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How did the GLH partnership start with the Botanical Garden of ISU? What does the partnership with GLH and the connection with Hiroshima mean for you personally and professionally?



Hibaku Jumoku sapling at ISUBG

The connection between Green Legacy Hiroshima and Irkutsk Botanical Garden started in 2011 initiated by GLH. In 2012, I was fortunate to visit Hiroshima. I was happy to meet Dr. Nassrine Azimi, one of the original UNITAR Hiroshima staff members and GLH co-founders, and Hideko Yamada from NGO ANT-Hiroshima and many other kind people who love their city. My special thanks to Mr.

Tetsuya Sera, who gave us the small saplings of a-bomb survivor trees for Irkutsk Botanical Garden. We planted them, and now they are doing well.

What was the most memorable thing during your first visit to Hiroshima? Did you visit any of the hibaku-jumoku?

When I was in Hiroshima in 2012, I was impressed by the reverent attitude the Hiroshima citizens had toward the a-bomb survivor trees. I was pleasantly surprised by how green this city was. And now I'm talking to Irkutsk Botanical Garden visitors about the green Hiroshima. I fell in love with the majestic 300-year-old Ginkgo biloba in Hiroshima's oldest garden, Shukkeien. On August 6, I attended the A-bomb Memorial Ceremony marking the 67th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. A minute of silence in the Peace Park was announced at exactly 8:15 a.m. when the attack on the city happened. It was very solemn and close for me as a Russian citizen. My grandfather fought in the Second World War and our people know well what war is like and how important it is to preserve peace on Earth.

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What are the activities, events, or studies conducted centering the hibaku-jumoku? What is your vision for these saplings in the future?

My links to GLH and Hiroshima have been helping me to contribute to the relationships between Russia and Japan because Japanese students and Russian students who study Japanese here are visiting the Japan Garden with the a-bomb survivor trees. We are making paper cranes together. We are talking about the tragedy in Hiroshima and how we can prevent it from happening again. And I understand that, through plants, we can convey to people the understanding how important it is – to protect life on Earth.

Our a-bomb survivor trees are growing at our greenhouse because of the hard Siberian climate. And about 10,000 visitors annually learn about the Hiroshima tragedy and about Green Legacy Hiroshima.

One day an old woman and her granddaughter stopped by our Japan Garden and the a-bomb survivor trees in our greenhouse in Irkutsk, and I told them about Hiroshima and these trees. Suddenly, the woman's cheeks were flooded with tears as she remembered that when she was at school, they made paper cranes and sent them to Japan. Perhaps, for me, this is the main indicator of the need for the GLH project around the world.



Paper Cranes made at ISUBG