Yokohama's Initiatives For Peace
Our vision towards world peace!
A world where no one will be left behind

Peace Messenger City Yokohama
Yokohama organizes talks, seminars, and information campaigns to raise public awareness of peace efforts, and issues letters urging heads of state to abandon the testing of nuclear weapons. The United Nations recognized the city’s work promoting peace, and in 1987 designated Yokohama as a Peace Messenger alongside Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Yokohama’s Board of Education invites children in elementary and junior high schools to take part in the Yokohama Children’s International Peace Speech Contest, and the winners selected by the mayor travel to the UN headquarters in New York to represent the city as Yokohama Student Peace Messengers.

As a member of Mayors for Peace
In 2010, Yokohama joined Mayors for Peace, which now counts over 7,800 cities among its members. Led by President City Hiroshima and Vice President Cities including Nagasaki, members of the organization work together to realize the shared goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

As a member city, Yokohama has invited the Secretary General of Mayors for Peace to a public speaking event and organizes exhibitions of posters advocating for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

For more information on Yokohama’s work to help achieve world peace
The Yokohama International Affairs Bureau’s Facebook page is updated frequently with information about events and projects related to international exchanges, international cooperation, and support for a multicultural society. Get informed and connect with us!

Published in October, 2019
A look at the world today

Despite peace efforts by the UN, NGOs, and individuals, regional conflicts continue to claim countless lives. Also, nuclear weapons remain a major threat to peace and stability. Along with hunger, poverty, and environmental disruption, these global challenges to human dignity and survival demand efforts that transcend national borders.

Yokohama’s vision

With the belief that international goodwill and mutual understanding will lead to world peace, Yokohama has developed relationships with cities overseas across a period of many years. Those efforts received recognition by the United Nations, and in 1987, Yokohama was designated as a “Peace Messenger.”

A proposal from the City Council to promote efforts towards peace was passed into legislation in June 2018. Based on this resolution, Yokohama continues to emphasize efforts in international exchange, international cooperation, and support for a multicultural society to contribute to lasting world peace.

Initiatives reflecting Yokohama’s commitment to world peace and prosperity

Engaging citizens to connect with the cities and countries of the world

Starting with its 8 sister cities, including San Diego (USA) and Shanghai (China), Yokohama has established relations with cities around the world. In addition, large-scale conferences and other events provide opportunities for citizens to take part in international exchanges. These connections lead to deeper cultural understanding and initiatives that drive mutual growth.

Working with institutions and businesses to support emerging and developing regions

Home to the offices of various UN organizations, as well as JICA and other international institutions, Yokohama works with those groups to help developing countries with disaster prevention measures. Additionally, the city’s Y-PORT Project promotes international technical cooperation through public-private partnerships, taking the expertise of local businesses and applying it to the sustainable urban development of cities in emerging economies.

Assisting local communities to bring together diverse residents

As the number of non-native residents continues to grow past the 100 thousand mark, Yokohama pursues efforts to realize a multicultural society by helping build inclusive and safe communities that respect the cultures and customs of people of diverse backgrounds.

Through promoting international exchange, international cooperation, and a multicultural society, Yokohama aims to encourage goodwill among citizens, support infrastructure improvements in developing countries, and build inclusive communities, which will all help contribute to achieving world peace.