



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

NFLA Media release - for immediate release, 1st November 2010

Celebrating 30 years of the 'nuclear free' movement – Mayor of Nagasaki and other Mayors for Peace coming to Manchester to commemorate key milestone

This week, the Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) – made up of Councils from England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland – reaches an important landmark in its history with its 30th anniversary. The NFLA is delighted to announce that its guest of honour will be the Mayor of Nagasaki, Tomihisa Taue. Mayor Taue is Chair of the National Council of Japanese Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NCJNFLA) and Vice President of the International Mayors for Peace.

The NFLA was established shortly after the passing of a resolution by Manchester City Council, submitted by Councillor Bill Risby on 5th November 1980 (1). Scores more Councils made the same commitment and NFLA Forums exist in England, Scotland, Wales and All-Ireland, with a Steering Committee meeting quarterly in Manchester to determine policy.

The NFLA's 30th anniversary will be commemorated by an official civic reception on the 4th November in Manchester Town Hall. Along with a delegation from Nagasaki and NFLA councillors from across the British Isles, members of the International Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Board will also be in attendance. Manchester City Council hosts the NFLA Secretariat and the UK Mayors for Peace Working Group and is a Vice President City of Mayors for Peace – a 4301 member organisation campaigning for a nuclear weapons free world (2).

International Mayors attending the civic reception include the Mayors of Ypres (Belgium), Hanover (Germany), Florence (Italy), Malakoff (France), Granollers (Spain), Biograd na Moru (Croatia), Glasgow (UK) and Halabja (Kurdish Iraq).

Whilst in Manchester, Mayor Taue and the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Mark Hackett, will officially unveil a 'Hiroshima-Nagasaki atomic bombings: 65 Years On' exhibition in the People's History Museum and unveil a memorial plaque for the victims of warfare, and in memorial to former NFLA Chair Councillor Bill Risby, who sadly died in 2009 (3). They will also officially launch the Manchester City Centre Peace and Social Justice Trail dedicated to the many progressive, social, political and peace movements over centuries of the city's rich history.

Mayor Taue will speak at the NFLA's Steering Committee meeting in Manchester Town Hall and the Nagasaki delegation will then go on to a guided tour of the Imperial War Museum North. In the evening of the 4th November, a special civic reception will be held with speeches from the Lord Mayor of Manchester, the Mayor of Nagasaki, the NFLA Chair, Bailie George Regan, Senator Mark Dearey from the Irish Parliament and Tony Lloyd, MP for Manchester Central. A special 30th anniversary cake will be ceremonially cut.

The special events continue on the 5th November with the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Board Meeting, at which the Mayors for Peace will determine its priorities for 2011. A special schools event has been organised for the afternoon, at which a Nagasaki atomic bomb survivor will provide a testimony of his experiences to over 100 schoolchildren in the People's History Museum.

NFLA Chair, Bailie George Regan, said:

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“We are delighted and honoured that the Mayor of Nagasaki and Mayors from around the world will be joining us in Manchester to commemorate 30 years of the NFLA movement. We were established due to deep concerns over the threat of nuclear weapons proliferation and accidents and safety concerns from nuclear power reactors. Such concerns still remain 30 years on, but we have played an important part in educating local government on all aspects of nuclear policy and co-leading the movement for a nuclear weapons free world. I am proud to bring the NFLA into its fourth decade – our work is as important now as it was in 1980.”

The President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba of Hiroshima, is unable to attend the events due to pressing issues in the city, but has sent a warm letter to the NFLA. He says:

“The events you are organising in Manchester will give your citizens an opportunity to encounter the reality of the atomic bombings and raise public awareness of the importance of abolishing all nuclear weapons by 2020. To achieve our overall goal within the 2020 timeframe, we will have to generate undeniable global momentum. People everywhere will have to press their nations to develop the political will required to abolish nuclear weapons. In this context, I hereby express my deepest admiration and gratitude for your commitment and endeavours.”

Ends.

Further information

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Notes to Editors:

- (1) The historic resolution of 5th November 1980 was submitted by Councillor Bill Risby and passed by Manchester City Council. It committed the Council to investigate establishing an association with like-minded councils, and from this the Nuclear Free Local Authorities was established with Forums in England, Scotland and Wales and a National Steering Committee for overall policymaking. An All Ireland NFLA Forum was added in 2005 on the NFLA's 25th anniversary. Over 60 councils remain members of the NFLA – for further information go to its website: <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>.
- (2) The Mayors for Peace were set up by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1986 to campaign for a nuclear weapons free world. Membership is free by the passing of a resolution supporting this aim. Manchester City Council and Glasgow City Council are members of the Mayors for Peace Executive Board and its 2020 Vision Campaign Board. As of November 1st 2010 there are 4301 members of the Mayors for Peace, over 950 million people, making it one of the largest local government organisations in the world. For further information go to its website: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>.
- (3) The detailed programme of events over November 4th and 5th is as follows:

Thursday November 4th 2010:

10.25am – 12:00pm: Launch of the ‘Hiroshima-Nagasaki atomic bombings: 65 Years On’ photographic exhibition, unveiling of civic plaques commemorating the 65th anniversary and the first walking of the Manchester City Centre Peace and Social Justice Trail – The Engine Hall, People’s History Museum, Bridge Street, Manchester, M3 3ER.

2.00pm – 4.00pm: Mayor of Nagasaki gives opening speech NFLA Steering Committee in Committee Room 2, Manchester Town Hall. Nagasaki delegation will go on to an official

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guided tour at the Imperial War Museum North, The Quays, Trafford Wharf Road, Trafford Park, Manchester, M17 1TZ.

7.00pm – 9.00pm: Official Mayoral civic reception for the 30th anniversary of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities and civic welcome for international board members of the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Association, Lord Mayor's Apartments, Manchester Town Hall, M60 3NY.

Friday November 5th 2010:

9.30am – 12.30pm: Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Association Board Meeting, MDDA Suite 4, 117 – 119 Portland Street, Manchester, M1 6ED.

1.30pm – 3.00pm: The Nagasaki atomic bombings – thoughts of a survivor. Nagasaki A-bomb survivor Yoshiro Yamawaki will give a testimony of his experiences to schoolchildren from Manchester, Wigan, Stockport and Oldham. Children from Manchester's Whalley Range High School will also perform a short Hiroshima-Nagasaki peace play. Engine Room, People's History Museum, Bridge Street, Manchester, M3 3ER.

3.30pm – 5.00pm: Nagasaki delegation and other Mayors will be give a guided tour of Manchester City's stadium in east Manchester and a talk of the regeneration of the area. Nagasaki is hoping to host some of the events in a proposed bid by Hiroshima for the 2020 Olympic Games.

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