



# Mayors for Peace News Flash

May 2022 / No.149

## Mayors for Peace Member Cities

**8,161** cities

**in 166 countries and regions**

(as of May 1, 2022)

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

## Check our website and follow us on SNS:

**Website** 

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

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<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace>

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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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## Member city activities

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### ● Halabja, Iraq

#### Planting seeds of atomic-bombed Japanese hackberry and jujube from Hiroshima

Report by Mr. Zmnako Mohammed, the City of Halabja

On April 26, 2022, Halabja Municipality planted seeds of Japanese hackberry and jujube trees. The mother trees of the seeds survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and symbolize hope for atomic bomb survivors. After dispatched from Hiroshima on March 18, 2022, the seeds found home in pots at Halabja College of Applied Sciences, under supervision of a team of professional academics. The project team filled a total of 33 pots (30cm depth and 20cm diameter) with soil mixed with organic fertilizer, and planted two Japanese hackberry seeds in each of eight pots, and four jujube seeds in each of the remaining 25 pots.



Photos: courtesy of the City of Halabja

### ● Tübingen, Germany

#### Planting a Ginkgo sapling in Tübingen

Report by Mr. Christopher Blum, University Town of Tübingen

On April 4, 2022, the University Town of Tübingen planted a Ginkgo sapling—second-generation Hiroshima atomic bomb Ginkgo tree—in the yard of newly built Tübingen Hospice. The Ginkgo tree, then a small seedling, was presented to the University Town of Tübingen by members of the Tübingen Peace Vigil in August 2020. While the hospice building was under construction, the city nursery took care of the seedling, which survived a heavy hailstorm in the summer of 2021.

The tree was planted by Lord Mayor Boris Palmer and Director of the Hospice, Dr. Gisela Schneider, in the presence of numerous guests. In their speeches they not only referred to the history and the meaning of the seedling, but also looked at the current situation, particularly the war in Ukraine, and the persistent threat of nuclear weapons. Mr. Palmer stressed the significance of local-level peace work, which Tübingen Peace Vigil has been carrying out for many years. Dr. Schneider referred to the tree's new home as a peaceful place where dying is accepted and where life goes on. To both speakers, the Hiroshima Ginkgo tree, now growing in Tübingen, is a sign of peace, life and hope.



Ginkgo sapling at the yard of Tübingen Hospice.

Photo: courtesy of the University Town of Tübingen



● **Hannover, Germany**  
**Planting a Ginkgo tree at the Cherry Blossom Festival**

Report by Ms. Evelyn Kamissek, the City of Hannover

On the occasion of the Cherry Blossom Festival in late April, the City of Hannover planted a young Ginkgo tree in the Hiroshima Grove on April 22. The sapling is a child of one of the trees in Hiroshima which survived the atomic bombing.

The Hiroshima Grove in Hannover, home to 110 cherry trees commemorating over 110,000 atomic bomb victims in our sister city Hiroshima, is best suited to host the descendant of the survivor tree. In his speech at the planting ceremony, Deputy Mayor Thomas Hermann of Hannover emphasized the significance of this planting in the current global context: “The present moment needs symbolic gestures like planting this tree as a symbol signifying that the war in Ukraine must stop.”

This year, the Cherry Blossom Festival was organized in cooperation between the Cultural Office and the Mayors for Peace Office of the City of Hannover. Many partnership associations and initiatives participated in the festival and prepared numerous booths for visitors. Several hundred guests celebrated the colorful afternoon, enjoying a variety of Japanese cultural programs and—as people in Japan have traditionally delighted in—a picnic under the cherry blossoms in the best spring weather.



Group photo of the tree planting (from left: Ekkehard Meese, Hiroyo Nakamoto, Georg-Günther Thürnau, Thomas Hermann, Dr. Susanne Schieble, Heidemarie Dann)



Deputy Mayor Thomas Hermann gives a greeting, with children of the Südstadtschule behind him



Cherry trees in the Hiroshima Grove, Hannover

Photos: courtesy of the City of Hannover

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## Regional chapter activities


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### ● German Chapter


#### Member cities reaching over 800 in Germany

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

We are happy to announce that the German Chapter of Mayors for Peace has reached over 800 members! Cities and municipalities are committed to peace and a world without nuclear weapons, and are increasingly joining the Mayors for Peace alliance. As of 1 May, the number of members in Germany rises to 807.

