

Green Legacy Hiroshima



Over the years and in the course of many walks, we have come to appreciate the resilience, generosity, beauty, and particular significance of Hiroshima's special residents: trees that lived through the atomic bombing. These witnesses of nuclear tragedy carry a significant message – not just for those living in or visiting Hiroshima but for all of humanity. Green Legacy Hiroshima has been established to safeguard the hibakujumoku and spread the meaning and knowledge of their existence. It is hoped that many partners worldwide will join this initiative and become active ambassadors of Hiroshima, its peace message, and its green legacy.

The Story of Green Legacy Hiroshima

Over 160 trees, of more than 30 species, located within a 2-km radius of the atomic bomb hypocenter, are officially registered as *hibakujumoku* (atomic bombed trees) by the City of Hiroshima. Lovingly cared for over the years by authorities, botanists, citizens' groups, and individuals, each *hibakujumoku* is identified by a name plate.

The atomic bombing of 6 August 1945 killed one third of Hiroshima's citizens. Those who survived feared nothing would grow in the ruined city for decades. However, the new seedlings that sprouted across that desolate landscape became symbols of hope, encouraging survivors to rebuild. In the 1950s, Hiroshima called for the donation of trees for its new Peace Boulevard, Memorial Park, and Hiroshima University. Thousands of seeds and saplings arrived from communities in Japan and across the world, a gesture of solidarity that allowed for major greening efforts, in particular along the river banks. A long tradition of "green" friendships thus began.

The brave *hibakujumoku* continue to flourish, give fruit, and bear witness. Inspired by other citizen efforts to distribute seeds and saplings around the planet, Green Legacy Hiroshima (GLH) was founded in July 2011 by Nassrine Azimi and Tomoko Watanabe, with support from the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Hiroshima Office, ANT-Hiroshima, and other dedicated individuals. GLH sends seeds and saplings of these survivor trees to city parks, botanical gardens, schools, universities, other public and private institutions, and symbolic sites. Activities are currently unfolding with partners and friends in 32 countries and regions.

In July 2012, the Green Legacy Hiroshima Initiative was consolidated as a voluntary organization under Japanese law and in 2014 was registered as a Future Heritage (Mirai-Isan) Project by the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan. In addition to ANT-Hiroshima and the UNITAR Hiroshima Office, GLH Working Group members include Hiroshima City, Mayors for Peace, The Hiroshima Botanical Garden, Hiroshima University, and Hiroshima Prefecture.

Modalities of Participation in the Green Legacy Hiroshima Initiative are clarified in the attached annex.

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For more information:

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