Executive Summary

As part of its efforts to foster and increase international public support for a world without nuclear weapons, Mayors for Peace runs the following peace education initiatives to encourage younger generations to get involved in peace activities. (1) **Peace education webinar:** where young people give presentations about their peace activities and have a discussion. (2) **Internship:** officials from domestic and overseas member cities work as interns at the Mayors for Peace Secretariat to learn the realities of the atomic bombing and about Hiroshima City’s peace programs. (3) **Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns.”** (4) **Sending high school students to the NPT Preparatory Committee Session** (5) **Promotion of peace and disarmament education** (6) **Promotion of Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course:** university courses which convey the realities of the atomic bombings.

Full Report

1 Peace Education Webinar

Outline

With an aim to further stimulate youth-led peace activities for nuclear weapons abolition, Mayors for Peace holds peace education webinars involving young people who are engaged in peace activities in member cities around the world.

(1) **Peace Education Webinar: Youth Report on Peace Activities (February 4, 2023)**

Thirteen young people from Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and five other member cities and one organization in Japan engaged in peace activities participated in the “Peace Education Webinar: Youth Report on Peace Activities,” which was livestreamed on Zoom. The participants gave presentations on their own peace activities, answered questions from the audience, and engaged in a lively discussion on how to involve people who are not interested in peace activities in promoting such endeavors. Please refer to the following website:

https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/ja/new/2023/post-230210/ (Japanese only)

(2) **Peace Education Webinar and Livestream on YouTube (February 28, 2024)**

Nine young people from seven member cities and organizations around the world engaged in peace activities participated in a Peace Education Webinar, which was broadcast live on YouTube. Following a lecture on the international situation surrounding nuclear weapons by an associate professor in the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition at Nagasaki University, the participants delivered presentations on their peace activities and had a vigorous exchange of opinions regarding the challenges they face during implementation, as well as future initiatives. Please refer to the following webpage:

2 Mayors for Peace Internship

Outline

Mayors for Peace has continued to implement an internship program in which we invite young officials from member cities to the City of Hiroshima. This program aims to strengthen collaboration with member cities by giving participants a deeper understanding of Mayors for Peace initiatives. It is also hoped that deepening their understanding of the realities of the atomic bombings and sharing in Hiroshima’s will for peace will motivate them to promote initiatives toward the realization of lasting world peace in their home cities after the completion of this program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Number of attendees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1-3, 2023</td>
<td>17 member cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 31-February 2, 2024</td>
<td>19 member cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>January 11-25, 2023</td>
<td>1 member city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 17-31, 2024</td>
<td>2 member cities</td>
</tr>
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Sessions

- Learning about the realities of the atomic bombings (visit to Peace Memorial Museum, listening to an atomic bomb survivor’s testimony, etc.)
- Learning about initiatives to promote peace (including the outline of Mayors for Peace and the outline of Hiroshima City’s peace initiatives)
- Exchange of views and formulation for future peace activities in their cities

For a list of the participants and an outline of the internship, please refer to the following webpages


3 Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns”

Outline

In order to further promote peace education in member cities, Mayors for Peace annually holds the Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” for children from ages 6 to 15 in all member cities. For each age category, 6-10 and 11-15, one 1st place, two 2nd place, and three 3rd place winners are chosen, along with a few special prize winners. From the two 1st place winners, a Mayors for Peace President’s Award recipient is selected for most outstanding artwork. The Award-winning artwork is printed on Mayors for Peace clear folders and utilized on various occasions to spread awareness of the importance of peace education.

Activities in 2022

Applications were open from April 20 to October 30, 2022 with 8,644 applications from 86 cities in 15 countries submitted for the two age categories in total.

Selection results:


Activities in 2023

Applications were open from April 12 to October 31, 2023 with 4,766 applications from 115 cities in 19
countries for the two categories in total.
Selection results:

Activities in 2024
Applications are open from April 23 to October 31, 2024.

4 Sending high school students to the NPT Preparatory Committee Session

Outline
In order to develop youth leadership for future peace activities, Mayors for Peace sends young people who are engaged in various peace initiatives at schools aimed at achieving the total elimination of nuclear weapons to the NPT (Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons) Review Conferences and its Preparatory Committee Sessions. These Mayors for Peace youth delegations engage in a range of activities: they make presentations about their peace activities and exchange ideas at the Mayors for Peace Youth Forum held as side events at the conferences, observe the conferences, deliver petitions to a UN representative, and interact with local students.

Sending high school students to Vienna, Austria on the occasion of the NPT Preparatory Committee session (July 29 to August 5, 2023)
We sent eight high school students in Hiroshima who are engaged in various peace initiatives at schools aimed at achieving the total elimination of nuclear weapons to the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in Vienna. During their stay, these Mayors for Peace youth delegations engaged in a range of activities: they made presentations about their peace activities and exchanged ideas at the Mayors for Peace Youth Forum held as a side event for PrepCom, observed the committee session, delivered petitions to a UN representative, and interacted with local students. Through those activities, we were committed to the development of youth leadership.

5 Promotion of Peace and Disarmament Education

(1) Sharing good examples of peace education
Outline
Among the high priority action items in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2021-2025), which was adopted at the 12th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace in 2021, is our efforts to conduct peace education. We hope that by focusing on these efforts, we will be able to raise peace awareness among future generations and help reach our goal of realizing lasting world peace.

In accordance with this, the Mayors for Peace Secretariat collects good examples of initiatives to foster a peace-seeking spirit as conducted by our member cities. Through sharing them in the Mayors for Peace monthly newsletter and on our website, we are hoping that more cities will follow suit and become inspired to launch their own peace education programs.
Examples from member cities from June 2022 to May 2024
From overseas: 21 examples from 16 member cities
From Japan: 45 examples from 39 member cities

Compilation of major examples:

(2) Encouraging more universities to establish Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Courses

Outline
The Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation (HPCF), where the Mayors for Peace Secretariat is housed, recognizes Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Courses: university courses that aim to communicate the realities of the atomic bombings, the cruelty of war, the inhumanity of nuclear weapons, and the value of peace in the context of academic disciplines. As of May 2024, courses at 53 universities in Japan and 25 overseas universities have been recognized as Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Courses.

Once an approved course has been established, the Public Collaboration for Peace Division of the HPCF provides assistance in the form of study materials, introduction to atomic bomb survivors and other academics, as well as opportunities for fieldwork in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Mayors for Peace works to invite universities to establish a Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course using its network of over 8,300 member cities.
http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/hnpc/hnpc_top.htm