tests.

The resolution deplores the unacceptable suffering of and harm caused to the people affected by the use of nuclear weapons (hibakusha), as well as the victims of the testing of nuclear weapons. It encourages further international cooperation and discussions to assist victims, and assess and remediate contaminated environments while recognizing that the responsibility to address the harms resulting from a detonation of using or testing a nuclear weapon lies with the States that have done so.

The First Committee of the General Assembly adopted the resolution by an overwhelming majority: 171 states in favour, 4 against (France, North Korea, Russia and UK) and 6 abstentions (including the other 5 nuclear armed states). It can be expected that the vote in the Plenary of the General Assembly will bring a similar result in December.

Finally the suffering of the hibakusha and victims of testing became a subject of the General Assembly. It shows moreover that the TPNW has a positive influence on the main disarmament fora.

## ● Exhibition in Asunción, Paraguay: Reflecting on Hiroshima and Nagasaki towards a world without nuclear weapons

Report by Ms. Tomoko Aikawa, Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace

Between September 1st and 2nd, an exhibition titled “*Hacia un mundo sin armas nucleares (Towards a World without Nuclear Weapons)*” took place in Asunción, the capital of Paraguay, as part of *Expo 2023 Japón-Paraguay (Japan-Paraguay Expo 2023)*.

The Japan-Paraguay Expo showcases Japanese culture by exhibiting local products from the regions in Japan where the Japanese immigrants to Paraguay originated. It also highlights various tourist attractions across Japan. After a three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event resumed at the Japanese Paraguayan Center in Asunción in September.

At this event, four Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers from Hiroshima and Nagasaki collaborated with the Japanese Embassy in Paraguay and the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Prefecture Associations to organize the “Towards a World without Nuclear Weapons” Exhibition. The exhibition displayed the Spanish version of the Hiroshima Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Posters, which were provided by the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. Visitors were invited to fold paper cranes as a prayer for peace, write peace messages, sign petitions calling for all states to join the TPNW at the earliest date, and learn about the initiatives of Mayors for Peace. Moreover, testimonial videos of survivors with Spanish subtitles, which were provided by the National Peace Memorial Halls for the Atomic Bomb Victims in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, were screened.



With the assistance of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, many visitors, despite lacking prior experience in paper folding, earnestly folded paper cranes in prayer for peace.



Visitors crafting a hand-shaped peace message


Photos: courtesy of Embassy of Japan in Paraguay

Many visitors were deeply moved by the images of the devastation. Some of their comments include: “The images of the damage were shocking to me”; “It’s amazing how Japan recovered from such massive devastation”; and “We should learn from Hiroshima and Nagasaki in order to prevent such a tragedy from happening again.” Many of the visitors were particularly impressed by the elderly survivors’ commitment to sharing their experiences of the atomic bombings.

The NGO Fundación Sadako cooperated with the organizers of this exhibition from the preparation stage, providing easy-to-follow *origami* diagrams and sharing the experiences in conveying messages of peace.

The event drew approximately 500 visitors, and they completed a set of thousand paper cranes and a set of hundred paper cranes. They will be sent to Hiroshima and Nagasaki soon.

For more details, please see the following websites:

 Video of the “Towards a World without Nuclear Weapons” Exhibition (YouTube; in Spanish and Japanese): <https://youtu.be/IYvIK7cCkSw>

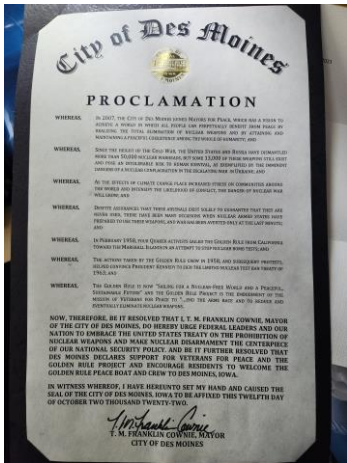
 Official Facebook of the Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Paraguay (in Spanish): <https://www.facebook.com/embajadadeljapon/posts/692697072904054>

● **Historic anti-nuclear sailboat concludes epic voyage in Chicago**

Report by Ms. Jacqueline Cabasso, Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace

Veterans For Peace has recovered and restored the original peace ship, the Golden Rule, which set sail in 1958 to stop nuclear weapons tests in the Marshall Islands and inspired the many peace ships that followed. The reborn Golden Rule is sailing once more, to show that nuclear abolition is possible, and that bravery and tenacity can overcome militarism. In October 2023, the Golden Rule completed her epic voyage around the eastern half of the United States.

