

Declaration of the University Presidents for Peace – Arab Chapter

We, the University Presidents for Peace, convene in Hiroshima, Japan, for the University Presidents for Peace – Arab Chapter, chaired by Mitsuo Ochi, President of Hiroshima University. This gathering marks the fifth conference, building upon the inaugural University Presidents for Peace Conference held on August 6, 2024.

Today, we celebrate a significant milestone as universities of the Association of Arab Universities join together in Hiroshima — a city that embodies resilience, renewal, and the enduring hope for peace. In this place of remembrance, we honor the rich histories, cultural strengths, and diverse societies represented by our participating institutions, and we reaffirm our shared goal to promote peace and sustainability through dialogue, understanding, and cooperation.

Hiroshima stands as a powerful reminder of the human cost of conflict and the importance of diplomacy. Its recovery and transformation into a global center for peace education encourages us to reflect not only on Hiroshima's history but also on the suffering that continues worldwide. While each society and each conflict carries its own unique complexities, we can draw inspiration from Hiroshima's citizen-led peacebuilding efforts, which have shaped the city's identity and mission. By engaging with the perspectives and lived experiences brought by participants from the Arab world, students and colleagues from both Hiroshima and the Arab world can learn from one another. Peace begins when people deepen their understanding of their own histories and open themselves to the stories of others.

Hope is among the greatest gifts we can offer our youth. To nurture this hope and equip the next generation to build resilient, inclusive, and sustainable societies is the mission of universities. Although Japan and the Arab world are geographically distant, the exchange of people and ideas bridges that divide, enabling us to learn from one another's experiences, deepen mutual understanding, and inspire lasting hope.

As university leaders, we collectively commit to advancing the following actions in accordance with their policies and national laws.

1. University Partnerships to Promote Peace and Sustainability

Each institution will form a network to build a foundation for peace education and sustainability initiatives, fostering cross-border collaboration, expanding horizons, and strengthening educational outcomes within university communities and across wider society.

2. Opportunities for Student and Young Researcher Exchange

We will increase academic and intercultural learning opportunities for students and young researchers. Such engagement will foster global awareness, broaden perspectives, and contribute to peaceful and sustainable societies through collaborative practices.

3. Identifying Opportunities for Collective Funding

Individually and collectively, our institutions will seek and explore funding opportunities to support student activities and educational initiatives that promote human dignity, opportunity, and social well-being.

Through this declaration, united in purpose, we aim to nurture the next generation of leaders who are educated, empathetic, and proactive individuals who will lead the world towards peace and sustainability.