 List of member cities:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/members/list-members/>

 Membership by country (PDF):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/monthly/file-07\\_membership\\_by\\_country\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/monthly/file-07_membership_by_country_en.pdf)

### ● Catalan Chapter

#### Welcoming a Key Ally in Peace Municipalism: The Provincial Council of Barcelona joins Mayors for Peace

Report by Mr. Jaume Puigpinós, the City of Granollers, Spain

The Plenary Session of the Barcelona Provincial Council (the 5 million-region where the city of Barcelona is located) has unanimously approved to join the Mayors for Peace network.

All political parties represented in the Provincial Assembly recognized this as a great opportunity to establish synergies and identify challenges to promote a culture of peace and advance nuclear disarmament.



Photo: courtesy of Diputació de Barcelona

According to the Barcelona Provincial Council President and Mayor of L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Núria Marín, "Joining Mayors for Peace offers a unique opportunity for our territory to establish synergies with other city councils, regions, civil society organizations and citizens to promote a culture of peace not only in the Barcelona Province but also across the world".

The Barcelona Provincial Council is looking forward to exchange knowledge with other Mayors for Peace members and take part in specific cooperation initiatives while continuing to raise awareness among its member municipalities on peace and nuclear disarmament issues.

### 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 'a culture of peace' are especially welcome! We look forward to receiving ones!

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.

## ● UK & Ireland Chapter

### Good News from the UK

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

There is good news on the Mayors for Peace front in the UK as a new local authority has become a member.

Todmorden Town Council, which previously passed a resolution calling on the UK Government to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, decided to join up after a direct appeal from the UK / Ireland Mayors for Peace Secretariat.

More local authorities will be approached after the May local elections.

Elsewhere, existing member Keighley Town Council also passed a resolution calling on the UK Government to sign the Treaty, Mayor Julie Adams, being joined by renowned local peace activist, Sylvia Boyes, to sign her support (below).



(Photo: courtesy of UK & Ireland Chapter)

Mayors for Peace UK/Ireland Chapter Secretary Richard Outram said:  
*“We will be writing to our existing members soon to outline our plans for the coming year where, in light of developments in Ukraine, working for nuclear disarmament and peace in Europe has become all important.”*

*“As we approach the First Meeting of the States Parties of the Treaty in Vienna, we will also be renewing our efforts to encourage more new Councils to signal their commitment to peace by taking up membership.”*

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## Request for Payment of the 2022 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 17 USD/15 Euro as of March 2022) 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 2022 membership fee was sent to each city by email on April 1. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

\* If you want to know your city's payment status or if you have not received the email of request for payment, please contact the Secretariat.

Contact: Mayors for Peace Secretariat (Email: [mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp](mailto:mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp))

 Request for the 2022 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee (Mayors for Peace website):  
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/about-us/joins/fees/>

## Mayors for Peace member cities - 8,161 cities in 166 countries/regions

On May 1, we gained 27 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,161. 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
France	Bonneuil sur Marne and 3 other cities	166	Thanks to efforts by Malakoff, a Vice President and Lead City.
Germany	Bad Wörishofen and 18 other cities	807	Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice Present and Lead City.
Japan	Higashidoori	1,737	The Secretariat mailed an invitation letter to the non-member municipalities. Four more cities until all cities in Japan join us.
Luxembourg	Steinfert	63	
Spain	Barcelona (Province)	399	Thanks to efforts by Granollers, a Vice Present and Lead City.
UK	Todmorden	85	Thanks to efforts by Manchester, a Vice Present and Lead City.



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



List of new members (PDF):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/file-newmembers2205\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/file-newmembers2205_en.pdf)

Membership by country (PDF):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/monthly/file-07\\_membership\\_by\\_country\\_en.pdf](http://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

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/about-us/resources/#recruit>

Your continued cooperation is highly appreciated!