The historic anti-nuclear sailboat began her year-long voyage in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota, in September 2022, and made 100 ports-of-call, including Havana, Cuba, and Toronto, Canada. With over 350 events, the “Great Loop” voyage ended in Chicago. Along the way the Golden Rule was welcomed by local peace activists, politicians, people of faith, musicians, and artists. The Golden Rule received Proclamations of Welcome from mayors of around 40 cities, including Mayors for Peace Vice President Mayor Frank Cownie of Des Moines, Iowa, and the mayors of St. Louis, Missouri; La Crosse, Wisconsin; Portsmouth, Virginia; and Boston, Massachusetts.



Proclamation of Welcome from Vice President Frank Cownie, Mayor of Des Moines



Mayor Shannon Glover of Portsmouth, Virginia, reading Proclamation of Welcome

Photos: courtesy of the Veterans For Peace Golden Rule Project

🔗 Veterans For Peace Golden Rule Project website:

<https://vfpgoldenruleproject.org/>

🔗 Golden Rule News Summer 2023 (Veterans For Peace Golden Rule Project website):

<https://vfpgoldenruleproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Golden-Rule-News-2023-Summer-Smaller.pdf>



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

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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/>



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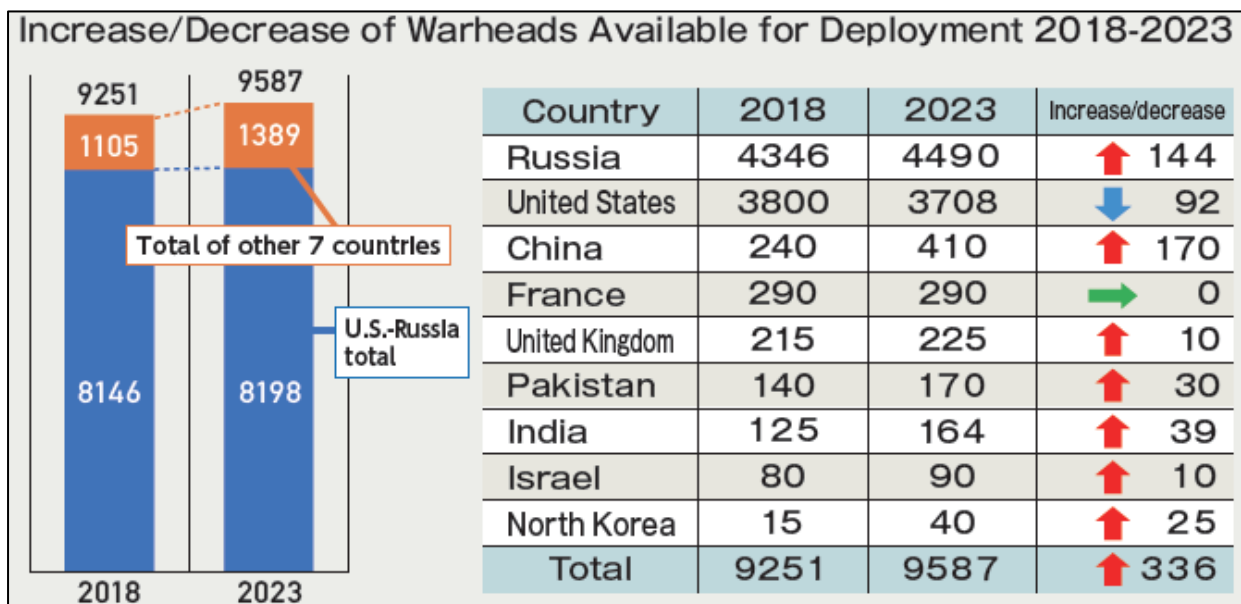
## Call for input: examples of peace education initiatives

