Mayors for Peace News Flash (March 2012) No.27

Dear member cities and supporters of Mayors for Peace,

Thank you for your ongoing support for the activities of Mayors for Peace.
Please find below news related to the most recent activities of Mayors for Peace.
If your city has any news it wishes to share with others, please feel free to contact us!
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■Mayors for Peace participated in the OPANAL seminar on the Nuclear Weapon Free Zones
[Mexico City, February 14-15]

Mayors for Peace was invited to the Seminar marking the 45th anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco. Participants from more than 30 countries assembled to learn about the history of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and debated about the future role of the Nuclear Weapon Free Zones (NWFZ) to achieve complete nuclear disarmament. The Seminar was organized by OPANAL, the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, based in Mexico City.
▼Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):
http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/2a2ce6dd12/latin-america-seeks-world-free-of-nu.html.

■[Announcement] UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Working Group meeting in Manchester Town Hall on March 29

Manchester City Council is hosting a UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Working Group meeting in Manchester Town Hall on the 29th March. The meeting will discuss the international development of Mayors for Peace and how to improve, extend and deepen membership in the UK and Ireland. The meeting is open to all who are interested in developing Mayors for Peace.
▼If you would like to attend it, please contact Mr. Sean Morris at Manchester City Council:
s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk

■Please support UNODA's "Art for Peace 2012" International Art Contest for Young People - Children & Teens, Imagine a World Free of Nuclear Weapons [deadline: April 30, 2012]

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) has launched a disarmament education contest for young people, entitled "Art for Peace 2012". Contestants are encouraged to watch a short video film online, then to imagine a world free of nuclear weapons. Based on their musings, young people are asked to create and upload original artwork to the online site. Youth, ages 5 through 17, are being given the opportunity to use their creative talents to draw, paint, sketch, use pens, pencils, crayons, charcoal, oil, acrylic paint or water colors to imagine a world free of nuclear weapons, without wars, without bombs, without fear. The most important aspect of this activity is to provide a platform for young people to learn about this global issue and use their creative talents to become involved.
Your encouragement for children and teens in your city to participate in this contest would be appreciated.
▼The videos, rules and uploading form are available on the website:
http://www.unartforpeace.org

■Please support the petition drive for a nuclear weapons convention

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The next step in abolishing all nuclear weapons by 2020 is to negotiate a nuclear weapons convention. A nuclear weapons convention will prohibit the acquisition, development, possession, deployment and use of nuclear weapons and all related activities.
At our Executive Conference in Granollers, Spain in November 2011, we agreed to promote a global grassroots petition drive through which all member cities can call for an immediate start to negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention.
As of March 1, 2012, we had collected a total of 334,796 signatures.
We are planning to submit signatures collected by April 2012 to the UN at the first Preparatory Committee Meeting for the 2015 NPT Review Conference in May 2012 in Vienna, Austria.
Please actively promote this petition drive in your city. Let's gather millions of signatures and make our voices heard.
(The petition is available for printing or online at the links below.)
▼Petition form (PDF):
http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/petitionform_en.pdf.
▼Online petition:
https://www.ssl-hiroins.city.hiroshima.jp/pcf/en/form.htm.

■Announcement on new poster exhibits commemorating the 5,000-city milestone

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To commemorate exceeding the 5,000 city-milestone, please hold a new poster exhibit in your city/municipality!
At the 8th Executive Conference held in Granollers, Spain last November, we adopted an agenda that Mayors for Peace would create a new poster exhibit available to all our member cities and encourage the use of the poster exhibit.
Through holding the exhibit as many cities/municipalities as possible, we hope to directly inform millions of citizens on the impact of nuclear attack on a city; the impact of nuclear war that will cause catastrophic climate change resulting in global famine; the diversion of economic and human resources from urban areas, human needs to nuclear weapons and related military spending; and the role city leaders strive to play through the 2020 Vision Campaign of Mayors for Peace.
We will announce details including when the new posters will be completed later on. We would deeply appreciate your kind consideration on holding a new poster exhibit in your city/municipality.

[When to hold the exhibit]: around August 2012
[Number of posters]: A2size around 20 sheets
[How to obtain the posters]: download from the Mayors for Peace website

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■ Financial contributions from member cities to the 2020 Vision Campaign - Update for February 2012 [Ypres, Belgium]

The 2020 Vision Campaign received donations from 5 cities in 4 countries during the month of February, coming to a total of 1392,74 Euro. Significant donations were made by our member cities in Germany, Italy, Jordan and Switzerland.
We would like to extend our gratitude to our member cities for this generosity in supporting our efforts to realize a nuclear-weapon-free world by 2020.
▼Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):
http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/members/contributors/artikel/914fe441d3/contributions-update-february-2012.html.
▼List of cities that made contributions in Febuary:
http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user_upload/2020VC/Members/Contributors/February.pdf.
▼How to make contributions:
http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/members/contribute-to-mayors-for-peace.html.

■ Newly arrived information on “Member Cities' Activities” webpage

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New information from Grindavik, Iceland is now available. The municipality of Grindavik held the annual Peacemarch on December 16, 2011 as an example of how a community can raise awareness for peace and solidarity with over 1,000 participants, which is more than one third of the population of 2,800.

Please visit the “Member Cities’ Activities” page on our website and get an idea for your city’s peace activities.
The URL of this page has been renewed.
▼To see the ”Member Cities’ Activities” webpage, click the link below: (New URL!)
http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/index.html.

<<Please Send Information on Your City’s Peace Activities >>
Let us also introduce the peace related activities of your city!
We can create a link to your city’s website or the website of the peace event.
We need comprehensive information including the date, venue, organizers and details of the event.
Thank you for your cooperation.
▼Please send the name/title of the activity along with the link to the address to: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

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■ Mayors for Peace member cities – 5,136 cities in 153 countries/regions

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Thanks to your invaluable support, as of March 1, the number of member cities reached 5,136 with 11 new members.
As a result of sending a recruitment letter to non-member cities in South Korea at the end of December as well as the kind support from the Consul General of South Korea in Hiroshima, two cities from South Korea joined.
Four municipalities joined in Japan and the total number of Japanese member cities reached 1,105.
Two cities from Thailand joined as a result of recruitment by two *hibakusha* from Nagasaki who visited Thailand to hold exhibitions and share their testimonies. They brought letters to each mayor from the mayor of Nagasaki. They have been assigned as the "Special Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons" by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.
As our recruitment drive will continue, we would be most grateful if you could invite your fellow mayors who are not yet members to join us.
▼Related information (PDF):
http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2012/newmembers1203_en.pdf.

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