

Inspiration from Hiroshima: Green Legacy Hiroshima and AFLP-BGNet – gardens and trees as tools for Peace

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Since 2019, diverse botanic garden and international development specialists have been collaborating through two programs based out of Hiroshima, Japan, to leverage gardens and trees as tools for peace and civil society advancement. Green Legacy Hiroshima is an initiative housed within the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) that tracks the trees in Hiroshima that survived the nuclear bombing during World War II, collecting and sharing their seeds with institutions worldwide as potent teachers of history and symbols of resilience and peace. The Afghan Fellowship Legacy Projects and its Botanic Garden Network (BGNet), was established to help three universities in Afghanistan create botanic gardens on their campuses. With the change of government in Afghanistan, the effort is being reborn as a new Hiroshima-based nonprofit (The EDEN Foundation) dedicated to civil society advancement, with the development of botanic gardens as a core incubator model and opportunity. In this presentation, the authors will review the history and development of these two initiatives, and focus on recent programmatic evolution. Presentation attendees will learn about low-resource models that bring together the expertise of botanic garden and development specialists to help advance the creation of botanic gardens in least developed and post-conflict countries.