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## Report by Executive Advisor

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### ● Webinar: “The Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons and Russia’s War on Ukraine: Meeting the Legal and Political Challenge”

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

On 3 May 2022, the Arms Control Association (Daryl Kimball), Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy (John Burroughs), and Princeton’s Program for Science and Global Security (Zia Mian) hosted a webinar on legal and political responses to nuclear threats and risks arising from the war in Ukraine. Also speaking was Amb. Alexander Kmentt, the Austrian disarmament official associated with the nuclear-ban treaty (TPNW). The webinar followed statements by Russian President Putin implying his country’s readiness to use nuclear weapons if there were any military efforts to oppose his invasion of Ukraine, though speakers acknowledged that Putin was not the first leader to make such threats in other crises.

In general, speakers made the following points: the risk of use of nuclear weapons is low but growing and “not zero”; any such use would violate the “taboo” against use and would risk escalation to additional uses up to and including nuclear war; the humanitarian consequences of any such use would be catastrophic and potentially global in scope; any use would violate international humanitarian law and the UN Charter’s prohibition on the threat of use of force; and nuclear deterrence inherently involves the “threat of use” as allegedly a way to prevent use.

The speakers emphasized the importance of public pressure on governments of nuclear-weapon states to reduce the risk of use and to advance disarmament. They identified three future events as opportunities to register strong support for disarmament and for measures to reduce the risk of use of nuclear weapons: in June, an international conference in Vienna on the humanitarian consequences of using nuclear weapons, followed by the first Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW; and the NPT Review Conference in August. Speakers urged continued efforts by civil society and like-minded governments to raise these issues in these arenas.

Among possible responses: the UN General Assembly could take up the issue of “threat of use” via its Uniting for Peace Resolution; it could request a new Advisory Opinion from the International Court of Justice; the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court could be amended to outlaw the threat of use; and a “supermajority” of a General Assembly regular session could adopt resolutions against the threat of use. Measures to reduce the risk of use include: improving lines of communication between the US/NATO and Russia; no deployment of tactical nuclear weapons; no high nuclear alerts of strategic forces; and a halt in developing war-fighting nuclear weapons, among other actions.


A video of the webinar is available on the web site of the Arms Control Association (<https://www.armscontrol.org/events/2022-04/threat-use-nuclear-weapons-russias-war-ukraine-meeting-legal-political-challenge>).

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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 program.


 Call for Input on the Mayors for Peace website:  
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/visions/initiatives/edu-examples/>

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

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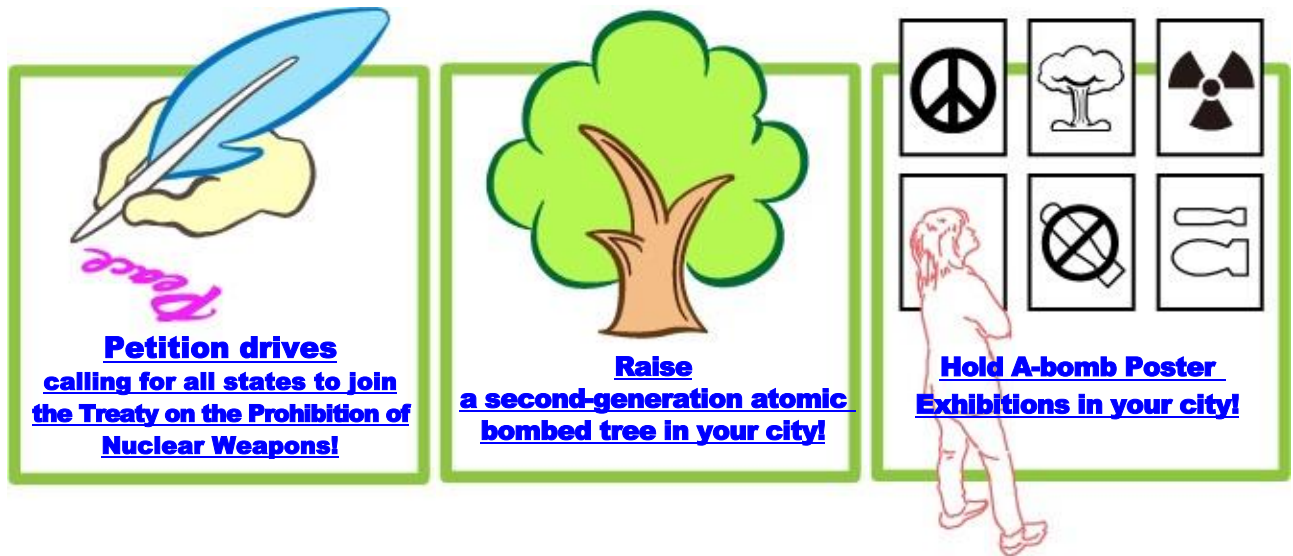
At the 12th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace held online in July last year, we adopted our new Action Plan (2021–2025). Together, let us continue our utmost efforts toward our ultimate goal of realizing lasting world peace. Please implement initiatives outlined in the Action Plan within your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

