



Green Legacy Hiroshima

Hiroshima's Seeds of Peace: A Journey to the Philippines

On 20 May 2026, a meaningful new chapter in peace education and international friendship unfolded in Hiroshima, Japan, as educators, peace advocates, partners, friends and students from the Philippines, China, Myanmar, Hong Kong and France, gathered for “Hiroshima’s Seeds of Peace: A Journey to the Philippines” at the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Hiroshima Project Office.

Organized by the Philippine-Hiroshima University Students Organization (PHUSO) in collaboration with the UNITAR Hiroshima Project Office, Green Legacy Hiroshima (GLH), and Assumption Antipolo, the event celebrated the enduring message of peace carried by the hibakujumoku — the trees that survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

These living witnesses of history stand not only as symbols of survival, but also of hope, resilience, and humanity’s capacity to rebuild after devastation. Through the Green Legacy Hiroshima initiative, their seeds and saplings continue to travel across the world, carrying Hiroshima’s message of peace to future generations.

The programme opened with welcome remarks and introductions by *Johanna Diwa-Acallar*, Honorary Advisor of PHUSO, followed by a warm welcome address from *Chisa Mikami*, Head of the UNITAR Hiroshima Project Office. Participants then attended a compelling special lecture by *Nassrine Azimi*, Co-Founder and Coordinator of Green Legacy Hiroshima, who shared the origins, global reach, and continuing impact of the initiative in promoting peace through environmental stewardship and community engagement.

A major highlight of the event was the formal presentation of Assumption Antipolo as the first Green Legacy Hiroshima partner institution in the Philippines — a significant milestone that strengthens people-to-people ties between Japan and the Philippines through a shared advocacy for peace, sustainability, and youth engagement.

Representing Assumption Antipolo, School Director *Marie Grace Magtaas* expressed the institution’s commitment to nurturing future generations who value peace, reconciliation, and care for the environment. The sprawling green campus of Assumption Antipolo features an ecopark where the Peace Sanctuary is located — the future home of the Hibaku Jumoku saplings that will

be planted, nurtured, and treasured through the collective efforts of the entire Assumption Antipolo community.

Adding a heartfelt cultural touch to the gathering, students *Kinjo Hannah and Kinjohan Acallar* from Assumption Antipolo presented the song “[I Want Peace](#)” reminding everyone that the call for peace transcends borders, cultures, and generations. The song, composed by Assumption Antipolo teacher Ms. Ethel Lynn Miranda following her visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, carries a hopeful message that peace is not only necessary, but possible.

Closing the programme, *Celso Angelo Alonzo*, Vice President of PHUSO, shared reflections on the importance of youth-led collaboration in sustaining global peace initiatives and strengthening international solidarity as he thanked all the partners and the participants who joined the special event.

The event concluded with a walking tour guided by the Green Legacy Hiroshima team, where participants visited Hiroshima’s A-Bomb survivor trees — silent yet powerful reminders of the city’s history and its unwavering commitment to peace.

Featured as part of the commemorative activities marking the 70th Anniversary of the Philippines–Japan Normalization of Diplomatic Relations, “Hiroshima’s Seeds of Peace: A Journey to the Philippines” served not only as a celebration of friendship between two nations, but also as a bridge connecting history, memory, action, and hope for the future. It has inspired a new generation to carry forward Hiroshima’s legacy — not as a story of destruction, but as a living commitment to peace, resilience, reconciliation, and global solidarity.



