Remembering Hiroshima 68 years on

Representatives from the NFLA attended the Executive and General Conference of Mayors for Peace held in Hiroshima in early August.

The General Conference is held every four years and considered how to take the ‘Spirit of Hiroshima & Nagasaki’ forward in a campaign for a nuclear weapons free world.

The Mayors for Peace Executive Conference agreed to the development of national chapters and a voluntary membership fee. Moves to strengthen the Secretariat were also agreed.

The General Conference included a talk from a ‘hibakuska’ survivor. A special address by the US film director Oliver Stone was a highlight.

The Mayors for Peace Conference gave speeches to the Conference.

The Hiroshima Peace Ceremony concluded the meetings. A full report can be found on the NFLA website.

NFLA Chair and Secretary visit the Sellafield site

In mid July the NFLA Chair and Secretary attended a useful site visit of the Sellafield site in Cumbria.

The visit had been organised by the LGA NuLEAF group and the NDA.

Councillors were taken around the Thorp reprocessing plant and then to the oldest part of the facility that is being decommissioned.

The visit was very useful and welcomed. The visit showed to NFLA staff the huge and difficult issues in seeking to clean-up and decommission the Sellafield site.

Following the site visit, a NuLEAF meeting looked at a number of ongoing issues with radioactive waste management. This included the potential way forward following the decision in Cumbria not to go ahead with the process for hosting a deep underground facility.

At the meeting, it was agreed that the NFLA Chair be a rep to attend a European Commission radwaste conference.
NFLA organising nuclear emergency planning seminar

The NFLA is organising a joint seminar with NIS, Nukewatch and CND on the UK’s post-Fukushima emergency planning regime.

The seminar, being held in Glasgow, will also consider the safety of MOD nuclear weapon convoys and the emergency exercise regime for them.

The seminar will be open to all NFLA members, non members and interested groups and the flyer is on the NFLA website.

The NFLA Secretary is attending a meeting in September with other NGOs and staff in DECC, ONR and the Environment Agency to discuss nuclear EP matters.

The NFLA has also issued a media release raising concern about the return to service of the ‘Atlantic Cartier’, a ship involved in a fire in Hamburg port containing nuclear materials.

DECC NGO Forum discusses radwaste policy development

The NFLA Secretary attended the latest meeting of the DECC NGO Forum in London.

The Forum is the main interface between the nuclear policy staff in DECC and the leading nuclear free and environmental groups.

A large part of the meeting was taken up with discussing the UK Government’s views on how to take forward its national policy on radioactive waste following Cumbria’s ‘no’ to hosting a repository.

The officials confirmed a detailed consultation would be developed in the autumn. The NFLA’s views on the scope of this consultation can be found on the NFLA website.

The meeting also involved a robust session with the DECC Minister Michael Fallon who outlined the Government’s views on new nuclear build.

NFLA National Forum meetings / Midlothian joins NFLA

The NFLA Scotland Forum held a business meeting in Stornoway. Speakers from the NGO’s HANT and CADU informed members of their current campaigns in Scotland.

The NFLA All Ireland Forum will be held in Galway on the 11th October and the NFLA English Forum will be held in Rotherham on the 15th November. The Welsh Forum meeting is being finalised for early November.

Meanwhile, NFLA is very pleased that Midlothian Council has decided to affiliate to it at its most recent Council meeting.
Hinkley C and the European dimension

The protracted discussions between the UK Government and EDF over various financial guarantees and support for constructing new nuclear reactors at Hinkley Point continues.

The talks were initially expected to have been concluded in the early summer, but some media reports suggest a deal may now not be completed until the end of the year.

The main point of discord appears to be the 'strike price' for new nuclear power.

If a deal is made, it will then need to be finally approved by the European Commission on whether it can be classed as permitted state aid. Media reports suggest some significant discord between various EU states on the matter.

NFLA is working with the Vienna-led European Network to lobby on this matter.

Cancellation of key Canadian transport contract: The NFLA Secretariat welcomes news that a planned Canadian contract to transport radioactive waste generators across to Sweden has been cancelled. A concerted international campaign opposing such transport appears to be a factor in the decision. The NFLA had supported Canadian Councils who opposed the shipments. A media release is on the NFLA website.

Tribute to Mike Rumney and Allison Hunter: The NFLA Secretariat issued a media release giving its tribute and sympathy to the families of former NFLA representatives Cllrs Mike Rumney and Allison Hunter, who have sadly died.

Cllr Rumney had been Fife’s representative & a former NFLA Chair, whilst Cllr Hunter had been Glasgow’s ex-officio representative. Both will be missed.

Other news in brief / in memoriam

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

NFLA seminar on nuclear emergency planning, 20th Sept, Glasgow City Chambers.

NFLA Steering Committee, 4th October, Town Hall, Manchester.

NFLA All Ireland Forum, 11th October, Galway City Hall.

NFLA English Forum, 15th November, Rotherham Town Hall.

NFLA Welsh Forum meeting will be late October / early November.

NFLA 2013 AGM will be in held in early December.