 Mayors for Peace Action Plan (PDF):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/file-PX\\_Vision\\_Action\\_Plan\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/file-PX_Vision_Action_Plan_en.pdf)

 Initiatives implemented under the Action Plan:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/visions/initiatives/>



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## Peace-related news from Hiroshima

(Provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

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Some are likely to have been deeply impressed by the photograph displayed near the entrance of the main building of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. The photo, enlarged to 3.8 meters in length and 2.7 meters in width, depicts the huge mushroom cloud generated by the atomic bombing of Hiroshima on the other side of a cluster of trees. The image was taken near Mikumari Gorge in the town of Fuchu-cho, Hiroshima Prefecture by Seiso Yamada, 93, a former staff writer of the Chugoku Shimbun and a resident of that area. He recently donated the camera used at that time to the Chugoku Shimbun. The photo is believed to have been taken two minutes after the atomic bomb's detonation and as such is considered to be the earliest photo of the A-bomb mushroom cloud captured from ground level.

Mr. Yamada was 17 years old at the time and a student at a night junior high school while working part time for the Chugoku Shimbun. A few days later, he ventured into Hiroshima and witnessed the horrific devastation. The Chugoku Shimbun building, located about 900 meters from the hypocenter, was completely destroyed in the fires that arose in the aftermath of the bombing, which killed 114 of the newspaper's employees. Mr. Yamada has explained that, "Many people who didn't appear to be injured died" from the aftereffects of the atomic bombing.

Mr. Yamada donated the camera because, he said, "I would like people in 100 years' time to see this photo and know it was the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima." The inhumanity of the consequences of the use of nuclear weapons is a reality that people around the world must understand now, as well as in 100 years from now, at a time when Ukraine is being invaded and the threat of nuclear weapons has become a reality.

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

Mayors for Peace membership increases sharply after Ukraine invasion as more cities approve of group's aims — 70 new cities join on April 1

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=118619>

Survivors' Stories: Michiko Kodama, 84, Ichikawa City, Chiba Prefecture — Cousin died in her arms

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=118811>



Hiroshima Prefecture establishes new group for nuclear elimination by combining domestic and international NGOs to affect next UN goals

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=119483>

Views on Ukraine invasion from A-bombed Hiroshima's perspective: Terumi Tanaka, 89, co-chair of Japan Confederation of A- and H-bomb Sufferers Organizations

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=119487>

Number of Peace Memorial Museum visitors in fiscal 2021 increases by 23%, 400,000, with number of group visitors picking up slightly

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=118801>

Striving to fill voids in Hiroshima, evidence of victims remains—Records of A-bombing disaster: Seiso Yamada, former staff writer, donates camera that captured mushroom cloud photo two minutes after A-bombing to Chugoku Shimbun

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=119489>

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### **Announcement from Hiroshima City University: Release of the Latest Issue of Newsletter “Hiroshima Research News”**

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Hiroshima City University's Hiroshima Peace Institute (HPI) released vol. 24 of its newsletter, Hiroshima Research News. This volume contains a special contribution and four short research articles, as well as an introduction to new publications and HPI researchers' recent activities.

