

University Presidents for Peace Declaration

- Inter-University Exchange Project Partners

We, the University Presidents for Peace, have gathered today in Hiroshima, Japan, for the University Presidents for Peace Conference – Inter-University Exchange Project Partners, chaired by Mitsuo Ochi, President of Hiroshima University. This conference marks the third such gathering, following the inaugural University Presidents for Peace Conference held on August 6, 2024.

United in solidarity, we reaffirm our shared mission as higher education institutions to nurture the next generation by providing them with opportunities to learn, explore, experience, and reflect deeply on the world around them. Our commitment transcends language, nationality, beliefs, gender, and other differences. We strive to empower students, encouraging them to expand their perspectives and embrace the richness of a diverse global society.

During today's conference, we have shared insights from five Inter-University Exchange Projects, organized by Hiroshima University and supported by Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). These projects, each focusing on specific regions and fields of study, have been carried out in collaboration with the universities participating in today's conference and have promoted student mobility between Hiroshima and institutions overseas. Our gathering in Hiroshima today, a reminder of the horrors of conflict and a testament to the resilience of the human spirit, has strengthened our collective understanding and reinforced the value of our interconnected academic communities. We are determined to expand the horizons of education for peace and sustainability.

Higher education is not merely about acquiring knowledge; it is about cultivating the ability to make choices—the choice to learn, to perceive, and to take actions. The decisions students make based on their experiences during their academic journeys shape their futures and, ultimately, the future of our world. We encourage students to visit Hiroshima, to engage with its history, and to absorb both the physical and emotional impact of this place. This experience will undoubtedly help them develop their own understanding of peace and sustainability, inspiring them to make meaningful choices for our collective future.

Therefore, we hereby commit to the following actions:

1. Strengthening University Partnerships for Peace and Sustainability:

Each institution pledges to uphold and promote the values of peace and sustainability, embracing our role as University Presidents for Peace. We will work collaboratively to advance initiatives that contribute to a peaceful and sustainable future.

2. Enhancing Student and Young Researcher Exchange Programs:

We are committed to expanding international exchange opportunities through bilateral agreements and consortium programs. This includes fostering connections between student-led clubs and extracurricular activities, enriching experiences beyond the classroom. These initiatives will empower students and young researchers to engage across national borders, gain invaluable academic and cultural exposure, and develop critical perspectives to address global challenges.

3. Identifying Opportunities for Collective Funding to Support These Goals:

We will work together to identify and secure funding sources that will enable the successful implementation of these initiatives.

Through these commitments, we reaffirm our dedication to the power of education as a means for peace. Together, we will continue to expand opportunities for the next generation, ensuring that our institutions remain guiding lights of knowledge, understanding, and global cooperation.