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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 4: Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA)**



[Figure]

Figure: Courtesy of RECNA

In the previous issue, we overviewed the current status of nuclear weapons held by the United States and Russia, focusing on changes in the number of “deployable nuclear warheads.” It goes without saying that the key to advancing global nuclear disarmament, including among other nuclear-armed states, is for these two countries, which possess approximately 90% of the world’s nuclear warheads, to diligently fulfill their own nuclear disarmament obligations. Unfortunately, as U.S.-Russian relations continue to deteriorate and nuclear disarmament negotiations stall, other nuclear-armed countries are increasingly moving against nuclear disarmament.

Among them, China, India, Pakistan, and North Korea are expanding their nuclear capabilities at a rapid pace. As shown in the figure, in the five years from 2018 to 2023, China is estimated to have increased its nuclear warheads by 170, India by 39, Pakistan by 30, and North Korea by 25. Of course, the problem is not just the increase in the number of nuclear warheads. All of these countries are seeking to develop and deploy various types of missiles and other delivery systems. These trends show no signs of slowing down.

North Korea, in particular, has shown a willingness to develop tactical nuclear weapons (see note) and to use nuclear weapons first during this period. In September 2022, North Korea passed a law defining the conditions for the use of nuclear weapons. This means that the country’s arbitrary decision to use nuclear weapons first is now clearly established. Various tests and drills for the development and operation of new weapons have continued during this period, and there are indications that the first nuclear explosive test since September 2017 may be imminent. (To be continued)

Note: Nuclear weapons used for more limited regional warfare purposes. Also known as non-strategic nuclear weapons. On the other hand, those designed to attack enemy cities and major military installations of strategic importance are called “strategic nuclear weapons.” However, the distinction between “tactical nuclear weapons” and “strategic nuclear weapons” is ambiguous and arbitrary.

🔗 “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)

Six months have passed since the summit meeting of the G7 (Group of Seven industrialized nations) was held in Hiroshima in May of this year. This was a great opportunity for leaders of the countries with nuclear weapons to visit the A-bombed city of Hiroshima together. In addition, the surprise visit by President Zelenskyy of Ukraine, in the midst of ongoing war, and the first visit by South Korean President Yoon to the Monument in Memory of Korean Victims of the A-bomb, became major news stories.

It has been said that we should not make the summit to be held in the A-bombed city a one-time event but rather a “legacy.” The following event can also be considered a legacy in a broader sense. From late September through October, Korean A-bomb survivors in Hiroshima visited South Korea, and together with Korean A-bomb survivors living there, received words of encouragement directly from the South Korean President. Needless to say, this was a historic occasion. Korean people and their family members who came to Hiroshima from the Korean Peninsula under the colonial rule of Japan suffered many hardships before, during, and after the atomic bombings. Knowing about and giving our hearts to their hardships can further strengthen the “legacy.”

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

Korean A-bomb survivors in Japan travel home after first invitation from South Korea’s government—Report covers lives of hardship and sacrifice in foreign land

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=137479>

Council for Cultural Affairs submits six A-bombed buildings as national historic relics, including Rest House, the former Bank of Japan, Hiroshima Branch, in Hiroshima and Saijo Sake Brewery Group

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=137486>

Reproduction of one of a kind original copy of design application for Peace Memorial Park by the late Architect Shigeo Sato displayed in Hiroshima

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=137482>

Calling for the Participation in the Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: University students from Hiroshima and Nagasaki submitted 40,000 signatures to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=137488>

Dignitaries from overseas visiting Peace Park: Special Exhibition in Hiroshima: Introduction of pictures and guest book messages

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=137484>

**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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