In the special contribution titled, “Open the Door to Every Activity That Strives to Realize ‘Peace’: Hiroshima Peace Institute's History and Raison d’Etre,” Professor Kazumi Mizumoto, who was the first researcher hired when the institute was established and who retired at the end of FY2021, looks back on the history of the institute, from its previous directors to the present director.

The article titled, “Former Lieutenant Onoda Seen from a French Perspective,” introduces the book, *ONODA: 30 ans seul en guerre*, written by French author Bernard Cendron and others, and based on interviews with the author Cendron, focusing on the impetus for writing the book and his research activities.

In the article titled, “The Atomic Bombing and My Home Town,” the author, who has returned to her hometown of Hiroshima, visits Midorii, Asaminami Ward, where she was born and raised, to confirm the damage caused by the atomic bomb and traces of the war from historical materials and familiar remains, and writes about her hopes to link this to future research.

In the article titled, “Afghanistan Situation and Russia,” the author reviews the history of relations between the Soviet Union/Russia and Afghanistan, and discusses the current Putin administration's relationship with the Taliban.

Another article titled, “From War to Peace (Or, From Nagasaki to Hiroshima),” reflects on why the author retired from a 33-year career as a journalist and made a fresh start as a Doctoral Degree Program student.

In the “New Publications,” two books are featured: *Peace and Governance in Asia*, edited by HPI (Yushindo Kobunsha, March 2022), and *Nuclear Bodies: The Global Hibakusha* by Robert Jacobs, Professor of HPI (Yale University Press, March 2022).

The diary on the last page lists HPI researchers' recent activities.

 The newsletter is available online on the HPI website:

[https://www.peace.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp/2022/?post\\_type=newsletter](https://www.peace.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp/2022/?post_type=newsletter)

(XU Xianfen, Associate Professor of Hiroshima Peace Institute)

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## Announcement from Hiroshima City University: HIROSHIMA and PEACE Online Lecture Series for summer 2022

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Hiroshima City University has organized the summer program HIROSHIMA and PEACE since 2003 for every summer. Considering COVID-19, we will organize an online lecture series for summer 2022. Registration is now open. Please see below for more details. Hope to see you this summer!

June 18 (Sat) 16:30 – 18:00 (Japan Standard Time)

Lecture Title: Hibakusha Testimony in English

Lecturer: Keiko OGURA

June 25 (Sat) 16:30 – 18:00 (Japan Standard Time)

Lecture Title: International Understandings of Atomic Bombing in Hiroshima: Salvation or War Crime?

Lecturer: Yasuhiro INOUE (Professor, Faculty of International Studies, Hiroshima City University)

July 2 (Sat) 16:30 – 18:00 (Japan Standard Time)

Lecture Title: Forgotten Cannon Sites in Miyajima: Remembering and Forgetting in Hiroshima

Lecturer: Yoshiaki FURUZAWA (Associate Professor, Faculty of International Studies, Hiroshima City University)

July 9 (Sat) 16:30 – 18:00 (Japan Standard Time)

Lecture Title: Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: Why it matters today

Lecturer: Akira KAWASAKI (International Steering Group member, ICAN/Executive Committee member, Peace Boat)

- Lectures will be conducted using Zoom webinar.
- Language: English
- Registration is required. Program is free of charge.
- Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/U7jp1voPmuYZkHmw5>
- E-mail: HIROSHIMA and PEACE Secretariat <[Hiroshima-and-Peace@m.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp](mailto:Hiroshima-and-Peace@m.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp)>
- Website: <https://intl.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp/hiroshima-and-peace/>
- Official Instagram: [@hiroshima\\_and\\_peace\\_official](https://www.instagram.com/hiroshima_and_peace_official)

### Mayors for Peace Official Social Media Accounts

<Twitter>



<https://twitter.com/Mayors4Peace>



<Facebook>



<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace>



 The latest and archived issues of Mayors for Peace News Flash are available at:

<http://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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