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 blast. 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 and spread the knowledge and meaning of their existence. It is hoped that many partners worldwide will join this initiative and become active ambassadors in their countries of Hiroshima, its peace message and its green legacy.
The Story of Green Legacy Hiroshima

Some 170 trees of Hiroshima, in more than 50 locations within the roughly 2km radius of the atomic bomb hypocenter, are officially registered by the municipality as A-bombed trees. Lovingly cared for over the years by authorities, botanists, citizens' groups and individuals, they are identified by a name plate and the unique reference: kibakujinmoku (survivor trees).

The atomic bombing of 6 August 1945 killed one-third of Hiroshima citizens and left the city almost devoid of life. Many feared nothing would grow in the ruins. New seedlings that sprayed across the devastated 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 from communities in Japan and worldwide arrived, a gesture of solidarity that allowed major greening efforts, in particular along the river banks. A long tradition of ‘green’ friendships started.

The brave A-bombed trees, too, continued to flourish, give fruit and bear witness. Inspired by other citizen efforts to spread their seeds and saplings around the planet, Green Legacy Hiroshima (GLH) was founded in July 2011 by two friends, Naotake Anzai and Tomoko Watanabe, with support from the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), ANI-Hiroshima, and other dedicated partners. GLH sends seeds and saplings of survivor trees to urban locations and botanical gardens, schools, embassies, public and private institutions, and other symbolic sites. Activities are currently unfolding with partners and friends in some 25 countries.

In July 2012 the GLH Initiative was consolidated as a Voluntary Committee under Japanese Law. Its Working Group members, in addition to ANT-Hiroshima and UNITAR, include Hiroshima City, Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, the Hiroshima Botanical Garden, Hiroshima University and Hiroshima Prefecture.